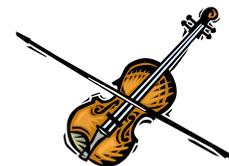


The Suzuki Quarter Note



The Official Newsletter of the Calgary Suzuki Strings Association

Spring 2015

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Note from the Chair

Mandy Loban-Jordan - CSSA Chair and Guitar Festival Director

It has been a busy and rewarding year for the CSSA.

In September students from different studios enjoyed playing together at our annual Suzuki Play-in held at Heritage Park. Violin, viola, cello and guitar students played at the band stand. We had lovely weather and a great turnout. The audience enjoyed our selections and we are grateful to Heritage Park for the opportunity to perform there.

In the Fall, the CSSA hosted a Music Mind Games training week for music teachers. We were very honoured to have Michiko Yurko the originator and author of the Music Mind Games program personally come here from Washington to train the teachers assisted by Alyse Korn. We all learned new techniques and games for engaging students in music.

Our Winter Workshop in January had Flamenco music as the theme! Holly Blazina (Guitar) and Karen Sim (Violin) taught the ensemble workshop. Rob Dougherty taught a fun option class in Drama and group classes for younger players were taught by Theresa Plotnick and Joy Crawford (Violin) and Mandy Loban-Jordan (Guitar). At the end of the Winter Workshop, students and parents enjoyed a short performance and demo by our workshop students and Holly Blazina and Karen Sim. I know as a guitar teacher my students enjoyed being introduced to some Flamenco strumming techniques and this fun experience will add to their playing skills.

The CSSA String Festival is getting closer! Mark your calendars for May 8th and 9th. Our adjudicators this year are Paul Madryga (Guitar) and Lucy Shaw (Violin). We will have the usual solo and group categories as before. The pieces for the Violin & Guitar ensemble are now ready for students to practice. These pieces have been composed for the festival by Damian Jordan and Mandy Loban-Jordan. Damian Jordan will be conducting the Violin & Guitar piece. Last year was the first year offering this workshop and it was a great success with 25 guitarists and 19 violinists performing together. We are looking forward to another exciting opportunity for violin and guitar students to play ensemble music together!

Registrations for the CSSA String Festival can be found on our web site or from your teacher. We look forward to seeing you at the Festival.



2014 CSSA Heritage Park Play-in Review

by Katrina Lybbert, CSSA Secretary



Saturday, September 20, 2014 was the annual CSSA Heritage Park Play-in. It was a beautiful autumn day and there was great participation from violin, viola and guitar students. There were opportunities for students at different levels and on different instruments to perform together and enjoy the Suzuki spirit. Students came from different studios and backgrounds and you could see their smiles and excitement as they performed together.

Violin teachers Andrea Hudson, Joanne Melvin and Heidi Behrenbruch as well as Guitar teachers Kim Aull and Mandy Loban-Jordan took turns leading the repertoire. There were sections for violin/viola and sections for guitar alone as well as the final tutti section where all students played together.

Many visitors to Heritage Park stopped to listen by the Engineered Air Bandstand where the performance took place. Great work everyone!

Thanks to Jo Morris and Heritage Park, this year students were able to receive a free entrance pass and enjoy a visit in Heritage Park before the play-in began. Many students were able to do this and enjoyed having more time to explore the park.

Thanks to everyone who participated and worked behind the scenes. We look forward to the next Play-in in September 2015.

2014 Music Mind Games

CSSA was very pleased to offer a teacher training course with Michiko Yurko of Music Mind Games. The Unit 1 Workshop took place from Sept 29 to Oct 3, 2014 at the First Church of the Nazarene in Calgary. This 5 day workshop was a great experience for all the teachers who attended.

Here are some comments from one of the teachers who attended the course:

I am happy to report that "Music Mind Games" has become an invaluable tool in teaching the wide variety of music students that I encounter. After taking the MMG Unit One course in October 2014, I was able to start using some of the materials and concepts immediately in private trumpet lessons, and after taking some time to digest the huge scope of concepts and activities that are part of the teaching system, I have been able to begin incorporating some of the games into my group Suzuki Trumpet classes at Mount Royal Conservatory. I have also experimented with using the materials in various school band clinics, which has proven to be useful and fun for the students. Young children love being able to "play" with the materials while they're learning, and even high school and adult students are having "aha!" moments when we've studied some of the concepts. I believe the Music Mind Games system is a way of incorporating music theory concepts into lessons and classes where the learning really is fun and memorable. Hopefully more teachers will have a chance to take this course, and perhaps even the Unit 2 course!

