

NOTES

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A newsletter for Suzuki parents, students, teachers, and friends in the West Kootenays of B.C.

President's Corner



Stephanie Judy

Welcome to a new teaching year! New notebooks, new pencils . . . this time of year always feels as exciting to me as New

Year's. The beginning of a new teaching year is a great time for new beginnings of all kinds. The WKSA extends a special welcome to all new Suzuki families. Enjoy your journey! We encourage you to use other parents and students in your home program as resources.

For returning students, this is a good time to think about special goals for the coming year. Maybe this is the year that you'll begin reading confidently, or the year that you'll practice six days a week. Think up your own "new year's resolutions" and talk them over with your teacher and parent.

Parents, too, can make a new beginning. September is the ideal time to reread Ed Sprunger's fine book, *Helping Parents Practice*. If you haven't read it, I highly recommend it. Perhaps you can borrow it from your teacher, or—better yet—buy your own copy from the Suzuki Association of the Americas (find it on the Web at www.suzukiassociation.org).

My own new beginning this year includes compiling regular issues of *WKSA Notes*. You have the first one in your hands (or on your screen). I welcome ideas for future issues from all of you.

Have a splendid year!

~ Stephanie 🎵

Fourth Annual Suzuki Valhalla Institute Sizzles!

by Miranda Hughes

For a week in early August dozens of Suzuki children and their families came together in New Denver, B.C., for five days as part of a vibrant Suzuki community. The classrooms, hallways, lounges and playground of Lucerne School filled with musical children, cheerful parents and the sound of lessons and practicing.

The Suzuki Valhalla Institute (SVI) plays host to about 80 violin, viola, and cello students in New Denver each summer.



Opening play-in at the Suzuki Valhalla Institute, Silvertown, B.C., August 3, 2008

The Institute was the brain-child of the WKSA five years ago and was developed specifically with the needs of our small and somewhat isolated Suzuki community in mind. The Institute is laid back and friendly in a Kootenay way that makes families feel at home and endears it to visiting faculty. Yet for all its casual warmth, the SVI nurtures musical excellence.

SVI Artistic Director Daphne Hughes and her committee choose faculty from across the country, seeking teachers able to

work effectively in this unique situation. Besides the strong motivating effect of a week of intensive music-making, the aim is to send every student home with new ideas and skills that will pay dividends as they continue their work with their own teachers.

This year's students ranged in age from 3 to 15, with a broad range in playing level. There were two orchestras, two reading ensembles, three string quartets and a senior violin-viola ensemble as well as group classes, enrichment

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THE WEST KOOTENAY SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

Stephanie Judy, Editor

WKSA Notes is the official newsletter of the West Kootenay Suzuki Association. Our goal is to publish three times annually, in September, January, and May. Contributions of articles and photos are gratefully received. The Editor reserves the right to edit or refine any submissions.

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*The purpose of the
West Kootenay Suzuki Association
is to support and strengthen
Suzuki musical education
in the West Kootenay region
of British Columbia.*

Membership is open to all who support the purpose of the Society.

The membership fee is \$10 per family per year.

Send your cheque with name and address to
Miranda Hughes, Treasurer, WKSA
Box 237, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

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This issue of the WKSA Notes is available (in full colour!) as a .pdf file at www.argentasuzuki.ca

Suzuki Mom Takes National Medal

Janis Lampimaki of Fruitvale won the 35-39 age category at the Canadian National Triathlon Championships in Kelowna on August 17, 2008. There were 1300 other competitors at the event. Janis and her husband Steve are the parents of three Suzuki violin students (Maija, Silas, and Elias) and one Suzuki viola student (Kaleo). Go, Janis! ♪

Concert Seasons Begin ~ Mark Your Calendar

The West Kootenays has two excellent classical music concert series, one in Nelson and one in Kaslo. Both venues admit young people for free or at a reduced ticket price, and both have fine programs lined up for 2008-2009. Watch local papers for additional details.

Kaslo Concert Society

Children under 12 attend Kaslo concerts free when accompanied by an adult ticket-holder; tickets for students 12 and over are half price. Concerts are in the evening at St. Andrew's United Church. For more information, contact David Stewart, [sjdks@direct.ca](mailto:sjdk@direct.ca) or 250-366-4623.



