



## **Spring 2010 Newsletter of the North Carolina Suzuki Association**

### **From the President**

It is hard to believe that another Spring has arrived! Time seems to fly so quickly. For those of us who teach, Spring brings with it all sorts of adventures, trials, challenges and thrills.

We look forward to lots of review with our students in preparation for Summer institutes. (Which reminds us – please put the NC Suzuki Institute on your calendars. July 4-9, 2010 in Greenville!) Yet, we are searching for ways to make the “old” review songs feel fresh. We are excited about Spring recitals and concerts, and also realize the work needed to make such an event successful. We look forward to Summer, but are challenged to keep our students – and ourselves! – motivated to keep practicing and learning.

The challenges of Spring were made worthwhile for me during my recent studio recitals. Before the recital, as I was tuning the violin of a 5-year-old beginner, I asked if he was excited about the upcoming performance. He cracked a huge smile, jumped off the ground and exclaimed, “I can’t wait!” To see the joy on the faces of the students and parents as we played together makes the journey meaningful. After all, the music we play should be exhilarating, and as exciting the first time we play as well as the many times after.

I, like many of you, look forward to attending institutes, workshops, the SAA conference in May and other events where we may glean some inspiration and new ideas from peers and students. Spring is a wonderful time of renewal, rejuvenation and rebirth. It is my wish that you all are finding enjoyment in your work, knowing full well the difference you are making for your students and their families. If there is anything that we, as a Suzuki community in North Carolina, can do to support you please do not hesitate to contact us.

Happy Spring and Summer to you all!

Best wishes,

Morgen Champney, President

NC Suzuki Association





### Contact the Officers:

#### **Morgen Champney, President**

705 Ridgeview Drive  
Shelby, NC 28150  
(704) 674-7336  
[morgenchampney@gmail.com](mailto:morgenchampney@gmail.com)

#### **Katie Lawton, Secretary**

(864) 608-0256  
[katherine.lawton@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.lawton@gmail.com)

#### **Deb Chandler, Treasurer**

2901 Ferncliff Road  
Charlotte, NC, 28211  
(704) 442-0384  
[deborah.chandler@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:deborah.chandler@cms.k12.nc.us)

#### **David B Teague, Newsletter Editor**

1349 Salola Lane  
Brevard NC 28712  
(828) 885 2653  
[davidbteague@verizon.net](mailto:davidbteague@verizon.net)

### Meet the officers:

#### **President, Morgen Champney**

Morgen Champney is the Suzuki coordinator for Community School of the Arts in Charlotte, NC since Fall of 2004. She has a studio of 52 students both in Charlotte and at her home in Shelby, NC. In addition to teaching violin, Morgen is a certified Music Together instructor. Since moving to Shelby one year ago, Morgen started this early childhood Music Together program in her new community. Morgen is married to John Champney (orchestra director of Shelby High School). The two enjoy walking, reading, and performing in their spare time. Morgen earned her Masters of Music in Suzuki Pedagogy degree from East Carolina University, and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Furman University.

#### **Secretary, Katie Lawton**

Katie Lawton is the creator of a Suzuki-inspired violin program at two elementary schools in Gastonia, NC. She teaches over 200 students in small groups throughout the school day. As a showcase for the Gaston County Schools, Katie has taken her students to perform for various audiences. She also teaches 20 private students at her home studio. Katie recently cut a CD titled "Big Kids, Big Plans" with Royce Robinson and the band, Katie and Her Crazy Uncles. She also plays with the Gaston String Orchestra and Charlotte Philharmonic. Between gigs, Katie enjoys hiking and singing in her church choir. Katie earned her Bachelor of Music Degree from Furman University and her Masters of Music Degree in Suzuki Pedagogy and Violin Performance from East Carolina University. She counts Joanne Bath, Ara Gregorian, Thomas Joiner, Xiao-Li Saliny, Jay-Martin and Dianne Pinner as her significant musical mentors.

#### **Treasurer, Deb Chandler**

Deborah Chandler has been teaching orchestra in the public schools for 23 years, primarily for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She is currently the orchestra director at Carmel Middle School and Jay M. Robinson Middle School. Her studies in music were at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and she graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania at West Chester with a B.S. in Music Education. While at West Chester, Deb also received training in the Suzuki Violin Method studying with Linda Wear Fiore. Since that time, she has taken Summer Suzuki sessions with William Starr, James Maurer, Rudy Hazucha, and Hiroko Driver. Deb has taught orchestra at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In 2004, she received her



National Board Certification as an Early Adolescent and Young Adult Music Teacher. Traveling and biking with her husband, David, are a few of her interests.

### **Newsletter Editor, David Teague**

David Teague has been newsletter editor since Fall 2006. He earned a BSEE, and an MS and PhD in mathematics at NSCU. While there, he played tuba in the NCSU Symphonic bands and in the Raleigh “Little Symphony”, and with the Charlotte Symphony 1966- 1968. He has played double bass since 1971. He played in the Asheville Symphony 1976 -1993. He is Principal Double Bass in the Blue Ridge Orchestra, Asheville NC and plays in the Brevard Philharmonic and the WNCC Orchestra in Cullowhee. He taught mathematics and computer science at WCU from 1968 to retirement in 2004. He retuned his bass in Fifths Tuning in 2004. He studied with Cathy Arps 1984 to the present. He has attended many workshops and observed lessons by many Suzuki teachers, and teaches double bass in either fourths or fifths tuning.

### **A message from the treasurer...**

Dear NCSA Members,

**It is time to pay your NC Suzuki dues for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.** Please check the website for membership information and fill out the application that is located there. Please send your information and dues to Deborah Chandler at 2901 Ferncliff Road in Charlotte, NC. Membership fees are due by June 15th.

