



Suzuki! News

Suzuki

Talent Education Association of
Australia (South Australia) Inc.

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The Suzuki Council - How it works for you

2008 Suzuki SA Council

Teachers

Kylie Mahony, President
 Anne ApThomas, Vice President
 Nicola Buckland
 Therese O'Brien
 Michelle Sykes
 Vicky Yagi

Parents

Rob Buckland, Secretary
 V/c Flierl
 Jill Folaehola
 Merina Hague
 Marian MacLucas
 Kerry Mahony, Treasurer

2008 Membership Fees :

\$70 new members (to 31/12/08)
 \$70 renewals (to 31/12/08)
 \$110 teachers (to 31/12/08)
 \$80 teacher trainer (to 31/12/08)

Editor Suzuki Newsletter

Lyn Hill
 PO Box 378, Mitcham S. Centre
 Torrens Park SA 5062
 Phone / Fax (08) 8277 2766
 Email lyn@formax.net
 www.suzukimusiccsa.org.au

Copy Deadline

Term 1, 2009 - January 10
 Term 2, 2009 - April 4
 Term 3, 2008 - July 2
 Term 4, 2008 - September 24

Members' Advertising

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Printing Jigsaw Publications

Suzuki News

The Suzuki Council comprises six teachers and six parents and meets once a month, with smaller groups and informal conferencing going on in between.

At the meetings we go through the formalities such as minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising, correspondence and appropriate action and a treasurer's report.

Two important agendas at the meeting are the organising of upcoming events and the 'Focus Group'. Quite a lot of time has been spent on not only upcoming events but on planning manuals so that future events can be arranged more thoroughly and easily even if there is a change of personnel. For example, Kylie Mahony has done this for Winter Festival 2008 and people were assigned to jobs in her organisational structure. Our previous President, Monica Christian also did this for the Showcase Concert. Each event is looked at and arranged through the Council.

If we simply looked at arrangements, it would be a very short-sighted Council. We also consider many aspects of the philosophy and the future of Suzuki in South Australia. One sub-committee of the Council is the Focus Group and their objective is to prioritise the major issues that need addressing. With this in mind they have brought discussions and action on the following to the Council meetings.

1. Focus on Teachers
 - their professional development and its assessment
 - communication with teachers
 - nurturing new teachers
 - recruitment and retention
2. Families - This is currently under discussion
3. Budget) June/
4. Marketing and International Conference) July

This is just a brief resume of some matters discussed by the Council this year. If you have any comments, please contact a Council member. The Council is always looking for people who can assist in various ways, so please offer your services for events and, at the end of the year, consider nominating for Council yourself.

Accredited Teachers

CELLO

Clarence Gardens
 Sturt
 Therese O'Brien
 Jenny McDonald
 Trainee
 Trainee
 8297 4378
 8358 3694

FLUTE

Norwood
 Nicola Buckland
 Trainee
 8362 8911

HARP

Hawthorn
 Anne ApThomas
 Dip. of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 8272 3504

PIANO

Hawthorn
 Anne ApThomas
 Teacher Trainer / Dip. of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 8272 3504
 Novar Gardens
 Monica Christian
 Dip. of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 8294 3560
 Magill
 Emma den Hollander
 Dip. of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 8431 4833
 Tusmore
 Lynne Reynolds
 Advanced
 8431 8468
 Newton
 Hazel Matters
 Primary
 8337 3153
 Marden
 Stefanie Reynolds
 Primary
 0421 903 768
 One Tree Hill
 Alison Sims
 Primary
 8280 7138
 Ascot Park
 James Wright
 Certificate III
 8276 3737

