

South Florida Suzuki News

Suzuki Association of South Florida

785 NW 164th Avenue
Pembroke Pines, FL 33028

<http://saofsfl.org/>

President's Corner...Dr. Marilyn Zaragoza

"It is the jolliest time of the year, merriment is everywhere. This is the best time to celebrate the joy of this wonderful season and have fun with friends and family. Cheers to good health and great memories.

Happy Holidays!"

Teacher Artist Fundraiser

Our Teacher Artist Fundraiser is scheduled for February 22, 2015, at

*Christ Community Pompano Church
901 E. Mc Nab Rd
Pompano Beach, FL 33060*

The start time has yet to be determined, so stay tuned! We have several pledges for some fabulous raffle prizes including a teacher offering to play at a family performance.

I appreciate your assistance in starting the promotion of the event within your studio families and circle of influence, and thank you for your continued support in ensuring that this is yet another successful event by the Association.

Happy Holidays!

Nadine C. Zephir



Upcoming Events

January 4, 2015

SASF Board Meeting

February 22, 2015

*Teacher Artist Fundraiser
Newsletter #3*

March 8, 2015

SASF Board Meeting

April 17-19, 2015

*Spring Suzuki Workshop
Broward College Davie*

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



Suzuki Graduation/Honor Recital

The Suzuki Association of South Florida held a Graduation/Honor Recital on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at Christ Community Church in Pompano Beach.

Thank you to Mrs. Catherine Gavin for accompanying the students.

Thank you Stephanie Firdman, Tarra Guerra, Ellie Riskin, and Dr. Tina Raimondi for sending students. Today we not only honored the student, but we also invited the practicing parent to bow along with their child.



Thank you to all who attended!!

Congratulations to the following Suzuki students for graduating from a Suzuki book!

| Student | Book | Teacher |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Ayron Espino-Nardi | Twinkles | S. Firdman |
| Morgan Brown | Twinkles | T. Guerra |
| Loren Anna Hart | Twinkles | E. Riskin |
| Sophia Maria Hart | Twinkles | E. Riskin |
| Anaelle Tony | Twinkles | E. Riskin |
| Matteo Tenn | Twinkles | S. Firdman |
| Olivia Vipon | 1 | T. Raimondi |
| Leyra Espino-Nardi | 1 | S. Firdman |
| Rowan Brown | 1 | T. Guerra |
| Katrina Farese | 2 | T. Raimondi |
| Kai Zaragoza | 3 | T. Raimondi |

In the Community

CONCERT

New World Symphony
Wallcast Concerts in Miami
Beach

*FREE -bring lawn chairs or
blanket and picnic dinner!!*

Saturday, January 24th, 7:30pm
Concerto Showcase

Saturday, January 31st, 7:30pm
New Work

Saturday, February 21, 7:30pm
**Sibelius with Michael Tilson
Thomas**

Saturday, March 7th, 7:30pm
**A Night at Bach's
Coffeeshouse**

Friday, March 20, 8:00pm
Tchaikovsky's Fifth

Saturday, April 11th, 8:00pm
The Organ Symphony

Saturday, April 25th, 8:00pm
**Season Finale with MTT and
Anne-Sophie Mutter**



Miami Zoo's Zoo Lights Suzuki Holiday Play In



This evening's Suzuki Holiday Play-In at Miami Zoo was a success! We had over 50 children playing violins! After the students finished playing, they were able to visit the zoo and enjoy the festivities!!



A special "*THANK YOU!!!*" to the three teachers who were there this evening:

Anna Ventura

Stephanie Dierick

Ian Thomas



Suzuki Summer Camps

Before you know it summer will be here. It's not too early to begin thinking about which Suzuki Camp you want to attend!!

The Valencia Family's St. Pete's Suzuki Institute Experience



This past June 2014, our family went to our first Suzuki Institute. My husband, Andres, my 5 year-old son, Victor, and my then almost 2 year-old son, Kevin, and I left to St. Petersburg the day after Victor's pre-school graduation. This camp was great for our family because we got some great violin practice tips (from some amazing violinists,) my son improved his violin skills, and the entire family enjoyed a vacation at a fun family vacation spot.

I had gotten some great tips from reading Suzuki's *Nurtured by Love* book and from Victor's violin teacher in Miami, but after taking 3 classes per day for 5 days, from three and sometimes more teachers each day, we certainly expanded our family's violin knowledge. My husband doesn't play any instruments. I play the flute, just a little bit of piano, and I am also learning the violin, but of course, at my age, it's not very easy! This camp, however, definitely improved our musical knowledge. Now, after attending camp for that week, even my husband can help my son during his home violin practices. Because one parent always had to be in class with our son, we both could see what Victor needed to do to improve. Each instructor focused on just one item to improve

during the week so my husband and I were both able to absorb that information, without feeling overwhelmed. In addition to the classes our son took, there were three Parent Enrichment classes that were included in the camp. One class focused on surviving practice slumps, another was on the importance of listening to good music on a daily basis (especially to the Suzuki violin CDs), and the third class was on parent guilt. I learned some great tips at these classes. For instance, instead of saying to my child: "It's time to practice!", I often now say, "It's time to play violin treasure hunt!" I hide the bow in one part of our home, and then I hide some play cards I made that have different violin instructions, such as "Play Twinkle variations" or "Say and show 5 things needed to hold the bow well." Practice is not always great, but at least now I have tools to make it more fun.

Victor, our violin player, is five years old and had been learning Twinkle variations and the theme for almost one year. His home teacher, Ms. Anna Ventura, is a fun and knowledgeable teacher. She let us know about this summer camp and we are grateful for the opportunity to attend. Victor is still very young and new to the violin so he was not able to play at certain summer camp events, such as the Tampa Bay Rays' opening game, but it was great for him to see older kids that were able to do so. Camp was also great for that, not only do the kids get a lot of fun instruction on the violin, but they also see older kids doing fun things with their violin knowledge.

In regards to our summer family vacation, we feel that this is a great way to vacation with kids. The Suzuki violin camp at St. Pete felt like a vacation with a purpose. Because Victor's classes didn't start until 11 in the morning, we were able to sleep in a little in the morning, have a relaxed breakfast and sometimes even walk to the pier or to the park before starting the classes. After 3 or 4 pm, we had time to do different activities. Once, we drove to the St. Pete beach and had dinner at a restaurant with a beach view. After dinner, we strolled on the sand and looked for tiny sea shells. Another day, we all went to watch the Tampa Bay Rays baseball game, which was close to the hotel, and included the bonus of watching some campmates playing the National Anthem before the game started. We know that some kids did have classes that started at 9 a.m., but somehow, there's always a way to squeeze some fun into the week...even if it is a quick swim at the hotel's pool.

Looking back at our summer experience is a happy memory for me. Not only did my five year-old improve his violin skills, but also, my husband, my toddler, and I increased our violin and music in general knowledge, while enjoying a week-long vacation on Florida's West Coast. We look forward to doing this camp again next year...the only thing I hope is that this time it is not so soon after school ends for Victor. I would feel less rushed and I would be able to organize for the trip better if camp starts a week after the end of school. I'll keep my fingers crossed!



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

