



Fall 2007 Newsletter of the North Carolina Suzuki Association

From the President

Dear Families, Friends, and Colleagues,

Summer's restorative power leaves me energized and excited about the approaching new season. North Carolina Suzuki Association teachers and parents are at work planning a wonderful state-wide play-in and teachers' retreat, local workshops, and much, much more. As we gather together during these events, we will share inspirational stories and anecdotes from our experiences— creating the glue that holds us together. So join your friends, come ready to share and learn as we step into the future together. Begin by reading the news (and making contributions by sending stories to our editor, David Teague) and making plans to attend fall events. And don't forget the SAA 13th Biennial Conference in Minneapolis, May 22-26, 2008. Mark your calendars!

I'm looking to seeing many of you in Greenville in November.

With all best wishes,

Karen Moorman



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NC Suzuki Association Board of Directors Meeting on Nov. 10-11

The Board will meet during the lunch period Saturday for a meeting during the Play-in/ Teachers' Retreat Weekend at ECU Nov. 10-11.

Board meetings are open to interested members and information will be posted during the event.

Forms for the Play-in will be posted on the Association web site.

Send agenda items to the secretary, Lisa Randolph randolph.lisa@gmail.com There will be a brief report from Nancy Brown on ECE on means to include a parent board representative; a 2-year plan for auditing our books for SAA; Chapter Affiliate news; and a report from Leadership Retreat;

A date must be set for the Spring General Membership meeting. Lisa Randolph suggested meeting at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, in Durham. Send date suggestions as soon as possible.

Erica and Connor jam with Mike Marshal

Photoby Glen P. Stewart gstewart@vitalarchives.com

Mike Marshal was in town for a free concert at the School of Math and Science. He stayed over Saturday night and came out to the lawn in front of the school Sunday morning for an open jam with any Durham pickers that wanted to join him. I took Erica and Connor. Mike started things off by playing Red Haired Boy with them. They were a little shy at first, but they did a great job. He was very gracious.





Music (Repetition!) In the Mountains

Maxine Parris [<mailto:parrimdur@yahoo.com>]

"Many repetitions!", these were the words of advice from my daughter's violin teacher as we prepared musically for our music institute in June of this year. We reported to our teacher following the Music in the Mountains institute that we enjoyed "many fabulous" repetitions of our most recently polished Suzuki pieces throughout the week. Music In the Mountains offered a week of group and individual lessons for us. Small groups focused on enhancing technical skills through repetition. Music In the Mountains offered a week of group and individual lessons for us. Our play-ins provided a review of the Suzuki literature through repetition. A mid week performance with the chamber orchestra students brought the coordinated efforts of all of our groups and lessons together for an excellent performance. We also mastered a selection of Scottish fiddle music-- beginning with the repetition of one measure of music at a time. Thank you to the staff and teachers of Music In the Mountains for providing a musical setting than enhanced our opportunities

2007 North Carolina Suzuki Association Statewide Workshop & Play-in

The Suzuki Pedagogy Program of the East Carolina University School of Music and the Greenville Suzuki Association are delighted to invite all North Carolina Suzuki string students to the 2007 Statewide Suzuki Workshop & Play-in on Saturday, November 10th, 2007 at the ECU School of Music. Sponsored by the NC Suzuki Association, our guest clinician will be violinist Gabe Bolkosky, from Ann Arbor, Michigan. A versatile musician, Mr. Bolkosky is a sought-after guest artist, performer and teacher at schools and festivals throughout North America. www.gabrielbolkosky.com

The workshop will include group classes, a recital by Gabe Bolkosky, a potluck dinner and of course, the Festival Play-in!

2007 NC Suzuki Association Statewide Play-in

- Who:** North Carolina Suzuki string students
When: Saturday, November 10th, 2007
Where: A. J. Fletcher Music Center, East Carolina University, Greenville NC
Cost: \$25

Registration forms and complete details can be found at www.greenvillencsuzuki.org

Registration deadline: Postmarked by Friday, October 26th, 2007

Questions: Carolyn Clark workshop@greenvillencsuzuki.org

2007 NC Suzuki Teachers' Retreat at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

On November 10 – 11th, 2007, the Suzuki Pedagogy Program of the East Carolina University School of Music and the Greenville Suzuki Association are pleased to present a Teachers' Retreat for all North Carolina Suzuki teachers.



