

NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President, by Bonnie Roesch

We hope your student is finding his/her group lesson experience enriching and motivating. With Listening as our focus for group classes this year, it seems appropriate to visit the benefits of daily listening. Regularly playing the Suzuki recording of past, present and future repertoire is the easiest way to boost your child's progress with very little effort on your part. A secure knowledge of how the piece is supposed to sound while learning a new piece makes the process so much easier than trying to work without this prior knowledge. Daily listening basically helps your child memorize the piece, leaving only the application of playing it (fingerings, bowings, and bow technique, string crossings, how to create the louds, softs, and phrasing – still plenty!) to learn. While review is still necessary for the body to retain memory of how to play old pieces, listening to past repertoire keeps the tunes fresh in memory, also making review easier. An added perk for your child is that they will be able to enter a handful of tickets into the Listening Contest drawing for each day of listening completed since the previous Group Lesson!

Because we have many families who are new to the group experience, I want to point out that while learning to perform well in a group - ensemble playing - is one of the benefits of group lessons, for some students, this may also prove to be the greatest challenge of group class. While we try to place everyone in the best repertoire class for their level, some students will be among the farthest along in their class, while others know the least amount of repertoire. If the first, your child may be spending most (occasionally all) of the class in comfortable review mode, and will therefore easily be able to focus on the ensemble aspect of playing and/or applying a focus that the group teacher is working on. If the latter, he/she may spend much of the class challenged with trying to apply many new skills while also staying with the group. Regardless of where your child falls in the group, as a parent, when watching and approaching the group experience, keep in mind that when your child is playing a new piece, his energy and focus is on getting the correct fingerings, rhythms, and bowings. When the piece is new, playing the piece at the speed of the group may be too much. Parent understanding and encouragement will go a long way toward helping your student enjoy the group experience!

Hopefully you attended last session's Parent Class and will continue to attend and benefit from new and reiterated ideas on how to apply the many components of the Suzuki approach – be encouraged and inspired.

Upcoming events to note are our Halloween class on October 29 (students are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to group class that day) and our Winter/Book Promotion Concert to be held at the LDS Church Building at 1221 W Howe St, Tempe on November 19, 2016. Please note that while our Book Promotion participants are featured, not only Book Promotion students perform. **All VSSA students are featured in this concert!** See details for this event below.

Winter/Book Promotion Concert

Date: Saturday, November 19th

Location: LDS Church Building, 1221 W Howe St, Tempe (Cross Streets- Priest & University)

Directions: From US 60 and Priest Dr., travel north past Broadway. Turn right on W. 12th St. (7th right). Turn left on S. Margo Dr. and right on Howe.

Concert Dress: White tops, black bottoms

Schedule: 8:50 – Students arrive, find the room where their repertoire class is meeting, get unpacked and tuned.

9:00 - 9:20 – Repertoire classes rehearse while family and other guests arrive.

9:30 -Book Promotion Concert – all students will perform with their repertoire classes

Instrument cases may be left in the rooms where the repertoire classes meet, but please carry any other personal items with you. Thanks to the Turley family for scheduling the building for this event.

Class Schedule

2016-2017

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

Outside Events

October 21-22 ASA Workshop

VSSA RECITALS

Notes for Parents:

- Recitals take place in the gym between classes at VSSA group lessons.
- Your child's piece should be polished, performance-ready, and approved by your private lesson teacher. *Remember that the best recital piece may not be your child's most recent; consider a piece your child learned several months ago and has had the chance to really polish.*
- Your private teacher will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to your child's recital to confirm the piece that your child will play. You will be cc'd on the email if you provided an email address for parent and teacher.
- Performers are encouraged to dress nicely, but black and white is not required.
- Piano accompaniment is available. Should you need to rehearse prior to the recital, contact Alexandra Jacques at aly788@gmail.com.
- If your child is playing a piece that is not in the Suzuki literature, please bring the piano part with you.
- If you need to reschedule or would like to add a recital for a student who did not sign up by the deadline, contact Alexandra to be placed on a waiting list.
- Please remind children in the audience of proper recital etiquette. Please exit and enter between pieces. If you need to use the restroom during the recital, please enter from the doors outside the gym.
- If your child's name is spelled incorrectly below, please let Alexandra know so it can be fixed for the recital certificate! Also, please let me know if your child's name is missing, and we will get them on the list. Thank you all for preparing your children for recital success!

