

NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President

Welcome back to all returning families, and welcome to new VSSA families! We have another great year of Suzuki activities in store. Recital sign-up is being distributed today, and information about Book Promotion is included in this newsletter.

For those of you who are new to our association, VSSA is a coalition of teachers created to provide group lessons, an integral part of the Suzuki Method. Children participating benefit not only from interacting with other Suzuki students, but also from many teachers' expertise. The following are suggestions of how to support the group class experience:

Review: Like group lessons, review is an essential component of the Suzuki approach and we are excited that our "Contests" will be focusing on review this year. Our Review Contest kick-off will be a "Name that Tune/Composer" mixer which will be held during the recital time at our next group lesson. Repertoire teachers will also be providing review lists for each semester to help you focus your review between group lessons on the repertoire that will be worked on in each class. After the kick-off, please begin to keep track of the number of days your child reviews as part of his practice at home between classes so he will know how many tickets to enter for the Review Contests. New this year, to encourage students to learn the names and composers of the pieces they are performing, we will be holding a follow-up "Name that Tune/Composer" mixer, as well as a Composer Costume Festival, on January 9. More details to come!

Listen: While it isn't our focus this year, "listening" is another essential component of the Suzuki approach, and we encourage families to keep listening to their Suzuki recordings every day.

Be punctual: Arrive 5-10 minutes before 9:00 for tuning. If you are late, please unpack in the hallway to minimize disruption.

Respect the Use of CEE: We do not own CEE, we only rent the rooms for our classes. Please teach your children that items at the school are not there for our use as we are just borrowing the rooms. The playground and the bikes stored in the hallway are not for our use.

Volunteer: VSSA is a co-op that is run by volunteers. Parents of older students, please help set up chairs for the recitals 10 minutes into the first class. Also needed are volunteers to move the piano to and from the recital room. Everyone can help by stacking chairs in groups of 5 at the conclusion of each recital.

Contribute: VSSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, either through United Way (designate "Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association"), or directly to VSSA. A tax-deductible donation is separate and different from any tax credit ECA donations you might make. We are happy to provide a receipt for your records.

Newsletters and Website: Our newsletters are our main form of communication throughout the year. If you miss a lesson, please visit our web-site at valleysuzuki.org to see if a new newsletter has been posted.

We have a new group lesson teacher this year – welcome to Heidi Wright. I hope your family has a rewarding year in VSSA!

Bonnie Roesch

Class Schedule

2015-2016

August 22

August 29

September 19*

October 3*

October 31*

November 7*

November 14 Book Promotion/
Winter Concert

January 9

January 23*

February 6*

February 20 VSSA Workshop-
Full day schedule

March 5*

March 26 Final Concert

* indicates recital days

Special Events

October 24-25 ASA Workshop

Student Recitals

Every VSSA student is encouraged to perform in a recital. This is a great experience for both performers and audience members!

When Are Recitals Held?

Recitals are held between classes at group lessons. This year, they will be held on 9/19, 10/3, 10/31, 11/7, 1/23, 2/6, and 3/5.

What Should My Child Perform?

Recital pieces should be polished, performance-ready, and approved by your private lesson teacher. Piano accompaniment is available.

How Do I Sign Up?

Please fill out the form provided at group lessons on 8/22 and return it at group lessons on 8/29. Alternatively, you can email the information to recital coordinator Martha Vogler by Sunday, 8/30. Those who submit information after 8/30 will be placed on a waiting list. The full list of recital dates will be emailed to everyone by 9/2.

How Does the Process Work?

On 9/2, you will be informed of your recital date. About two weeks prior to your recital, Martha will contact your private teacher to confirm the piece you will play. You will be cc'd on the email.

Questions?

Contact Martha Vogler at vogler9@gmail.com.

SPECIAL RECITAL TIPS:

- Often the best choice for a recital piece is something you have known for a couple of months!
- Even beginning students can perform on recitals. Demonstrating posture, singing “Up Like a Rocket,” or playing “The Monkey Song” are all examples of acceptable performances for our beginning players!
- Recitals get crowded at certain times of the year. Please try to choose both fall and spring dates.



Get to Know Your Teachers

We are very fortunate to have amazing teachers who share their education, training, and experience with our children each time we meet. To get to know them a little better, here are short biographies of our current teachers.