Hear the Montreal Guitar Trio in Kaslo on Tuesday evening, April 21, 2009

- Friday, October 24, 7:30 pm, The Jack McDowall Memorial Concert with pianist Tim Plait and soprano Marta Zeegers
- Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., Duo Diorama with violinist Minghuan Xu and pianist Winston Choi
- Friday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., "Opera with a Twist" with Paul and Melina Moore, tenor and soprano
- Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m., MG3!—The Montreal Guitar Trio

Nelson Overture Concerts

The Nelson concert series admits students for free if their school has made a contribution to the Concert Society. Many schools in Nelson are contributors—ask your principal. Concerts are Saturday evenings at the Capitol Theatre. For more information about Nelson Overture Concerts, contact Ilse Murray, ilse.murray@telus.net, or 250-354-1120.

- Saturday, October 11, 8 pm, Anne-Julie Caron, marimba/piano
- Saturday, January 17, 8 pm, pianist Raffi Besalyan
- Saturday, March 14, 8 pm, The B.C. Boys Choir
- Saturday, April 25, 8 pm, Symphony of the Kootenays with guest artist **Jasper Wood**.

Jasper Wood, called "Canada's premiere virtuoso," made his solo orchestral debut in 1987 with Symphony Nova Scotia. He is now a frequent soloist with major orchestras around the world, and has a diverse recording career, with eight solo and violin/piano CDs. With his wife, Grace, and their son, Ryan, he currently lives in Vancouver, where he is a professor of violin at UBC. ♪



Jasper Wood plays at the Capitol Theatre, April 25



Jasper Wood at age 4

Watch the Winter edition of WKSA Notes for news about the Pacific Northwest Guitar Festival, coming to Nelson, April 16-18, 2009 . . . a three-day feast for classical guitar lovers. ♪

How I Spent My Summer Vacation



We asked the Suzuki teachers in the West Kootenays share with us some of their musical adventures this past summer. Here's where they were and what they were doing on their time off . . .

Daphne Hughes taught a Violin Book 1 to 4 overview teacher training course at the Brandon Summer Suzuki Institute, organized and administered (with lots of help from Miranda and many others) the

Suzuki Valhalla Institute, and spent hundreds of hours designing the new SAA "Suzuki Principles in Action" course with a group of wonderfully inspiring teachers from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Miranda Hughes spent her summer being a Suzuki parent to her four children, who were, collectively, involved in ten weeks of music workshops and Institutes. All four attended the SVI in New Denver, two attended Valhalla Summer School of Music, and one also attended Suzuki institutes in Montreal and Edmonton. She particularly enjoyed watching teachers from across Canada work with her kids and others in a variety of formats at the SVI. To cap off the summer, she was recruited to fill in for a violist in a string trio at the Valhalla Chamber Music Program.

Stephanie Judy had a "musical dream vacation" in Rochester, New York, in July, taking courses at the Eastman School of Music. She completed a Dalcroze teacher's course with Gregory Ristow, and a course in pedagogical approaches to non-jazz improvisation with William Cahn, of the Canadian percussion ensemble Nexus. For fun, she took African drumming with Bob Becker, also of Nexus, and spent all of her free time in Sibley Library—the largest academic music library in North America.

Ron and Sara Mulvey and their students from the Crescent School of Music presented "Peter and the Wolf" at the Passmore Hall in June, raising over \$1800 for the Valhalla Wilderness School. The sold-out production featured guitars, recorders, flutes, piano, and lots of singing, plus sets designed and painted by Ron and his art students.

Nancy Potter spent her summer vacation behind a microphone, recording two new CD's, one of holiday music, called "Christmas Harp," and a collection of healing music, called "Enchanted Harp." The recordings are in the post-production stage in Kelowna at the moment, and are expected to be ready in October.

David Stewart offered a weekly "Hum and Strum" hour with local guitar players from Kaslo, in addition to his regular teaching. In July, he attended the Brandon Summer Suzuki Institute, where he added to his guitar teaching strategies, and proudly watched one of his own students slide gracefully into the role of mentor to some younger guitarists. He stopped off in Kaslo long enough to facilitate a workshop with the Hilario Duran Trio for Kaslo JazzFest, and then he was off to the Banff Centre in August to participate in the Banff Choral Workshop, which culminated in two standing-room only performances of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, conducted by Jon Washburn. ♪

Institute Report: A Student's View

Guitar student Angello Sammartino, of Winlaw, attended the Brandon Summer Suzuki Institute in Brandon, Manitoba, in July. When asked about his musical experience at Brandon, he said, "My masterclass teacher, Andrea Canon, was very nice. I had to do a lot of work to re-learn some fingerings on one hard piece. I also worked on two Bach Gavottes, learning how to put more expression in my playing."



Angello (far left) in a Brandon Institute group class with Andrea Canon (far right)

But it wasn't all hard work, according to Angello: "There was a pool party one night, and a pizza night later in the week. Those were a lot of fun. One of the best parts of the Institute was making friends."

