

# CSSA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

[www.cssasuzuki.com](http://www.cssasuzuki.com)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to another great year with Calgary Suzuki Strings Association. We extend a warm welcome to the addition of new members and the Suzuki guitar families who have joined the CSSA. We are looking forward to the guitar studios of Mary Legge and Kim Aull being a part of our workshops and performances.

In October we had our Annual General Meeting and would like to welcome our new board member, Heidi Behrenbruch. Heidi is a Suzuki teacher who has recently moved here from Australia via Toronto. She brings a wealth of experience with her and we are excited to have her as our Vice Chairperson. We would also like to welcome Nicole Bullock to the Board as our Newsletter Coordinator. Nicole is a mother of two Suzuki Violin students and we are looking forward to her taking over our newsletter.

The Board would like to thank Lynda French, for her many years of service and support as webmaster. Her web expertise helped put a face to our name and made it easier for us to communicate with members of the Suzuki community. We would like to welcome Heidi's husband Juan Campos, who has kindly volunteered to be the new web support person, the changes on the website look great!!

This year started off with our Annual Heritage Park Play-In. While it was a cold and chilly afternoon, we had a great time. It was certainly a changing of the guards this year: from brand new Twinklers playing for the first time to Thomas Komar with his final performance as he will be going off to University by next fall.

The Winter Workshop, which combined the Suzukithon and Teen Event, was a great event. Although it was a very snowy day we were glad to see everyone made it to the workshop. A special thanks to those braved the highways from Banff and Canmore! It was a flurry of activity with group, master and enrichment classes. Everyone was given the opportunity to play with our Latin Band by way of string or percussion and enjoyed a fun and positive experience.

In the Spring, we will once again have Phillip Kashap to share and inspire us. CSSA has also been approached to join in a parent seminar with the Mount Royal Suzuki Piano Parent Association. We are also looking to offer some teacher enrichment classes this year. This is still in the works. We will keep you posted.

We hope that this year has been a musically great year for you so far and we look forward to hearing of your successes throughout the year

Tammy Poon

*"Beautiful tone, beautiful heart"*

~Shinichi Suzuki



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15 & 16, 2011

Non-Competitive String Festival

St. Giles Presbyterian Church  
1102 – 23 Avenue NW, Calgary

## CLASSIFIEDS

If you wish to post a musical instrument, music books or other musical resources in this section of future newsletters, please send an email to:

[tammy.poon@cssasuzuki.com](mailto:tammy.poon@cssasuzuki.com)

## STUDIO NEWS

Andrea L. Hudson Studio News:

Congratulations to our Suzuki Book Graduates:

Steven Poon - Book 3

Zane Clark - Book 3

Our studio enjoyed the opportunity to join the Suzuki string community in a Holiday Concert sponsored by Joanne Melvin and her studio. The holiday carols were a joy to prepare and play together and it was great to join with other students in the city working at developing their talents in music!

We also were blessed to be able to share our Christmas music which we had prepared throughout the fall for the residents of the Edgemont Retirement Residence. We love to see their eyes light up as they appreciate the beautiful music of the season. Thank you all for preparing such uplifting music and being willing to share it!

A special thanks to the Calgary Suzuki String Association for the Winter Workshop.

Many students in my studio have expressed the things that they enjoyed in participating in this event: Group Class, Drama, Orff. It was especially a wonderful experience to become more familiar with Latin music. It was great that ALL students could be involved through either playing on their string instruments OR learning a percussion instrument in order to "jam" with the band. Thank you for a unique musical experience.

Our studio performed our annual Old Folk's Home Visits in March. We played a nice program of Suzuki repertoire along with the Latin pieces which were prepared for the Winter Workshop. The senior students played while some of the junior students accompanied with various percussion instruments also learned at the Workshop.

The little Twinklers and early Book 1 students are always an exciting part of the program for the "grandma's & grandpa's". The seniors enjoyed the visit--they expressed the joy that the students brought with their music and sharing of talents.

As usual, they made us promise to come back next year!



## TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

By Mary Legge

This past summer I attended ECC and book 1 Suzuki training for classical guitar at Longay Conservatory in Santa Clara, California. The experience was incredible. The insights and expertise Mr. Longay has attained during his many years of teaching were transferred with ease and warmth to all of us. Frank is a very approachable person and can dig deeper into topics to really make you understand why we do what we do and how it makes a difference.



Mr. Longay shared past teaching experiences with students to illustrate different ways problems can be resolved. I loved how concise and well-planned our training was. Mr. Longay's parent education book is an essential resource that gives parents (and those of us who attended this teacher training) a precise way to organize and have an understandable flow to what is taught and when. I especially appreciated how everything is laid out in small steps. One action leading to another with precise, easily understood points. This made it easier for me to catch on and commit everything to memory. I observed many lessons and a group class to see how young children applied the concepts we were learning about. They seemed to really enjoy learning Suzuki classical guitar.