VIOLIN

West Lakes/Glandore
 Inman Valley
 Mt Compass
 Royston Park
 Nairne
 Burnside
 Erindale
 Hazelwood Park
 Sturt
 Kensington
 Newton
 Victor Harbor
 Norwood
 Klemzig
 Strathalbyn
 Eden Hills
 Kylie Mahony
 Rebekah Osborne
 Wendy Dyson
 Jill Folaehola
 Gitta Green
 Dawn Kenny
 Therese Janus
 Amanda Just
 Jenny McDonald
 Fiona Robertson
 Michelle Sykes
 Linda Sideris
 Lisa Cannan
 Emma Luker
 Ami McPherson
 Vicky Yagi
 Teacher Trainer / Advanced
 Dip. of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 Dip. Of Suzuki Talent Educ.
 Intermediate
 Intermediate
 Intermediate
 Primary
 Primary
 Primary
 Primary
 Primary
 Primary
 Certificate III
 Trainee
 Trainee
 Trainee
 Trainee
 8341 6577
 8554 5262
 0418 844 230
 8362 6136
 8388 0169
 8332 3028
 8332 0608
 8379 3827
 8358 3694
 8331 0902
 0413 583 429
 8552 5520
 8362 2727
 8261 3356
 8536 3307
 8370 2312

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Hazelwood Park
 Inman Valley
 Amanda Just
 Rebekah Osborne
 Teacher
 Teacher
 8379 3827
 8554 5262

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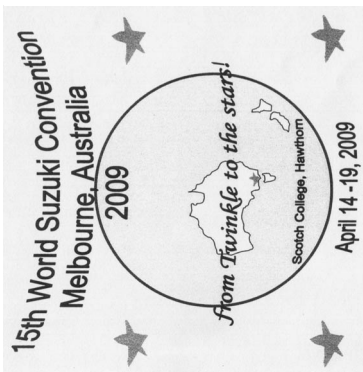


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email: info@suzukimusic.org.au

Diary Dates for 2008

Flute	Group lessons	Junior group 4:00-4:45, Inter group 4:45-5:30 Unitarian Church, 99 Osmond Terrace, Nonwood
	Term 2	Saturday, May 3, June 7
	Ensemble	Saturday, May 17, June 21 at 4:00 pm - Unitarian Church
	Mid-year Concert	Sunday, June 22 at 2:00 pm - Unitarian Church
Piano	All-Comers Concerts	Adelaide High School
	Term 2	Sunday, June 22
	Term 3	Sunday, September 14
String	Group lessons	Adelaide High School - 3-5 pm
	Term 2	Sunday, June 22
	Term 3	Sunday, August 3 (includes a Showcase rehearsal)
ALL INSTRUMENTS		
	Winter Festival	Thursday July 17—Saturday July 19
	Graduation tapes due	September 12
	Graduation Concerts	Sunday, June 1 and October 26 - Concordia College
	Showcase Auditions	Sunday, June 29 - Adelaide High School
	Showcase Rehearsals	Sunday, August 3 and 17 - Adelaide High School
	Showcase promotion	Sunday, August 17 - Rundle Mall
	Showcase Concert	Sunday, August 24 - Elder Hall
Divertimento Rehearsal		
		Sunday, June 22 (2-3 pm) Adelaide High School prior to string and flute workshops
		Sunday, July 27 (2-3 pm) Adelaide High School
		Sunday, August 3 (2-3 pm) Adelaide H.S. prior to string and flute workshops
		Sunday, August 17 (time TBA) Adelaide H.S. prior to Showcase rehearsal
		Sunday, August 24 - Elder Hall Showcase Concert rehearsal and performance

Student 1

Surname _____ Given Names _____

Date of Birth _____ Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Student 2

Surname _____ Given Names _____

Date of Birth _____ Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Student 3

Surname _____ Given Names _____

Date of Birth _____ Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Student 4

Surname _____ Given Names _____

Date of Birth _____ Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Instrument _____ Teacher _____

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Australian Central Community Lottery

from the Suzuki Marketing and Fundraising Committee

Would you like to win a brand new car valued at \$32,585 for only \$2?

