

a publication of the Denison University Suzuki Program

*"Suzuki
was asking
us
to show
our kids
how to work
at something
to excellence.*

*When the kids
know
they are
excellent
in something,
they know
what it feels like
and
nothing
can stop them!"*

-- Carrie Reuning-Hummel

*You are invited
to a concert
featuring
American
composers
and selected works
by
J.S. Bach*

*Wolfgang David,
violin*

and

*David Gompper,
piano*

*Wednesday,
September 19
8:00 p.m.
Burke Recital Hall*

Notes from the Director

by Jim Van Reeth

Welcome all new and returning families! It is great to be with you on this journey of educating young talent. If we have not had the opportunity to meet one another, please help me meet you by introducing me to your family the next time you see me at an event, in the Burton hallway, or any place our paths might cross. Know you can reach me on my cell (740) 975-4644, or at vanreethj@denison.edu anytime.

I love the more relaxed and flexible feel of summer lessons (and the easy parking!). But as crazy as this might sound, I really love the chaos and hubbub that accompanies the beginning of fall semester. It is encouraging to see students, friends and colleagues coordinating schedules, getting back in the swing of things and finding the rhythm and beat of the new term. I feel better that I am not the only one struggling to fit it all in, I am inspired by our ability to stick with it and work it out, and I know it is worth the trouble.

Here is some information about the classes, activities and events coming up this semester. Group classes get underway in mid-September and run through early December. Check with your studio teacher so you know the time and location of your class. Plan to arrive early enough to get settled in, and ready to work and have fun. Many classes happen on Saturday mornings, a very, very busy time of the week. Come dressed in your athletic gear, or art smock, if it will make transitioning between activities easier.

Program recitals, on break since May, are back and will happen three times throughout the fall semester. They are always on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in Burke Recital Hall. This semester the dates are September 16, October 14 and November 11. Start now to find the best date for you and your teacher. Remember that you can schedule a date in the spring if it does not work out for fall. Notice the first fall date, September 16, is here! Please plan to attend and support your fellow musicians.

The fall semester is rich with special events. October 27 is our Spooky Suzuki-Harvest Celebration. It will begin with group class from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and move along with games, snacks and other fun that will end at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume! Please let your studio teacher know if you can you help. We are looking for parent volunteers from each studio to help plan and throw this party.

Be on the lookout for information about other special events, including our violin tuning workshop, the 2007 Granville Christmas Candlelight Walking Tour, and the Fall Goodwill Ambassadors Tour in a future issue of the DSR and posted on the bulletin boards on the 3rd floor of Burton Hall.

Over the summer I had the privilege to hear one of my Suzuki mentors, Patricia D'Ercole, give a talk. She reaffirmed that Dr. Suzuki believed young children can be educated most effectively if they have parents who are involved, and provide a stimulating environment. Being involved and providing this stimulating environment keeps us incredibly busy. I applaud you for finding the time, effort and energy to work closely with your family. It is great having you in our program. I hope you are enjoying the new term so far. I look forward to seeing you around. Keep up the good work!

Notes from the Administrator

by Mary Hawkins

Program Recitals:

•September 16•

•October 14•

•November 11•

•December 9•

*Candlelight
Walking Tour
Encore Performance
and
Chamber Concert*

Sundays

3 p.m.

Burke Recital Hall

Expectation or Vision?

“We expect that our job at home with our children is to be creative practice partners and pull them along with us. When we switch the focus to a vision for our children, our job becomes to simply provide the possibility that they could own their own music.”

--Carrie Reuning-Hummel

After an amazing year in Maine and overseas, I am happy to return to the Denison University Suzuki Program as the Program Administrator. I look forward to seeing many familiar Suzuki faces in the coming weeks and meeting the new families who joined the program in the past year.