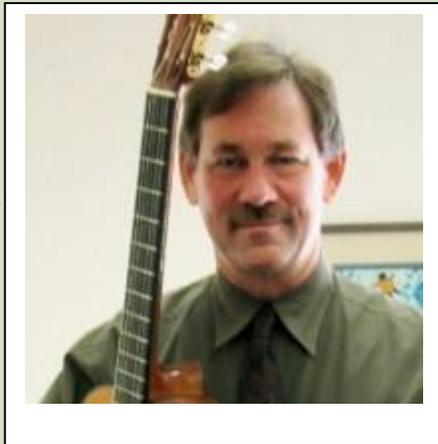
My training was a thoroughly enjoyable and invaluable experience. I learned a vast amount, made new friends and contacts, and gained a lot of confidence to help me start and build my studio.

### *In Memory of Frank Longay*

Frank Longay passed away on January 19, 2011.

Mr. Longay was a founding member and chairman of both the Guitar Suzuki Association and the Guitar Committee for the Suzuki Association. He was known for his work and tireless efforts to pass along his knowledge and experience to guitar instructors both in the U.S. and around the world.

Frank Longay's dedication and skill will be missed by all who had the privilege of associating with him.



*"Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts,  
and we are never the same."*

*-Franz Schubert*

## WHY INSTITUTE

I wanted to share with you some of my family's experience this past summer at the Brandon Institute in Manitoba. When Rob Richardson was here last Spring, he offered to waive the late fee for anyone at the Festival to come out to the Brandon Institute. I decided that I could brave the dreaded drive through Saskatchewan and took his offer. I am so glad I did. Not only did they have violins, violas, and cellos, but we were also wowed by the guitar students as well. We had a great time and we all learned so much and made new friends too. My oldest son, who really didn't want to go to institute last year, asked if we could go back this coming year.

Staying on campus was a really different experience for me as when we go to the Edmonton Institute we stay with family and in Calgary we stay at home. In Brandon, almost everybody stayed in residence. In the evenings after we put our kids to bed, the parents would get together for a social visit out in the open area of the dorm. It was a very special time as we got to know one another.

The classes at Brandon Institute were really wonderful and reinforced how great the Suzuki Method really is. I was reminded that I don't need to compare my child with another by the piece he is on, but rather look at what he is learning; a beautiful bow hold, a nice tone, ringing tones and so forth.

I really encourage everyone to start thinking about attending an institute this summer. There are some really great ones around us. New Denver (which I always hear really good things about), Langley, or Brandon are ones in Canada that are driving distances. Check out the Suzuki association of the America's website for more information and registration deadlines <http://suzukiassociation.org/events/institutes/>.

The experience will really enrich not only your child, but you as a Suzuki parent also.

Tammy Poon

### ***Getting to know Heidi Behrenbruch, Vice-Chair.***

Hi, my name is Heidi Behrenbruch the new Vice Chair for the CSSA. I am very happy to be part of Calgary Suzuki Strings Association as I love having the opportunity to meet and share with other Suzuki teachers, families and students. I am very grateful for the warm welcome that I have received not only from the Board but from Calgary Suzuki teachers that I have spoken and met with. The Board asked teachers if they could give studio updates but seeing as I am new in this city as of September I don't have much to tell yet. I thought it would be appropriate to share with members a little about myself.

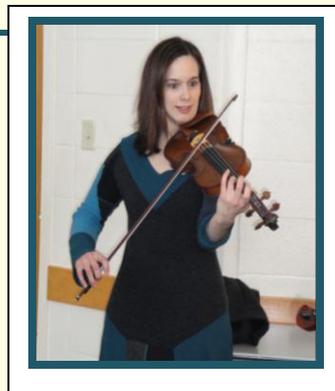
I was born in Calgary but was educated in the Netherlands and Australia due to my father's career. I began playing as a Suzuki student at age 5. In 1995 I completed my primary level accreditation to teach violin with the Australian Talent Education Association of Australia. Since then I have done teacher training units 1-5 through the Suzuki Association of the Americas with teachers from USA and Europe. In 2008 I took six students and their families to Japan to participate in the Matsumoto Summer School founded by Dr Suzuki. In the summer of 2010, I attended the violin and viola intensive string pedagogy retreat with Mimi Zweig at University of Indiana Bloomington.

In addition to Suzuki qualifications, I hold a Bachelor of Music in violin performance from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and a Masters level Advanced Certificate in Performance from the University of Toronto.

I have had many teaching experiences. Which have included teaching as part of the music faculty at Mentone Boys Grammar and Cranbourne Christian College in Melbourne and at the Conservatory of Central Illinois. For the past nine years, I have been on the faculty of the North York Suzuki School of Music in Toronto. I have been a substitute teacher for the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, and have been invited to be a guest clinician at winter workshops and summer camps in the general Toronto area. I have served on the board of directors for the annual Dr Suzuki concert in Toronto since 2004.

I have performed with orchestras in Australia and Illinois and have enjoyed freelance opportunities in Toronto playing with professional groups like the Zonnebloem Quartet, and Alchemy. I performed twice as a soloist and conducted a concert for the Trinity Chamber Ensemble.