This economical, fuel efficient car is the first prize in the 2008 Australian Central Community Lottery, a community service sponsored by Australian Central.

- 1st prize - Mitsubishi Lancer VR-X Auto Sedan, total value \$32,585
- 2nd prize - \$25,000 Harvey Norman Shopping Spree
- 3rd prize - Mitsubishi Colt VR-X Auto Hatch, value \$22,585

Suzuki families who have received a book to sell, please return to your teacher ASAP the money from the sale of tickets together with the butt of the Community Lottery book. If you have not yet received a Community Lottery book to sell or would like to sell extra books, please contact the Suzuki Office on 82772766. **100% of ticket sales go directly to Suzuki SA**

We sincerely appreciate your willing assistance in making this fundraiser a great success. Funds raised will be used for future Suzuki educational events and help finance the cost of bringing interstate Suzuki teachers to South Australia to benefit students and teachers, e.g. the Winter Festival.



Invitation to Senior String Students

by Kylie Mahony

One of the most wonderful things about being a string player is the rich opportunities we get to play with other musicians. Chamber music is perhaps the most rewarding type of group playing of all – the sense of connecting and communicating with fellow players is an experience we can really treasure.

Therese O'Brien and I have been planning to start a chamber orchestra for our senior string players for a while. We have decided that we will start it off with a bang at this year's Showcase Concert! We have chosen a beautiful piece to perform at Showcase – the "Divertimento" by Mozart. Chamber music is the ultimate challenge for many musicians. The music is written for small ensembles and designed to sound as though an intimate conversation between friends is taking place. To achieve a wonderful result in our Showcase Concert performance, Therese and I both agreed that we will need some extra rehearsals to put it all together. Please check the diary dates at the start of the newsletter for more details. Students who wish to participate are required at all rehearsals!

Because of the difficulty and sophistication of the music we are intending to perform, participation is limited to senior string students of these levels:

Cello – book 3 and up **Viola** – book 3 and up **Violin** – (Vivaldi G Minor) book 5 and up

Teachers are of course welcome to participate, but are also required to attend all rehearsals. Music will be sent out ahead of time and students will need to be well prepared for the first rehearsal. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the first rehearsal!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Parents/Guardians become Associate Members of the Association, may hold office, vote in elections and attend Association activities. Please complete both sides of this form



Suzuki Talent Education
Assoc. of Australia (S) A) Inc.
PO Box 378
Mitcham Shopping Centre
TORRENS PARK SA 5062

Parent/Guardian Surname _____ Given Names _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Home phone _____ Mobile phone _____

Email _____ Signature _____ Suzuki Member ID _____

Suzuki family membership – 1/1/08 to 31/12/08
 Edmund Sprunger's book "Helping Parents Practice" \$32.50
 Sheila Warby's book "With Love in my Heart and a Twinkle in my Ear" \$32.50
Total _____

Cheque payable to STEAA(SA) Inc. Master Card Visa Money Order

Card number _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date _____

Name _____ Signature _____

From the President



Kylie Mchony

There is a definite chill in the air as I write this – winter is on its way. It's actually a nice change after the very hot weather we had at the end of summer! But the best news about the coming of winter is it means our Winter Festival will soon be here! This will be held over two and a half days during the next school holidays from July 17th-19th. You will find your registration form included with this newsletter. The organising committee is busy working on bringing in some of the best Suzuki piano, flute, violin and cello teachers from around Australia to work with our children. You can read more about them in the profiles included inside this newsletter. This is our first big Festival since 2006 and I am really looking forward to it with anticipation.

important to live your life with hope, belief and purpose and that is what Suzuki is all about. It's not just giving music lessons to children – though that in itself is a wonderful thing to do – Suzuki is about using music as a wonderful tool to nurture the entire precious human being through the most critical and impressive part of their lives. Every time I really contemplate Suzuki's revolutionary insight about child education, the simplicity of his idea, yet the brilliant resonance of its truth amazes me once again. I hope that all parents and teachers realise what impact including Suzuki in the lives of children can have on them for a lifetime. Striving to play their instrument with beauty and expression and working towards this goal with the loving support and assistance of teachers and parents is an experience every child in the world deserves to have. Our Suzuki students who have parents who understand this are very fortunate young people indeed!

