

South Florida Suzuki News

Suzuki Association of South Florida

7531 SW 137th Street
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<http://saofsfl.org/>



Upcoming Events

- October 19, 2014
SASF Board Meeting
- November 7-9, 2014
Fall Workshop at Broward College in Davie, FL
- November 30, 2014
Teacher Artist Fundraiser
- December 14, 2014
Graduation / Honor Recital
- December 19-30, 2014
Zoo Lights at Metro Zoo (exact date TBA)
- December 21, 2014
Newsletter #2
- January 4, 2015
SASF Board Meeting
- February 22, 2015
Student Fundraiser
Newsletter #3
- March 8, 2015
SASF Board Meeting
- April 19, 2015
Newsletter #4
- May 3, 2015
SASF Board Meeting
- May 7, 2015
Newsletter #5
- May 24, 2015
Graduation / Honor Recital
- May 31, 2015
Annual Meeting

President's Corner...Dr. Marilyn Zaragoza

"On behalf of the Suzuki Association of South Florida, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the Suzuki students, their families and their teachers. We have planned numerous events throughout the year that will provide our children many opportunities to play their instruments. Our intent is to promote music education using the Suzuki method as well as to nurture their love for music."

Annual Meeting & End of Year Recital

By: Laura Woodside

The Suzuki Association of South Florida held our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2014.

It was a very special afternoon of music!

Dr. Tina Raimondi had four students who performed beautifully. I was very impressed with Tarra Guerra and Stephanie Firdman's students who performed as a group. The students led and it was a very professional performance with beautiful phrasing.

My two granddaughters from Cleveland were visiting and agreed to play for us even though they had not practiced at Disney before arriving. My daughter, Beth Woodside, who is in the Cleveland Orchestra, also surprised us with a performance of Bach's Largo and Allegro assai from Sonata No. 3.

We have a simplified version in our Suzuki Book 8 of the Largo.

It was exciting to see how we are striving for excellence!

THE SUZUKI ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

ITS

FALL SUZUKI VIOLIN WORKSHOP

To be held at Broward College in Davie, FL, the Fall Suzuki Violin Workshop will take place on Saturday, November 8 and Sunday, November 9, 2014 for students in Suzuki Books 1-10. Pre-Twinkle classes will be offered, and new families may observe any part of the Workshop. Our fantastic workshop teachers will include Gabe Bolkosky and fiddle teacher Crystal Plohman.

Master Class lessons with Gabe Bolkosky will be offered on a first come, first serve basis on Friday, November 7, from 4:00pm to 7:30pm at Broward College.

*The 2014 SASF Workshop early bird tuition fee is \$105 if postmarked on or before **October 25th**. A late fee of \$10 will apply for registration postmarked beginning **October 26th**. Applications will not be accepted after **October 31st**. Please mark your calendars for these important deadlines. Workshop applications will be sent to teachers to be distributed to their students.*

For more information, contact Tina Raimondi at or 954-614-8118.



In the Community

CONCERT

“Time for Three”

A combination of classical, jazz and bluegrass music featuring Nicholas Kendall, the grandson of John Kendall – the violin teacher that brought the Suzuki method to the United States, and possibly the method’s most famous American pedagogue.

Concert to be held at

University of Miami on October 12, 2014. Tickets are \$20 - \$35.



Photographer at November Workshop

We've arranged for a professional photographer, **Blanca Photography**, to take professional studio quality photographs at our November workshop. Beginning at 11am on Saturday, November 8th, at the Broward College, you can select from three photo packages starting from \$25. Come dressed in a nice outfit with your instrument and take pictures! Pictures will begin at 11am and end around 1pm.

Student Tips:



Here's A Challenge: by Martin Goldman

I'd like to share a challenge that I started in my studio at the end of 2013. I read an article by a studio teacher who created a fun strategy to learn the benefits of repetition. As we all know, if practicing is about *thoughtful, purposeful* repetition, it's to the child's advantage to understand its benefits from a real time experience.

We decided to call our game the **700 Gang**...to stay clear of any reference to the religious organization of a similar name. The goal is to repeat something one hundred times a day, seven days in a row, to get to 700. The second hardest part is counting.

So what do they repeat? I assign one measure of music, or a few notes that are tricky for the bow or the left hand. Nothing long; something they absolutely can do that's appropriate for the child's age and ability. One example is Song of the Wind, the five notes with a retake after: F-D-A-F-E--mango. (I call the retake bows *mango*...about the size of a mango).

When they return the following week, having accomplished 700 repetitions, the reward is a bracelet that one of the Moms had made, with raised lettering: **700 GANG**. Then I take a picture of the student, often with the bracelet prominently displayed, and send it in an email to all the families with congratulatory remarks.