I am looking forward to learning the skills necessary to assist and support CSSA's enthusiastic and dedicated Executive/Board and I am really excited about CSSA's future





## WINTER WORKSHOP RECAP

The CSSA Winter Workshop took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and had a great turn out. The students were immersed in musical classes which included masterclasses for advanced students, group classes, Orff, Drama, percussion classes and an exciting opportunity to jam with a Latin band. The participants were organized in groups according to age and book level and through games and activities explored musical and technical ideas with their teachers. There were classes offered for every age and skill level. Masterclasses with Edmond Agopian, Joanne Melvin, Murray Visscher, and Diana Nuttall allowed our advanced students to explore new ideas or interpretations and experience familiar concepts explained in different ways. These classes were also great for the students to watch and learn from each other in a positive and non competitive environment. The younger Suzuki students had a similar opportunity to learn from each other in their group classes. The children were put in groups according to age and book level and through games and activities explored musical and technical ideas with their teachers. Group teachers for these classes were Theresa Plotnick, Joanne Melvin and Heidi Behrenbruch. Orff with Wendy Rae, drama with Rob Dougherty and percussion with Robin Tufts and Brent Van Dusen were offered to Students age 4-11 allowing them to tap into their creative and improvisational abilities and sharpen performance skills.

Exposing students to these classes can be very useful for students by allowing them to experiment in a safe environment that is not intimidating. The Orff and percussion classes are a fun way to improve a child's sense of pulse and rhythm with the possible outcome of improving reading and ensemble skills.

A renewed connection with our Suzuki cello students and teachers and the new addition of guitars made for an interesting day with new faces and an appreciation for different instruments. I know since this workshop there have been guitar families who have shown interest in one of their children studying violin and vice versa.

The jam with a Latin band made up of Stefano Valdo on Bass, Keith Smith on Guitar and Robin Tufts and Brent Van Dusen on Percussion, was a new and exciting project for the executive to organize. This is the first year Suzuki guitar is participating in CSSA events. It was felt that this style of music would be a great way to include Suzuki guitar students, as the instrument is very common in so many types of Latin music. The Latin theme really complimented the atmosphere we were trying to create which was to foster the bringing of families, the Suzuki and musical community closer together. The music and combination of instruments for the jam with the Latin band was very inspiring for everyone. Music performed was the Serenata by Michael Mclean and Quizas, Quizas by Edward Huwes Jones. Thank you to Diana Nuttall for such a great rehearsal with our teen participants. A big thank you to Joanne Melvin, Anne Scott, Andrea Hudson, Mandy Loban-Jordan and Mary Legge for volunteering their time to help make everything run smoothly during the rehearsal and for playing their instruments during the performance.

I saw families leaving the Winter Workshop with a fresh energy and teachers so inspired they wanted to get more students involved next year. This event would not have been so successful without the collaborative efforts and teamwork of the CSSA executive, our volunteers and volunteer coordinator Michele Downs, accompanists, parents, students and teachers. Thank you very much to everyone!



## INTRODUCING MR. PHILIP KASHAP

CSSA is excited to welcome back Mr. Philip Kashap as the adjudicator for the festival this year. Mr. Kashap is a talented teacher and performer; he completed both a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Music at Yale University. He resides in Saskatoon with his wife and five children. Mr. Kashap is a skilled and insightful teacher and adjudicator. His positive feedback gives participants a feeling of accomplishment and a vision for growth and further development.



### PRACTICE TIPS 1-5 PART ONE: *PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT—OR DOES IT?*

Adapted from an article by Dr. Robin Kay Deverich (<http://www.violinonline.com/practicetips.htm>)

Why is it so hard to improve on your instrument, even though you know you've practiced? Many of us simply don't know how to practice productively. The following overview of the fundamentals of practicing will provide you with useful ways you can create your own productive practice sessions.

- 1. Practice Time**  
When is your "prime time"? If you feel freshest in the morning, early morning practice may be for you. If you feel your energy peak in the afternoon or at night, practice then. Do you tire easily when you practice? Divide your practice time into two segments instead of having one long practice session. Whatever time you do choose, be consistent and try to practice at the same time five or six days a week.
- 2. Location**  
When you practice, find a quiet room where you won't be disturbed. Turn off the TV, put away your ipod or CD player, and let your voicemail or the answering machine answer all calls.
- 3. Music Accessories**  
Before timing every nanosecond of your practice time, gather together all of the practice materials you'll need. Music, a pencil to note difficult passages and fingerings, and a music stand are basic necessities.
- 4. Physical Needs**  
Before you even begin to practice, drink some water, have some fruit or a healthy snack to rev up your blood sugar level, and change into something comfortable. If you prepare yourself physically before you start to practice, you'll find you can concentrate easily, and you won't be quite so tempted to interrupt your practicing for kitchen or bathroom breaks.
- 5. Length of Practice Session**  
Strive for quality practice, not quantity mediocre results.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the CSSA Newsletter, please send your submission to [tammy.poon@cssasuzuki.com](mailto:tammy.poon@cssasuzuki.com) by May 27, 2011, any information received after that date will be held in reserve until the next edition. Thank you for your contributions.