

# NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the President

Welcome new and returning families! Watching the Olympics these past two weeks brought to mind the importance of quality practice, and lots of it. While most of us can't even imagine dedicating the amount of time and effort necessary to develop a skill at the level of an Olympian, witnessing the Olympics does drive home the amazing results of consistent, dedicated practice. Dr. Suzuki was very focused on developing excellence. A previous VSSA President quoted in one of her President Messages that Dr. Suzuki told his students to practice something 1,000 times, and that he wasn't kidding - he was serious! 1,000 repetitions seemed like a lot! So, you can imagine my surprise that when trying to find a well-known Dr. Suzuki quote about practicing something 1,000 times, I instead came across this. "Knowledge is not skill. Knowledge plus ten thousand times is skill." This sobering idea of Dr. Suzuki's is a good thing for us parents to keep in mind when our child's teacher assigns more repetitions of the same practice box, when review is expected to be a part of practice every day, and when we are working with our teacher to choose which piece to have our child perform in an upcoming recital. Won't it also be nice to have as a quick and ready line for our child next time he/she complains about having to practice "that" again? And another Dr. Suzuki quote about ability development to ponder. "...never forget that a person who fails at five hundred times can succeed at five thousand times." (Nurtured by Love, p. 55). Thankfully for us, most of the time our child will be sounding pretty good by 500 repetitions!

For those of you who haven't previously participated in VSSA, we are 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:** When review is part of your child's practice every day, reviewing in group classes is meaningful and fun!

**Listen:** Daily listening (to the Suzuki CD) is our focus this year. Your child can take part in our fun Listening Contest and make learning new repertoire easier.

**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.

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

Thank you, parents, for giving your child the opportunity to participate in VSSA group lessons!

## Class Schedule

2016-2017

August 20

August 27

September 17\*

October 1\*

October 29\*

November 19 Book Promotion/  
Winter Concert

January 7\*

January 21\*

February 11\*

February 25 VSSA Workshop-  
Full day schedule

March 4\*

March 25 Final Concert

\* indicates recital days

## Special Events

October 21-22 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 9/17, 10/1, 10/29, 1/7, 1/21, 2/11, and 3/4.

### What Should My Child Perform?

Choose a review piece that you have been playing for a while. It 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 8/20 and return it at group lessons on 8/27. Alternatively, you can email the information to recital coordinator Alexandra Jacques by Sunday, 8/28. Those who submit information after 8/28 will be placed on a waiting list. The full list of recital dates will be emailed to everyone by 8/30.

### How Does the Process Work?

On 8/30, you will be informed of your recital date. About two weeks prior to your recital, Alex will contact your private teacher to confirm the piece you will play. You will be cc'd on the email.

### Questions?

Contact Alexandra Jacques at [aly788@gmail.com](mailto:aly788@gmail.com)

### SPECIAL RECITAL TIPS:

- The best choice for a recital piece is a polished review piece; one that you have been playing for a couple of months.
- Even beginning students can perform in 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](http://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.

**Alexandra Jacques**

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, 2, and 3 with Carrie Reuning-Hummel, Edmund Sprunger, and Charles Krigbaum. 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.

**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.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

"Pirates Take Over Suzuki!" VSSA's annual Suzuki Workshop and Concert on Saturday, February 25, 2017. For Suzuki-method violin, viola, and cello students. The workshop will be held in Chandler, Arizona. Registration opens in late January. Contact Lani Hill (krhlwh@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Our annual Book Promotion Performance will be on November 19th. 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 to Dorene Pool. We are attempting to set-up online payment for book promotion fees. Details will be announced ASAP

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**October 1st:** Last day to bring materials to group lessons

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

**October 29th,** 8:00 AM (before group lessons): Dress rehearsal (for participants AND teacher ensemble)

**November 19th:** Book Promotion performance

To read more about the requirements to participate in Book Promotion, and to download the application form, visit [www.valleysuzuki.org](http://www.valleysuzuki.org) or contact Dorene Pool at 480-855-6199 or [dspoolaz@cox.net](mailto:dspoolaz@cox.net).

## VSSA Leadership

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### 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	480-688-9285
Alexandra Jacques* - V	602-616-8235
Dorene Pool - A	480-855-6199
Bonnie Roesch - V	480-924-6692
Heidi Wright* - V	

\*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](mailto:thekatiedavi@gmail.com)

### Board Members

President – Bonnie Roesch  
 Treasurer/Membership - Kristine Ehlis  
 Secretary - Roxanne Heavens  
 Group Lesson Coordinator - Andrea Gordon  
 Book Promotion Coordinator - Dorene Pool  
 Workshop Coordinator - Lani Hill  
 Recital Coordinator – Alexandra Jacques  
 Information Table - Alisa VanOrder  
 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](http://www.valleysuzuki.org)*