In addition to his guitar classes, Angello sang with the choir and played with a percussion ensemble.

Would Angello go to an Institute again? "Yes, definitely!" he said. ♪

Institute Report: A Parent's View

by Laura Matern

I am the mother of 10-year-old Emmi, who has been playing violin for one year. I had no idea what to expect at an Institute, and it took careful reading of our package to figure out where we were supposed to be on our first day.

By the end of that day we were tired, but we definitely had a great day! After classes, we went to the beach to soak our toes in Slocan Lake. Then Emmi practiced her violin before we went to bed.

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Suzuki Valhalla Institute

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classes in movement and folk dance, and master classes each day. Solo recitals and group performances rounded out the week. Between the regular classes, families socialized over lunch, played at the beach, created artwork, shared cat's cradle and other string games, made new friends, and ate lots of ice cream.

The SVI, one of about 200 Suzuki Institutes held each summer around North America, enjoys international recognition for its unique combination of friendly intimacy, well-oiled organization and stimulating musical learning.



Folk dance instructor Marian Rose gave a new meaning to string playing at SVI 2008

SVI has been the subject of glowing articles in the *American Suzuki Journal* and the *British Suzuki Journal*. And yet its priority is still to give students in our rural area a larger Suzuki community with stimulating learning experiences that they don't normally have access to. Students and parents who attended the 2008 Institute agree that this goal is being roundly achieved! ♪

It's Rancho Vignola Time!

If you've ordered Rancho Vignola products before, you know they're outstanding. You are guaranteed "this year's crop" of high quality nuts, seeds, dried fruits, and confections. Proceeds from this sale support the WKSA Institute scholarship fund and other activities throughout the year. Watch the deadline—get your order in on time!—and make extra copies of the order form for your friends. ♪



Fall 2008 Studio News . . .

Argenta Suzuki Centre, Kaslo and Nelson . . . David and Stephanie's group classes will soon start preparing for Christmas concerts in their communities. David's guitar enrollment in Kaslo has nearly doubled this year. Stephanie is eager to bring the Dalcroze teaching skills that she acquired this summer into her studio, and she is already using improvisation ideas with the Bon Accord performance group in Nelson.

Contact Stephanie Judy (violin and viola) and David Stewart (guitar, violin, cello, and voice), 250-366-4623, sjdkd@direct.ca

Crescent School of Music, Winlaw . . . Ron and Sara are anticipating a busy year of teaching. They're starting to work on their next production, which will likely be a multi-year effort, culminating in performances at Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

Contact Ron Mulvey (guitar) and Sara Mulvey (piano, recorder, flute), 250-226-7881

Nancy Potter Studio, Nelson . . . Nancy's new teaching venture will establish the first "Rainbow Harps" program in Canada—an innovative approach already established in the US and UK. She hopes to attract new students in the 6- to 8-year-old range. Nancy divides her time this year between her studio on Tenth Street and the Nelson Academy of Music.

Contact Nancy Potter (harp and piano), 250-825-4049

New Denver Suzuki String Program . . . Fall activities will feature an Accompanist Workshop in late November, which will give students the experience of working in depth with an accompanist. Daphne and Miranda continue to develop the Summit Strings performance ensemble, and plan to create an inclusive community ensemble for the Christmas Concert at Lucerne School.

Contact Daphne Hughes (violin and viola), 250-358-2684, dhughes@netidea.com, and Miranda Hughes (violin and viola), 250-358-2282, miranda@nurturedbylove.ca ♪

Institute Report from a Parent

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We camped at the Silverton Campground beside Silverton Creek.

Each day started at 9:30 with "Music and Movement" with Marian Rose, who worked our brains as well as our bodies. Our next class was a "Play-in" with Rick Dorfer, where the kids had fun honing their skills by playing dexterity games with marbles, and turning their bows upside down and then playing a tune with frogs in the air.

After wonderful catered lunches, we went to the playground everyday. The solo recitals at 1:00 were a pleasure to listen to. At 2:00, we had a group class with the wonderfully smiley Joanne Martin. I think she had a much fun as the kids did as they all lay down on their backs playing Twinkles or standing on tiptoes making a loud crescendo.

Our last and most intense class at the end of day was our Master Class with Dragan Djerjic. He was a very hands-on instructor who at first seemed strict, but his sense of fairness and humour won us over. He challenged my daughter and the three other students in this one-on-one class to do things that would not normally have done. It was very exciting for me, and I think Dragan, as well, to watch my daughter improve "her amazing bowing arm" under his five days of tutelage.

Emmi and I had such a good time that even before the week was over we found ourselves talking about coming back again next year. ♪