When Suzuki students are little, one of the most important jobs we have as teachers and parents is to inspire them with the love of music and faith in themselves to keep going. Dr. Suzuki's philosophy is unstinting in the belief in the ability of every child. Every child has ability, therefore every child will one day be a wonderful and accomplished musician. It is our job to keep the faith and help motivate that child until music becomes so much a part of their lives they can hardly imagine life without it!

I was so encouraged to see so many hundreds of people attending the recent Family Strings Concert in Adelaide – it was proof that so many of our parents understand the importance of community in our Suzuki Philosophy. I am sure we will see equal numbers of families attending Winter Festival because there is nothing like a big Suzuki workshop to really make you feel the spirit of what Dr. Suzuki was trying to achieve. The atmosphere of encouragement, love, nurturing and enjoyment of our young people is like nothing else in this world. Sometimes inexperienced parents say to me "I don't think we will go to the Festival this year. My

One thing adding to my anticipation about our Winter Festival is that I am still infused with motivation and enthusiasm since attending Victoria's Autumn Festival in early April. There were four South Australian teachers there (including myself) and several of our Suzuki families also attended the flute, guitar and violin programs. The event was held in the magnificent and stunning location of Scotch College right on the Yarra River and was beautifully organised. There were teachers there from around Australia and around the world and I was so uplifted and inspired to watch their wonderful teaching and listen to their wise and insightful lectures. Beginning on page 10 you will find a transcript of one particularly inspiring lecture given to teachers by American piano teacher Kane Kutscher. The title "Lighting the Fire Within" perfectly describes how I felt after attending Autumn Festival!

Participating in the Victorian Festival reminded me again that what I do has a much higher purpose than simply a job. It is so

Student 1

Surname.....Given Names.....Age when tape made.....
 Instrument.....Level.....Teacher.....Teacher to sign.....
 Graduation concert piece.....Composer

Student 2

Surname.....Given Names.....Age when tape made.....
 Instrument.....Level.....Teacher.....Teacher to sign.....
 Graduation concert piece.....Composer

Student 3

Surname.....Given Names.....Age when tape made.....
 Instrument.....Level.....Teacher.....Teacher to sign.....
 Graduation concert piece.....Composer

Student 4

Surname.....Given Names.....Age when tape made.....
 Instrument.....Level.....Teacher.....Teacher to sign.....
 Graduation concert piece.....Composer

“Lighting the fire within”

(Continued from page 17)

and every Tuesday morning I would wake up and think “Yes! This is dance day!” And it seemed like those lessons just flowed, we had so much fun, everyone would come in and say “Wow – you’re really feeling terrific today – what’s going on?” And I would say “At the end of teaching I am going to go dance!” So what motivated me had nothing to do with piano. What motivated me was feeling good, looking forward to things. Not thinking “oh man – I’m going to sit in this chair and get ‘piano bench seat’ from sitting six hours in a row!” It’s a whole different attitude. It’s an attitude that is going to motivate.

Another way we motivate students is to...you’ve got it! Listen to the recordings! Those of you that have been working with me all week long know that listening is not only key to the Suzuki Method, it is key to your success, it is key to your student’s success. *Listening* is

the visualisation of what they can become. Imagine hearing those recordings and thinking “I can do that!” I have two grandchildren who are the apple of my eye and I love to teach them to do things – I love to play with them because that is the joy of being a grandparent. One of the things that my grandson and I have always liked to do is do jigsaw puzzles. We have a ritual. We get out the jigsaw puzzle, lift off the lid and pop it out all over the floor. He’s pretty good at shapes but I’m not so good at that. So what do I do? I lift up the lid and look at the picture which guides me to put the pieces together. Well, listening to recordings is like lifting up the lid and getting the answers to the puzzle. It tells you exactly how things should be done! It inspires the children to think “I could be that someday!” Wow! The potential is limitless.