### **Suzuki Pedagogy Program at ECU**

The Hardy Suzuki Pedagogy Program at the School of Music at East Carolina University will begin its eighteenth year in August, 2010. During this period, approximately sixty Suzuki teachers have received the Master of Music degree in Suzuki Pedagogy and Violin or Viola Performance and around seventy undergraduates have completed the two year course. The Certificate in Suzuki Pedagogy is offered to those who may not have an undergraduate degree in music but have a strong Suzuki background and those who already hold a Master of Music degree in music.

Upon completing the two year Pre-Pre Twinkle through violin Book 10 course, students are registered with the Suzuki Association of the Americas through Book 10.

Students have been from India, Canada, Brazil, Armenia, China, Japan and across the United States including, of course, many from North Carolina!

The course is directed and taught by Joanne Bath, Hardy Distinguished Professor of Suzuki Pedagogy at the ECU School of Music and a registered Teacher Trainer of the Suzuki Association of the Americas.



The course can be taken by non-degree seeking students in order to register the units with the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

The Suzuki Pedagogy website is part of the School of Music website and can be accessed here:

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/music/departments/suzuki.cfm>

Please contact Joanne at bathj@ecu.edu or by phone at 252-717-3031 if you have questions.

### **Early Childhood Education**

by Dorothy Jones

In the Suzuki Early Childhood Education section of the SAA website, there is an article written by Dorothy Jones about the first class of Stage 5 graduates in 2009, in the SAA recognized levels of teacher training. We include this article here. – the editor

I was one of seven teachers in SAA who completed this last stage of training in Suzuki ECE during the Summer of 2009 in Canada. We had a wonderful time meeting other teachers there from different parts of the world who were taking other stages at the same time. These stages are in lieu of the "books" of teacher training in an instrument area.

The highlights of our time in London, Ontario during this training were seeing one child whom we had seen since infancy over a period of three years in the ECE program, and how much she and her mother had changed and become so much more able to receive and perform various tasks, despite the challenges the mother faced getting her to the classes weekly. She took the bus to class and strolled her red-headed baby even in inclement weather, to make this a priority for her child, since she didn't have a second car to use while her husband was at work. She became a much more patient mother, and was not so rough with her baby when she didn't perform as she expected, like we had witnessed 3 Summers ago. This was so remarkable considering the circumstances she must have endured, but she listened to the CD at home, sang and nurtured her baby as led by her Suzuki ECE teacher, Sharon Jones. It was one success story we were all overjoyed to see, and the child was so proud to be able to lead in the class with skills she had learned through repetition and modeling on a regular basis. At age 3 last Summer, she was definitely ready for an instrument, with so many readiness skills already in place, and a mother who knew what Suzuki parenting and philosophy was all about.

Another highlight was the final concert we were able to jointly put together with all the teachers creating the sound effects for the babies and mothers to sing and say their rhymes to, using many instruments and rhythm patterns. The teachers had a great time orchestrating this during the week. The mothers and babies just did what they normally do in the hour's class each week, and it was an opportunity for grandparents and friends to see what they had been learning and the excitement and fun they had. This was a huge event that gave the teacher trainees many ideas of possibilities in their own programs at home that would make this ECE experience visible to a larger audience. It was the first of its kind for us, and what fun we had putting it on!

We hope the future of Suzuki Early Childhood Training will continue to spread and influence many Suzuki programs throughout the SAA and the world as more international Suzuki organizations embrace this concept of prenatal and early stage learning for ages 0-3 before instrumental lessons begin.

Dorothy Jones gave the seven of us Suzuki ECE training graduates the charge to keep the ECE movement going, to take more steps to keep learning ourselves, refresh our training, and also to seek teacher trainer status as set out by the SAA.



My hope is that the teachers in NC would see the value of Suzuki ECE and take the challenge to start training in this area, as well as encourage someone else who has the desire and understanding of the importance of early learning. It is a wonderful program and can enhance the instruction in any instrument area that you are already teaching. It is extremely thought-provoking and very cutting-edge with so much on the horizon regarding infant brain development research. There is a vast body of research to support the value of starting early, and even before the birth of the baby.

May you have a great Summer of refreshment and motivation for the coming year.

Nancy Brown  
Suzuki Piano and ECE teacher  
Charlotte, NC

### **The Piedmont Suzuki Strings Performance**

by Katherine Wiley

The Piedmont Suzuki Strings ensemble led by Katherine Wiley performed a concert in Winston-Salem in February called "Harmonize for Haiti" which raised over \$1600 for Haiti Relief efforts. They also performed a similar program in four public schools in Forsyth County, at the Arts Alive! concert series at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, and at a private fundraiser for the Winston-Salem Youth Orchestras.

### **NC Suzuki Institute at ECU!**

Preparations are underway for the NC Suzuki Institute at ECU, July 4-9. As always we have incredible faculty lined up and are looking forward to providing a special musical experience for our students and parents. Please encourage your students to participate. It's never too late, just let us know and we'll be happy to allow some late registrations.

Please remember that we are offering Violin/Viola 2 training this summer with Elizabeth Stuen-Walker. Betsy is an inspiring leader in the Teacher Training area of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. She has taught at the NCSI many times, always to great reception. She is wonderful with the students, whom she will teach in observation classes, and with their parents and teachers. She will give everyone a good boost in enthusiasm and knowledge!

Please see our website for more information:

<http://www.ecu.edu/music/suzuki/>

Christopher Ulffers  
Managing Director  
NC Suzuki Institute  
School of Music  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27858  
252-328-4281