2016-2017 Recital Schedule

October 1, 2016

Abigail Jivcu	Josiah Jivcu
Noah Jivcu	David Roesch
Quin Cejka	Tessa Letham
Evan Yoon	

October 29, 2016

Kaiya Murphy	John Murphy
Leila Ross	Cassia Wong
Jairus Wong	Joshua Leung
Espen Lai	

January 7, 2017

Tirzah Nguyen	Ellie Weiss
Willem Weiss	Luciana Rosano
Stephen Gordon	

January 21, 2017

Rebecca Turley	Joshua Turley
Hannah Turley	Alex Davi
Sarah Davi	

February 11, 2017

Rosemary Heavens	Ruby Heavens
Jeremiah Bukovsky	Paige Bukovsky
Katherine Jivcu	Nathan Davies-Venn

March 4, 2017

Brielle Porter	Makenzie Porter
Laura Llames	Grace Llames
Khloe Sundaram	Christian Garrison
Joseph Garrison	

Questions?

Contact Alexandra Jacques at
aly788@gmail.com

Many thanks to parent volunteer Sara Turley for providing piano accompaniment

VSSA Dates to Remember

Parent Class

On **October 1 and 29**, Eunice Elie will be leading a parent class during the second period of group lessons. This is a great opportunity to get valuable information about the Suzuki method and to ask any questions you may have.

ASA Workshop (not a VSSA event)

This year's ASA workshop is **October 21-22** in Phoenix. Please note that you do need to be a member of ASA to attend; discounted family memberships can be purchased through VSSA.

Halloween

On **October 29**, students are welcome to wear their Halloween costumes to group lessons.

Book Promotion

Thank you to all who have submitted book promotion materials. Please watch for a response to your submission via email. If your child will be participating in Book Promotion, don't forget:

October 29: Mandatory dress rehearsal before group lessons, 8:00am or as stated in your email.

November 19: Book Promotion/Winter Concert at LDS Church Building, 1221 W Howe St, Tempe
Report time: 8:50am

Winter Concert

November 19's concert, in addition to Book Promotion, is the winter concert for all students. Please note the dress requirements and different location in the President's message on page 1.

VSSA Workshop

VSSA's Spring Workshop will be held on **February 25** in Chandler. It is a fun whole-day event you won't want to miss, so save the date! More information to come in January.

Final Concert

This year's final concert will be on **March 25**. Save the date, and more information will follow.

Combining Early Note Reading with Singing for our Pre-Twinklers

by Kari Weldon

The Suzuki method has proven its instrumental training success of young children through the years. The philosophy of Listening, Imitating, and Repeating are central to this method. Yet, as young strings students are in their beginning stages of setting up postures and becoming acquainted with their instrument, the opportunity for Repetition can be limited.

In January of 2016, I graduated with Level one certification in Suzuki Voice, the only instrument in the Suzuki world that begins students at age 0. The reason for this is because the voice is an inner instrument and is more readily accessible and manipulated by children. Utilizing my training with the ESA in Suzuki Voice, I have worked for the past year with Pre-Twinkler strings students at the VSSA group lessons to advance their ability to participate in the "Repetition" element of the Suzuki LIR triangle without the hindrance of early strings' postures perfection.

The Pre-Twinklers Early Note Reading class uses vocalization to Listen, Imitate, and Repeat musical concepts of ascending/descending scales, intervals, dynamics, tempo, rhythm, and musicality. When a student has the ability to hear pitch and imitate that pitch vocally, their ability to play that pitch more accurately is enhanced greatly. As a result, these students will be playing pieces like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and "Lightly Row" inwardly by utilizing their inner instrument - the voice - and outwardly by utilizing their outer instrument of choice - strings, piano, etc.

In my VSSA Pre-Twinklers Early Note Reading class, my students use manipulatives such as feathers, balls, and scarves to encourage natural, gentle vocal production in the process of learning early note reading musical elements. Though the class seems like just fun and games,

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every component is designed to encourage natural vocal development and clear musical understanding with this movement.

“But my child isn’t planning to become a professional vocalist!” Thankfully all investments in music are just that - investments - regardless of one’s career pursuits! Learning good foundations in vocalization give children into their adult years confidence to stand tall before a crowd and speak clearly and resonantly. Giving a speech, an interview, or other forms of public speaking become so much easier when a child has learned to properly use their voice and the musculature necessary to produce vocal tone. The ability to think creatively is another very important element to vocal training. Though there are always guidelines to music training, the voice is such a wonderful instrument to express emotion and inner thoughts. Lastly, the study of voice allows students to be more in tune with their own bodies-we refer to it as proprioception. Children learn how to relax every tiny muscle in their hands, arms, jaw, neck, etc. in order to allow the voice to freely resonate. So, though not all vocal students will become professional musicians, such training will give them the tools to become professionals at whatever life they choose to follow.

In the Pre-Twinklers Early Note Reading class at VSSA, my students will be learning good, foundational vocal skills in their pursuit of greater musical understanding. Through Dr. Suzuki’s LIR method, I know I am instilling in these young minds not only tools that will help them be successful as strings players, but skills that will help them be successful as individuals.

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	480-316-8611
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	480-375-8681

*Accepting New Students

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

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
 Also, you can now follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/valleysuzuki/