For Sale

1/16 Suzuki violin from Japan, including bow and case, very good condition — \$350. Contact Sue 0403 319 672

Upright Piano R. Lipp + Sohn, excellent condition — \$2,500 neg. Comes with duet stool - 8½ years warranty remaining. Phone May 0449 176 179

Suzuki Junior String Orchestra

Conducted by Michelle Sykes

For students in Books 2 – 4

Students should have some idea about reading music

Suzuki Junior String Orchestra will meet at Adelaide High School Drama Room (above Music Suite) West Terrace, Adelaide

3:45 – 5:00 pm – commencing Saturday 17th May and approximately every fortnight as follows:

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
31	14 & 28	26	9 & 30	20	18	1 & 8

To register interest, please complete the form below

and return by Monday 12th May, 2008 together with payment of \$45 to Suzuki SA, PO Box 378, Mitcham Shopping Centre, Torrens Park SA 5062

No money PLEASE at rehearsals

Please arrive in good time with your instrument and music stand

Parents, please remember that participation in a group means regular attendance. If you are unable to attend, a phone call to Michelle on 0413 583 429 would be appreciated

Suzuki Junior String Orchestra Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Instrument _____ Teacher _____

Teacher’s signature _____

Sight reading level (to be filled in by teacher (e.g. ‘I can read music’ book 1 no. 39)

Book No. _____ No. and Name of piece _____

Cheque payable to STEAA (SA) Inc. Master Card Visa

Card Number _____

Expiry date _____ Amount : \$45.00

Name _____ Signature _____

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"Lighting the fire within"

(Continued from page 16)

class and I'm going to learn to ride a motorcycle and take that test" On the day of the class, my son's friends came over to go too. They were these cute high school guys looking great in their leather jackets! I looked at them and I said to my son "I just can't go and do this!" So my son said "It's okay Mum - I will come home from every class and take you across the street to the church parking lot. I'll set up the pylons and I'll teach you how to ride that motorcycle so you can pass your test". And you know what - he came home and he taught me like a perfect Suzuki teacher. He would set things up and I even though I would drive badly he would say "You can do it Mum! Steady Mum! Just a little further Mum - you can do it!" It was the most glorious experience of my life! The really wonderful thing was that I found I could learn an unusual and difficult skill from a child! I was learning from someone whom I had previously thought "well if I don't teach you, you are not going to know what to do". It is truly one of the golden moments of my life and may I say that we went to take our motorcycle test together and he got a perfect score and I missed one point - but I can now drive a motorcycle!

How do we motivate ourselves first is what we're talking about. Be open to all kinds of learning situations. Read things, go to lectures, be always looking for opportunities to grow and learn. I like to read a lot of books to

motivate myself. One of the books I read was by Joan Lunden called "Wake up Calls - Making the Most out of Everyday". Joan Lunden used to have an early morning talk show. The first point in her book is "stay focussed on the upbeat". If we're going to motivate ourselves and if we're going to motivate our students, we cannot go in to teach feeling surly and crabby. There is always something that you can feel positive about and if not - go and eat a doughnut! Be excited that each person deserves your 150% best! When you give your best, you actually feel better. You feel better when you feel you give more than you think that you can give.