Kristine Ehlis

Kristine is a private violin teacher and the VSSA treasurer. She received her Bachelor's of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Kris moved to Arizona in 1982 to teach orchestra in Pinetop Lakeside. After four years she moved to Flagstaff to attend the Northern Arizona University. While attending, she studied the Suzuki Method with Dr. Louise Scott and received her Masters of Music in Suzuki Pedagogy. She taught orchestra in Mesa Public Schools for many years. Kris has been an active member of VSSA since 1987. In her spare time she enjoys Disneyland, family, reading, travel, and her cat named Shinichi.

Eunice Elie (www.beautifulmusic.info)

Eunice has over 35 years of teaching experience. She has a B.A. in Music Education and an M.A. in Music Education with proficiency in Strings and Piano. She holds K-12 Teacher Certification and teaches Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano as well as Early Childhood Education. She is registered with SAA in violin books 1-4 and in ECE. She was President of the Suzuki State Association for four years. Eunice serves as Director of the Chandler School of Fine Arts Strings Department, where she maintains a full-time teaching studio and actively trains new teachers at the college/university level. She has been in VSSA since 2004. She enjoys composing and arranging music, presenting her students in concerts and being actively involved in the music ministries of her church.

Andrea Gordon

Andrea received her bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University in Cello Performance. While in Flagstaff, she performed

with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra for five years. Andrea received her Suzuki Training in Utah through the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute. She has been teaching privately since 1998. Andrea has been affiliated with, and teaching with, VSSA since 2004. She currently plays with the Ash Strings Quartet. Andrea is serving as the VSSA group lesson coordinator. She loves teaching privately and with VSSA, and most importantly, loves being a wife and a mother of six wonderful children.

Sarah Hartman

Sarah began her musical journey at age three when she enrolled in Suzuki Violin lessons. She never stopped playing, and recently obtained a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance from NAU where she played with the Flagstaff Symphony. Sarah trained with Dr. Louise Scott to complete her Teacher Training Books 1-5 and taught private and group lessons through the NAU Preparatory School. She is currently building her own private studio and looking forward to continuing her musical journey in the Valley.

Lani Hill

Lani began taking Suzuki violin lessons at age 5. Her early musical training included three years of lessons in Japan, the birthplace of the Suzuki Method. She and her siblings each had a private lesson from Dr. Shinichi Suzuki before they returned to the United States. She continued her violin studies through high school and college, graduating from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance. She has taught private lessons since the age of 13, and has been a member of VSSA since 1991. She serves on the VSSA Board as the Workshop Coordinator.

Marilee Kellis

Marilee is passionate about helping children develop character and citizenship through musician-ship. She has many years of experience working with young children. Marilee has a knack for connecting with young children on their level, helping them have success and build on that success. She sees working with children as a purifying and rewarding experience. She is the mother of 4 children, ages 5 to 11. Marilee started playing cello during junior high school in Mesa, playing both in school and community orchestras and studying privately with accomplished teachers. She is thoroughly convinced that cello is the world's greatest musical instrument. Marilee is fluent in Spanish. Marilee is registered with Suzuki Association of the Americas in Cello Book 1.

Megyn Neff (www.vlnwithoutborders.com)

Megyn graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance in 2008. While at NAU, she discovered the beauty of the Suzuki philosophy and method under the tutelage of Dr. Louise Scott. She also performed in the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and was selected to perform in the School of Music Honors Recital. Since 2008, she has received Suzuki teacher training from Joanne Bath, Cathryn Lee and James Hutchins, and is registered with SAA in Books 1 and 2. Megyn currently performs with the West Valley Symphony, Arizona Pro Arte Ensemble, Phoenix String Quartet, and several different bands on various styles of fiddle. She is building her private studio in Central Phoenix.

Dorene Pool

Dorene graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance, and received a Master of Music

from University of Texas at Austin. She taught with the University of Texas String Project and orchestra in the Texas public schools. She was orchestra director in the Mesa Public School district for many years. She has studied Suzuki with Joanna Bath, William Preucil, Louise Scott, and John Kendall, and is registered through book 5. She is a member of numerous chamber music groups and symphony orchestras.

Bonnie Roesch

Bonnie is a long-standing member of VSSA. Bonnie was a "Suzuki kid" and started playing violin at the age of five. She attended Northern Arizona University on a full ride music scholarship where she received her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She also completed long-term Suzuki teacher training with Louise Scott and performed with the Flagstaff Symphony while attending NAU. In addition to private and VSSA group lesson teaching, Bonnie also serves as an elementary orchestra teacher in the Mesa Public Schools. Bonnie's other preferred activities include spending time with her husband and two children, reading, and Lindy Hop swing dancing.