During my family's year away, we continued our involvement with the Suzuki method in Maine and other parts of the world. Throughout the fall, spring and summer, my children continued weekly private violin lessons and biweekly group lessons with a wonderful Suzuki teacher (and her very musical dog), and I took Suzuki cello lessons from her mother. After much debate, we decided to bring the violins with us as we traveled to Australia, New Zealand and Asia for 4 months during the winter. We were able to review Suzuki pieces most days, met an Australian waitress who was a former Suzuki student and managed to replace an A string that had unraveled at a Chinese mall in Singapore. Most importantly, when we returned to Maine, our kids were able to pick up their Suzuki studies right where they left off instead of spending a month or more trying to get back up to speed.

As the Program Administrator, I serve as the liaison between the Suzuki Program and Denison University, particularly the Provost and Accounting Offices. I am responsible for establishing and monitoring monthly and annual budgets, overseeing the registration process, and encouraging the communication of Dr. Suzuki's teachings and philosophies among families, faculty and the surrounding community.

We do our best every year to not raise fees so that as many families as possible can participate in our program. However, we do operate on a break even budget and periodically need to raise fees to cover the costs of our growing program. The most substantial increase in fees this year is for participation in our chamber music program offered to our advanced students. As many of you know, the time and coaching involved in chamber music has greatly expanded in the past few years. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about fees. Also, please remember that all fees need to be paid in full each semester or we will not be able to re-enroll students for subsequent semesters.

Please be accurate and prompt when filling out the student information forms and term agreements given to you by your teacher. Please also check the yes box if you can after the question about being included in the Suzuki Directory. We would like to have this directory be as complete as possible but will respect your desire not to be included if you so choose. Also, please read the Program Policies sheet provided by your teacher. Although it may look similar to what you may have received in the past, it contains a lot of important new information.

As you may have noticed, parking is more difficult this fall because of the closing of College Street. Andy Carlson, the Chairman of the Music Department, is working with the college to try to create some parking spaces on College Street during the evening and weekend hours. He is also trying to create a loading zone in front of the building for people to drop off larger instruments. There is more information about alternative parking options in the Program Policies sheet. Please plan to arrive early to your lesson in case you need to walk several blocks to Burton Hall.

Finally, Denison has completed a revamp of University websites. As soon as I complete the required training, I will take over the responsibility of maintaining the Suzuki website so we can keep it up to date and accurate. We also hope to be able to use it to provide last minute details about special events. I will let you know when the updates are completed.

I look forward to a wonderful year with the Denison University Suzuki Program. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions about the program.

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Denison University
Suzuki Program

Our Mission...

...to create a positive musical learning partnership among faculty, students, and their parents/practice partners by following the philosophical principles and educational methods developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki so that children can grow into loving and respectful individuals who will have a positive effect on their world.

For more information about our program, please contact:

Jim Van Reeth,
Program Director

Phone:
(740) 975-4644

E-Mail:
vanreethj@denison.edu

Practicing What We Teach: Teachers' Experiences in Continuing Education

Reviewing Review at the American Suzuki Institute by Robin Brown

I was very fortunate to spend a week in August at Stevens Point, Wisconsin at the American Suzuki Institute. I took Violin Book III teacher training from Edmund Sprunger (who wrote Helping Parents Practice). I also observed master and group classes and listen to wonderful students and teachers in recitals.

Mr. Jim and Rebecca White (who will be teaching group lessons this year with the Denison Suzuki Program) were on the faculty. Kyle, and Tyler Otterstedt and their mom, Marsha, also attended the Insittute.

I especially enjoyed some of the presentations for parents given by accomplished Suzuki teachers. One of the presentations was "Review, Repetition, Refinement." Below are some of the highlights about REVIEW from handouts provided by these teachers that were especially interesting and useful.