Sponsored by the NC Suzuki Association and held in conjunction with the Statewide Workshop & Play-in, the Retreat offers an opportunity for joining together with colleagues and friends.

Included in the weekend are: Attendance to all student classes, admission to the potluck lunch on Saturday, and a continental breakfast and light lunch on Sunday. The Teachers' Workshop with Gabe Bolkosky will be held on Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm.

Registration forms and complete details can be found at www.greenvillencsuzuki.org

Cost: \$40

Registration deadline: Postmarked by Friday, October 26th, 2007

Contact: [Carolyn Clark](mailto:Carolyn.Clark@greenvillencsuzuki.org) workshop@greenvillencsuzuki.org

My Suzuki ECE summer training and pictures Nancy Brown

Nancy Brown, Charlotte, NC Suzuki piano and early childhood teacher. nancywbrown@gmail.com

I was able to attend Suzuki Teacher training this summer in London, Ontario with Dorothy Jones and her daughter, Sharon, who is an active Suzuki violin and early childhood class teacher in her home. The teacher trainees lived at Sharon's home for the week of training, and had a great time of learning together, as well as teaching and being evaluated daily. It was a valuable experience. We conducted a parent meeting one evening, explaining the readiness skills babies learn while in the Suzuki Early Childhood Education (ECE) program.

There are 5 stages of teacher training in Suzuki Early Childhood. The program offers music readiness and many other readiness skills to children through age 3. It is a wonderful opportunity for parent training in the Suzuki Method.

Children and parents begin by listening to a CD of songs and rhymes that we do in class. With much repetition, they start to pick up on learning from listening at home, observation of others in class. The parents are involved from the beginning. Suzuki concepts are presented to parents in little bites and in many ways. They are nurtured in the Suzuki philosophy, which sets them up to be excellent Suzuki families when the child is ready to begin the chosen instrument!

In our training class, we had 5 teachers training at this level, the highest level offered thus far in SAA. One was from Connecticut, and 3 from different parts of Canada. Only 4 teachers in the US have had this level of training through "stage 3" now, the other 2 are from Kansas.

Ottawa University in Kansas has offered Suzuki ECE training the past 2 years. Alice Joy Lewis is the director of the Suzuki program there.

I think they will also offer teacher training again next summer, probably in June. There was ECE teacher training running in either Kansas or Ontario for about 6 weeks straight this summer! I hope that I can finish stages 4 and 5 as they are offered. The teachers in my class were interested in continuing as well. What a wonderful way to meet new teachers already involved in teaching their primary instrument as well as early childhood classes.

This past May, at the SAA Leadership Retreat, a Suzuki ECE teacher trainer plan was just approved. Dorothy shared some aspects of this plan with us, but we have not seen the document as yet. I was



excited to learn of the progress of the ECE program and the future of opportunities for teachers interested in this exclusively Suzuki Early Childhood program.

Attending daily during our week of training, we had ages from a 2-months to 4 years in our classes. The trainer's granddaughter was years old. We were given tasks that changed on a daily basis, to teach aspects of the class, divided among all 5 teacher trainers. We all needed to be well-versed in the curriculum in order to enhance it in ways which we were assigned on short notice. That was challenging at times, but I realized I was not always going to get it right. Along with the other teachers, we were in "learning mode", trying to gain new ideas for our own programs back home.

Our last day, we are acting out the song "5 Little Ducks" after reading the book aloud. We had fun and enjoyed being silly in the process. I think the families were great to support us and allow us to hold and work with their babies, and having a different group of teachers come each week. The week before I went, there were 2 teachers from Iceland, which shows how international Suzuki is. There is now only one other ECE teacher trainer in the world. She is from Australia. Each international organization has their own rules for teacher training. Finally the SAA has this in place!