Martha Vogler

Martha started playing violin when she was very little, joining the rest of her big family in performing together. She played in youth orchestras all through her school years, and then studied violin and voice at Brigham Young University, earning her BA in Music in 2002. She has taught violin for more than ten years, registered training through Book 3, and joined VSSA in 2013 when she moved here to Arizona. She loves teaching violin, seeing progress and sparkle in her students, and feeling their love of music and life.

Heidi Wright

Heidi is a native of Mesa, Arizona. She studied violin and harp performance at all of Arizona's Universities and completed degrees in Performance, Pedagogy, and Education. She has performed with numerous orchestras across Arizona and has taught in a variety of music schools and programs. As a Suzuki trained teacher, she maintains a large studio of violin and harp students. Heidi performs locally and internationally as a member of the Tetra String Quartet. She is a faculty associate at ASU, teaching chamber music. She completed her Suzuki training with Louise Scott at Northern Arizona University.

Alexandra Young

Alexandra attended Northern Arizona University on an orchestra scholarship, and graduated with degrees in Violin Performance and Music Education. While at NAU, she took long-term Suzuki teacher training in Books 1-4 with Dr. Louise Scott, and taught private lessons and group classes for the Suzuki program at NAU under the supervision of Dr. Scott and Karin Hallberg. In addition to her training at NAU, she has registered training in Units 1 and 2 with Carrie Reuning-Hummel and Edmund Sprunger. Alex performed with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra for three years, and attended the Brevard Music Center on a full scholarship in 2011. She has been teaching privately since 2008. She has been a member of the SAA since 2012, and an active member of VSSA since 2014. Alex teaches privately at her home in Mesa, and teaches for the Suzuki program at Las Sendas Elementary School, in addition to performing with the Arizona Pro Arte orchestra and chamber groups throughout the valley.

**Book Promotion!****BOOK PROMOTION PERFORMANCE
COMING UP!**

Our annual Book Promotion Performance will be on November 14th. This event is to recognize students who have made extra special efforts at polishing their performance abilities as they progress through the Suzuki literature. Each participant receives a trophy and certificate.

Please talk with your teacher soon about preparing for this event. A recording of the student's very best playing must be submitted for review, along with the application form and fee. The fee is \$10. Materials may be brought to group lessons or mailed or emailed (with fee mailed) to Dorene Pool.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 19th: Last day to bring materials to group lessons

October 1st: Last day to mail materials to Dorene Pool

November 7th, 8:00 AM (before group lessons): Dress rehearsal (for participants AND teacher ensemble)

November 14th: Book Promotion performance

To read more about the requirements to participate in Book Promotion, and to download the application form, visit www.valleysuzuki.org or contact Dorene Pool at 480-855-6199 or dsPOOLAZ@cox.net.



VSSA Leadership

Teacher Members

Kristine Ehlis – V 480-730-0452
 Eunice Elie* - V, A, C, P 480-220-3146
 Andrea Gordon - C 480-296-5445
 Sarah Hartman- V 480-338-3933
 Lani Hill - V 480-722-2851
 Marilee Kellis - C 480-278-1333
 Megyn Neff - V 928-863-0572
 Dorene Pool - A 480-855-6199
 Bonnie Roesch - V 480-924-6692
 Martha Vogler - V 480-207-1159
 Heidi Wright* - V
 Alexandra Young* - V 602-616-8235

*Accepting New Students

V- Violin A- Viola C- Cello P-Piano

Newsletter Input/Classifieds

(from the VSSA Parent Handbook)

Input is welcomed about subjects you would like to have covered in the Newsletter, or calendar events such as concerts in the area, studio recitals, or individual book recitals. A free Classified Ad section is also available for use by VSSA members. If you wish to sell or give away a used instrument (if selling, include your name, instrument and size, price, and contact information), shoulder rest, black and white performance outfit, reading book, or other appropriate item, make your submission to our Newsletter Coordinator, Katie Davi, at thekatiedavi@gmail.com

Board Members

President – Bonnie Roesch
 Treasurer/Membership - Kristine Ehlis
 Secretary - *open*
 Group Lesson Coordinator - Andrea Gordon
 Book Promotion Coordinator - Dorene Pool
 Workshop Coordinator - Lani Hill
 Recital Coordinator – Martha Vogler
 Information Table - Rebecca Wilcox
 Newsletter Editor/Webmaster - Katie Davi

Volunteer Positions

ASA Liaison - Eunice Elie
 Recital Accompanists - Sara Turley & *open*

You can find the newsletter and other VSSA information on the website, at www.valleysuzuki.org