Purpose of Review

- To maintain an old skill/technique
- To strengthen a present skill
- To prepare for learning a new skill
- To develop musical expression
- To play old pieces in a new way
- To maintain your foundation (like building a house, each piece depends upon the next piece)

Recommended (Ideal) Weekly Review Plan

- Book I/early Book II students: Play all your pieces at every practice
- Mid Book II students: Rotate Book I pieces (half the book every day) and all Book II pieces daily
- Book III students: Rotate Book I and Book II; all Book III daily
- Book IV and above students: Follow the 7 day rotating review chart (see your teacher for this chart)

Other Possible Structures for Review:

- Rotating Review Chart (5 or 7 day chart; play all pieces you know over the course of a week)
- Fish Bowl Review (write names of all pieces on paper & put in a bowl; randomly pick certain # for review)
- Two List Review (make 2 lists: pieces that can be played well (1) and pieces that need work (2). Play list 1 pieces every day. Choose one piece from list 2 to work on every day until it moves to the first list.
- Teacher Assigned Review

How to Incorporate Review into Daily Practice

It is important to have a specific goal in mind when reviewing to avoid mindless repetition. Focus on a specific technique or teaching point for each review piece so it has a constructive result. Depending on the age of your child, involve him/her in figuring out what this focus will be (e.g., dynamics, bigger bow, etc.).

Result of Review

- Refinement of skills
- Dramatic increase in level of playing
- Ability to learn new pieces more easily and quickly (80/20 rule; 80% of new pieces are old skills, 20% are new skills)
- Those students who keep up their review excel at their instrument
- Expansion of one's memory
- Greater concentration
- Confidence
- Have a piece to play at any time, any day
- Enables students from across the world to play together and share their music

"The more we can concrete with students, the better. The information we give should be as easy to use as an iPod."

--Ed Sprunger

Spooky Suzuki

Harvest Celebration

October 27
2-4 p.m.

... a biannual tradition of costumes, games, music, and fun...

Parent volunteers are needed, so please see your teacher!

Granville Christmas Candlelight Walking Tour

Performance:

*Saturday,
December 1*

Rehearsals:

November 17

and

November 30

Violin

September 15 and 29
October 13 and 27*
November 10 and 17
November 30* and December 1*

Class Schedule

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Bach Double to Book X
with Dr. Carlson in Herrick Hall

9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

Late Book II – Seitz Concertos
with Mrs. White and Miss Robin
in Burke Recital Hall

Mid-Book I – with Mrs. Kirsh
in Burke Rehearsal Room

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Books I-IV combined
in Burke Recital Hall

10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Pretwinkle with Mrs. White
in the Burke Lobby

Early Book I with Mr. Jim
in Burke Recital Hall

Late Book I/Early II with Miss Robin
in Burke Rehearsal Room

Flute

September 15
October 6 and 13
October 27*
November 10 and 17
November 30* and December 1*

Class Schedule

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Allegro Group

9:40 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Fireflies Group

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Cinnamon Buns Group

10:55 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Adult Class

in Burton 14

Piano

Kirsh and McCarroll Studios

September 15 and 29
October 13 and 27*
November 10 and 17
November 30* and December 1*

Class Schedule

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Mozart Group
in Burton 201

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hummel Group
in Burton 201
Clementi Group
In Burton 203/301

Piano

Palmer Studio

In Burton 201

September 14 and 28
October 12 and 26
October 27*
November 9
November 30* and December 1*
December 7

Class Schedule

2:30 to 3:15 -- 4 year olds
3:15 to 4:05 – 8th – 12th graders
4:05 to 4:55 – 6th and 7th graders
4:55 to 5:45 – 5th graders
5:45 to 6:35 – 3rd graders

Cello

September 15 and 29
October 6 and 27*
November 10 and 17
November 30* and December 1*

Class Schedule

8:15-8:45

Pre-Twinkle

8:45-9:15

Twinkles and Early Book I

9:15-9:45

Middle book I- Early Book II

9:45-10:15

Book II and up

in Burton 306

*These dates will have special times and locations.
We'll have that information for you closer to the events.