~Natalie DeJong, trumpet instructor,
Mount Royal University Conservatory



2015 CSSA Winter Workshop

On a snowy January 31st morning in Calgary, the (CSSA) Calgary Suzuki Strings Association held their annual Winter Workshop for strings held at the Bethany Chapel. It was an exciting and enthusiastic morning of guitars, violins, flamenco, group classes and drama. I was an accompanist for the violin group classes led by a cheerful and skilled master teacher, Theresa Plotnick. I look forward to seeing how the students progress through the years, as well as, meet the new students, some of them their first workshop! The students from the various Suzuki studios around Calgary were eager to participate and have fun with playing the games and engaged in the activities using their Suzuki repertoire. Some of the younger students enjoyed a group class led by Joy Crawford, a Calgary Suzuki violin teacher. From the smiles and laughter, the students were eager to try out their new skills and techniques for their peers and parents.

Calgary Suzuki Guitar teacher, Mandy Loban-Jordan led a group class for guitar, as well as, expert instruction from our guest Flamenco guitarist, Holly Blazina and flamenco violinist, Karen Sim. The students rehearsed their ensemble number that showcased flamenco guitars & violins!

Rob Dougherty, a Calgary drama specialist, facilitated a fun and energetic and highly entertaining drama option for the string students.

After a snack and break, the students, teachers, volunteers and parents, were entertained by a final concert featuring Holly Blazina & Karen Sim performing their flamenco repertoire showcasing their flamenco skills and techniques. The Suzuki students had a chance to perform their ensemble repertoire to the thunderous applause of the audience. Another successful and enjoyable CSSA Winter workshop!

Steve Komar, CSSA Vice-chair & accompanist & alumni Suzuki parent

2015 CSSA Winter Workshop

by Kim Chartrand, Parent

CSSA is excited to announce the Winter Workshop scheduled on January 31st, 2015 was a success.

The weekend was kicked off with a teen-social on the Friday. And was a great time for the students to get to know one another through games and pizza, and be prepared to work together the following day.

The event took place at Bethany Chapel in SouthWest Calgary. Although it was the first (of not many) of a very snowy day, the children gathered and learned new skills and focused on a Flamenco piece taught by Holly Blazina and Karen Sim.

Each student participated in a Suzuki group class and a drama class. Group violin classes taught by Theresa Plotnick and Joy Crawford. Guitar group class taught by Mandy Loban-Jordan. Drama class taught by Robert Dougherty.

At the end of the morning the students played a group flamenco piece and saw a presentation by Holly Blazina and Karen Sim.

It was a wonderful weekend to enrich the Suzuki method and learn Flamenco.



Upcoming Events

The following events are in the works for 2014/2015.

String Festival
May 8/9, 2015



Heritage Park Play-In
September 2015



Annual Heritage Park Play-In September 2015

The play-in will be held in the open air theater of the Heritage Town Square at the entrance to the park. Keep watch on the CSSA website for further details.



String Festival

May 8/9, 2015

Dear Teachers, Parents and Students,

CSSA is pleased to announce the CSSA Non-competitive String Festival 2015. The festival will take place on May 8 & 9, 2015 at St. Giles Presbyterian Church 1102 – 23 Ave. N.W. Calgary, Alberta. We will be having the following adjudicators: Lucy Shaw – Violin
Paul Madryga- Guitar

Registration for the festival is now open. Please fill out and return forms to your Suzuki teacher. Once again we will be having a special ensemble for violin and guitar students together on Friday May 8. Further details of the festival are included on the registration forms.

Registration deadline is April 11, 2015.

Forms located on CSSA website:



<http://www.cssasuzuki.com/event/2015-cssa-string-festival/>



Heart & Tone Studio News

by Andrea Hudson

It's been a busy and eventful violin year for the Heart & Tone Studio. This fall we enjoyed making music at the Heritage Park Play-in. It's always nice to kick-off the year with some great reviewing and polishing for this event.