I hope you are gearing up to start your year of teaching with renewed vigor and motivation to carry forth the Suzuki spirit in touching lives. We have such wonderful opportunities to work with families, not just individuals. I think that is a true blessing that I am excited to share with you this fall at the NC Suzuki Association Play-in. I look forward to seeing you there! The details are on the website www.ncsuzukiteachers.org/ Learn about Suzuki ECE at the website www.suzukiece.com

Suzuki Spanish Tour 2007

Nan Freeman

The rain in Spain is not mainly on the plain. The weather was temperate, and the small amount of rain, however, did not dampen our spirits. The Suzuki Tour Group of the Carolinas did a 10 day tour of Southern Spain over Spring Break. We did a lot of sightseeing and learned the history, and culture, of that beautiful country. A side trip to the British island of Gibraltar was exciting and we got to see the Barbary Apes up close. We played a concert at the Anglican Cathedral of Gibraltar, and met some people from the town. One elderly gentleman was telling us that he was a violinist. The crowd was very appreciative at all of our concerts.

Finding a Suzuki group to collaborate with in Europe is less than easy, but we managed to have a delightful concert at a Montessori school outside of Madrid, with Cecelia Calvello and her students. Her students were mostly young, and our students really loved playing with them. Our third concert was in an old grainery that has been turned into an art gallery in the city of Seville. People from the town were waiting for us when we arrived and again we played to a packed house. It was extremely gratifying to hear the thunderous applause and see children and adults in the audience having a wonderful time supporting an American group.

We had collective heart failure when one of our cellos fall off the loading mechanism at the airport in Charlotte, but we were able to share cellos and everything worked. That was our only real catastrophe of the entire trip. A great time was had by all, and for many of us, it was the trip of a lifetime. We are ready to go again!



Our next tour will be a cruise in January of 2008. In order to be eligible, participants are recommended by their teachers after meeting the appropriate performance level. Students are responsible for fund raising, practice and attendance at all rehearsals with a positive attitude at all times. Bon Voyage!

**Swannanoa Chamber Music Workshop, sponsored by the
Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival at Warren Wilson College.**

By David Teague

The Swannanoa Valley Chamber Music Festival added a new opportunity for string players and pianists this year. This was a 5 day Chamber Music Workshop at Warren Wilson College (June 10-15). The Chamber Music Workshop was the most intense and positive playing experience I have had, with the possible exception of time spent at Suzuki institutes. Here are some of my experiences there.

We had about 40 participants, 4 coaches and 1 administrator who also played cello. There were 13 violinists, 3 violists, 10 violin/violists, 10 cellists, 1 bassist, and 4 pianists (two part-time). The discrepancy in the numbers is due to participants doubling instruments.

The coaches were Scott Cook, the Musical Director (Wisconsin), Carol Hayes (Florida), Katherine Winterstein (Mass), and Inessa Zaretsky (New York).

Groups were trios of several kinds and piano trios; quartets: a standard quartet, a double quartet, piano quartets; various quintets: double viola, double cello, piano quintets, piano and violin, viola, cello, bass.

Assignments of participants to groups and of the pieces to be played were usually made the previous evening, in most cases after requests or at least discussion with the music director, Scott Cook. Scott seemed to know everything about every piece of chamber music in the library. In assigning groups and music, he knew the abilities of each of the participants, people who came from all over the USA.

The groups met from 9 to 10:30 AM to begin work. The assigned coaches (who were really good, but who were always overworked) appeared and made suggestions, then left for their other assigned groups. At 10:30 there was a break, after which we worked until lunch. We reconvened at 1:30 PM and worked until 3. After a short break we had a recital with each of the 10 or 12 groups performing their assigned pieces. Not all letter perfect, but always astonishingly good and with wonderful musicality.

After hours people did "free lancing" -- forming impromptu chamber groups and playing until we ran out of energy. Great fun.

The Swannanoa Chamber Music Workshop was a wonderful program that I will surely attend again. I encourage anyone with a week to spare to come to the workshop June 8 through 13, 2008. You should write to Ron Lambe who is a cellist and is the administrator asking to be put on the mailing list.

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Here is a link to a page listing solo and chamber music that includes the bass, listed by composer, by piece name, and by publisher. The web site is maintained by Kurt Muroki and the web page is <http://24.215.176.44/muroki/musicdata.htm>