Some children love it, some wait for the "right moment", some never dare. But those who do, do it again, with a number of children who've earned four and five bracelets. For each child, this game has advanced their skills; their small steps. I have two students who, on their own, decided that mistakes won't be counted...enough said.

As a postscript, the teacher who originated this game was asked after a year or two by her students to increase it to 1400: two hundred repetitions a day. Then it went to 2100.

Attending Suzuki Summer Institutes by Kai (age 11)

This summer I attended two Suzuki Institutes. The first one was in St. Petersburg, FL, which took place in June. The second institute was in Stevens Point, WI, which took place in July.



I love the summer Suzuki Institutes because I learn so many new things from different teachers. It's a great time to practice and play my violin all day for a week. I meet other children from around the world. I get to be instructed by expert teachers from around the country. I have fun while I'm learning and practicing. It's also a great way to travel to see new places.

My parents use these institutes as our vacation time. The institutes motivate me to play more music! Thank you Mom and Dad for supporting my dream.



Welcome to the World of Suzuki Parents by Dr. Julien M. Zaragoza

As a new parent to the world of Suzuki music instruction, one can be a little overwhelmed at the daunting task ahead. I was one of these parents. My daughter started Suzuki violin lessons when she was 6 ½ years old, and I became the parent partner. She is now 11 years old, and working on book 4. As most Suzuki parents, I found myself in completely new territory on how to help my daughter with her violin lesson. During the years, I have been present for all her violin lessons, group lessons and workshops. During the years I took copious notes, listened to many teachers and workshop instructors, and have picked up on many tips to help guide my daughter through the process. There are no set rules or instructions on how to guide your child through the process, but here are some tips and ideas that have helped me, and may help you in your adventure.

One of the key points that are crucial to the success of the Suzuki method is respect. The child must show respect to their teacher, workshop instructors and the parent. The parent and the child have to establish a bond of respect to each other. Before every lesson, and practice, the child has to acknowledge that they are learning some vital information and guidance, and should start the lesson with a gesture of respect. The lesson should also end with a gesture of respect. The child should be grateful that they are learning something, new, and should start the lesson with “thank you for teaching me.” And, each lesson should end with “thank you for the lesson.” The child should establish eye contact with the instructor or parent while bowing when thanking the instructor for the lesson.

Listening to music is crucial. Instructors and teachers usually recommend that children constantly listen to the Suzuki music CD's. A child should listen to a piece about 100 times before attempting to play the piece. Invest in buying all the Suzuki CD's (Books 1-8). Books 9 and 10 do not have a CD, and the child's teacher usually recommends a particular recording to match the book 9 and 10 pieces. Record all the pieces on an iPod or other device, and encourage the child to listen to the music whenever possible. Play the CD's in the car, during dinner and other occasions. Let the music play at night when your child is sleeping. Expose your child to as much classical music as possible. Shows on PBS, concerts, and festivals are always good.

Start with easy to obtain goals. Do not set exact timelines. If your child plays violin, your child will probably not be ready to play and read the music for the “Bach double” after the first couple of years of lessons. If your child is just starting violin lessons, the goal may be to play the Twinkle theme with great foot stance, perfect bow hold, and nice round fingers on the fingerboard. As time progresses, more goals can be set.

If you are a parent, don't start a practice if you are extremely frustrated. Yet, the student still has to play the instrument. Let the student play some of the pieces they may already know, but allow them to choose the music. Do not criticize what they are playing during the parent's “cooling off” period.

Encourage your child to play for their peers, grandparents, friends or other family members. However, when they do play, don't interfere. After the performance when you are alone with the child, ask them how they think they played, then discuss and critique the performance. Do not criticize their playing.

I hope some of these tips will help you. Good luck and welcome to the Suzuki family!!



Kid's Corner

Create an audience by playing your instrument to plants!

A violin teacher, Anna Ventura, recommends that her students play to plants.

Here is a picture of one of Mrs. Ventura's students playing music to the pineapple and grape plants.



SASF Recommendations:

Inspirational Performance:

Inspirational performance by a famous Suzuki teacher in Poland, Anna Podhajska:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBezbzY4Dqs>

Nick Kendall

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_pGNNJKUgo

Handel-Halvorsen Passacaglia (Violin/cello duo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLinFcK4uEA>

Recommended Book-“*Helping Parents Practice*”

<http://store.pottersviolins.com/helping-parents-practice-edmund-sprunger-book.html>

Suzuki Association of South Florida

2014-2015 Board Members

President: Dr. Marilyn Zaragoza
Vice-President: Tarra Guerra
Treasurer: Sandra Shin
Secretary: Dr. Tina Raimondi
Fundraiser: Nadine Zephir
Board Member: Stephanie Firdman
Honorary Director: Laura Woodside
Newsletter: Kathryn Griffin



“Music exists for the purpose of growing an admirable heart.”

Shinichi Suzuki