We were able to share the beautiful music of the season in December for the residents of the Scenic Acres Retirement Residence and this spring we performed in our annual Old Folk's Visits at the Brentwood Care Centre and Colonel Belcher Retirement. We were able to prepare some fun Irish Jigs for the event and also act out a melodrama to Becker's Gavotte. All this was possible because of some very supportive and dedicated studio parents.

We are excited to polish and prepare for the CSSA String Festival coming up early May. The Book 4+ students will have the opportunity to learn new ensemble repertoire hot off the press to perform with the guitar students.

Congratulations to Heart & Tone Studios' Suzuki Book Graduates for the 2014-15 violin year:

Book 1 - Melissa Lau, Enzo Rizzuto, Daphne Chalmers

Book 2 - Anna Zhu, Audrey Ting, Tana Layton, Ava Layton, Louise Eisner, Erica Eisner

Book 3 - Kyan Barnett, Shaina Jean-Baptiste, Sarah Bullock, Olivia Palmer

Sundance Music Studio News

by Mandy Loban-Jordan

We have had a fun and busy year at Sundance Music Studio. Students have continued their musical learning playing their solo pieces and enjoying the ensembles, trios and quartets. In the Fall, Guitar students played at the CSSA Suzuki Play-in at Heritage Park. The Sundance Music Studio mid-year recital took place in January. It was one of our longer recitals as we had many different classical guitar ensemble groups performing as well as all our soloists playing guitar, piano and flute. We also enjoyed hearing a harpist play with a flutist!

Students are now preparing for the CSSA String Festival. They will be playing solo pieces as well as ensembles pieces. Some students are also nearing the end of their Suzuki book and will be preparing to play all the pieces for memory. A number of students are working on RCM exams. Good luck to everyone!

Congratulations to Jacob Lerner for receiving a gold medal from the Royal Conservatory for receiving the highest mark in the province for his Grade Two Classical Guitar Exam.

It is wonderful to see so many students playing and enjoying the experience of creating a beautiful sound. We will see you at the CSSA String Festival.

Why Music Lessons for our Children?

Studies have confirmed Suzuki's theories that music lessons taken at an early age will greatly enhance a child's experience and rate of success in school and in life. **In fact, evidence strongly suggests that early music training has a direct link to cognitive development in children.** Scientists came to this conclusion after testing the memory, attention and IQ of Suzuki violin students specifically.

- ❖ Music is the international language.
- ❖ Music lessons at an early age will enrich a child's range of experience.
- ❖ Music is good for the soul!



Join CSSA

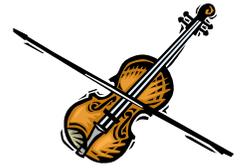
Membership is open to any interested teachers (whether SAA members or not), students and families.

Suzuki-Method Teachers, we invite you to join our Association and to participate in whatever capacity you're comfortable in, whether it is serving on the Exec to give input into programs, or just sending students to our events. Being a Member doesn't require your active participation. Fees are a major support of our programs in themselves.

The annual fee is \$35.00 for a teacher and \$20 for students (per family) for the membership year. Memberships run between September 1st of one year and August 31st of the following year and can be purchased at any time during the year.

Membership Forms located on CSSA website: <http://www.cssasuzuki.com/join-cssa/>

The Suzuki Quarter Note



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The Suzuki Quarter Note is published by the Calgary Suzuki Strings Association and is dedicated to serving the Suzuki community in Calgary and surrounding area by acting as a line of communication and support among its members and affiliate studios.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the Suzuki Quarter Note, please send your submission to Katrina Lybbert katrina@truelightacademy.com. Thank you for your contributions.

Special thanks to Kim Chartrand for her help in producing this edition of the newsletter.

To find out all things relating to the Calgary Suzuki Strings Association (CSSA) please visit our website at: www.cssasuzuki.com

CSSA Executive Committee 2014/2015

Mandy Loban-Jordan – Chair
Tammy Poon – Past Chair
Steve Komar – Vice Chair
Katrina Lybbert – Secretary
Cindy Lau – Treasurer
Joy Melchin – Membership Coordinator
Damian Jordan – Member at Large
Andrea Hudson – Member at Large
Heidi Behrenbruch – Member at Large

Unfilled positions: Newsletter Editor, Parent Rep/Volunteer Coordinator; Events Coordinator; Fundraising Coordinator