Joan's second point is "constantly check to see if your attitude is worth catching". Attitudes are contagious. Teach the parents that attitudes are contagious. I firmly believe that some of the most de-motivating things that happen to students happen because parents are so focused on trying hard to do this practice thing well. That means they go about it so sternly saying "we must practise - let's get this done!" Or worse yet they think in their hearts "oh man - I don't know if I can do this so I'll try until I can't do it anymore and then I'm just going to quit". They don't have to feel that way if you inspire them and train them and tell them that they have to be always positive. If parents go to practice feeling like it is a chore and a bore what are the children going to feel? If the parents feel like practice is an insurmountable task then what are the chil-

dren going to feel? If we can train the parents that this is an opportunity to open new doors for their child everyday, that this is an opportunity to give those children life-long skills that will make them finer and more noble people for the rest of their lives, who wouldn't want to do that? Give them a mission! We must have that attitude because the parents are going to try to emulate our teaching and the way we do it. If they see that their child makes a mistake but you correct it gently but thoroughly then they can have that example too.

I can take an example directly from "Nurtured By Love", Dr. Suzuki's book. Early in the book it talks about the fact that Shinichi and his brothers used to treat the violin factory like their own personal playground. Suzuki didn't play the violin at that point - it was just his family's business. Suzuki and his brothers were typical boys so one day they got out partially created violins and started having a sword fight with them! Crash! One of the violins fell to the floor and was broken. Dr. Suzuki's family had pretty high standards of conduct and he knew he was going to be in deep doo-doo! So while he was contemplating what his father might do not only because the violin was valuable merchandise but also because it had been made by the hearts of the people who worked in the factory, Suzuki's older brother did something that made an impression on him for the rest of his life. He walked in silently, picked up the broken instrument, took it to another room and repaired it. Wow! The

(Continued on page 18)

“Lighting the fire within”

(Continued from page 11)

but what we are really supposed to do is give them our lives and our love. If a child needs us to bend down on one knee and stick out our tongue to inspire them we'll do it! And if the child needs to be told something ten different ways because they don't understand the first nine ways, we will do it because we are inspired to inspire them. It's a sin to be ho-hum! Who wants to be average? We all want to be extraordinary! We all want to experience the energy of excellence!

The best way to inspire a student is to be inspired yourself. Let's take a look at this facet before we branch into some other ideas. It's an old, old saying that my mother used to say to me – “you cannot fill a cup from an empty pitcher”. We have to remind ourselves to be full. Sometimes this pertains to things other than playing our musical instrument all the time. I was telling some parents this morning that the only way my daughter would agree to practise cheerfully in the morning was to have a cup of hot chocolate first. So if you need a cup of hot chocolate before you teach, drink a cup of hot chocolate! I love being in Australia because we have tea parties all the time! I was so excited to find there is a tea party every morning! It's so motivating to me! I get up in the morning thinking “I'm going to go teach then I'm going to go have a tea party break!” Now I'm thinking I should start doing that at home because I am just loving being here!

senses and for the musician, three of them are the most useful – listening, seeing and moving. Perhaps if we present something in a listening context and the student just doesn't get it we should reinforce it with a visual, or reinforce it with some movement. Say things in a different way or ask questions that will allow the student to come to the conclusion himself. It is so important to have the experience of re-learning something new. Let's face it – I've been learning piano for 50 years, so I forget what happened way back all those years.

Another idea is to take the opportunity to learn something from a child. Let a child teach you something! I have a great friend who was a Suzuki piano teacher who also practised with her own children just as I did. Sometimes she would get very frustrated so she would say “I'm calling in your Dad!” Of course Dad didn't know anything about it but when he came in, he allowed the children to teach him. And he learned a lot, and they learned a lot because what is the best way to learn – it's to teach it to someone else!

Children can teach you all kinds of things – all you have to do is talk to them a little while and they're open to it. My husband and my sons were always very into cars and motor cycles. My youngest son was going to get his motorcycle licence and he had to go through this course to get it. I had a scooter that I rode illegally because I didn't have license so I said “I'm going to go with you to this” (Continued on page 17)

Country News

by Wendy Dyson

I was reading some surveys carried out nearly 18 years ago on Suzuki students and wondered how they would compare today. We are always concerned to have membership grow, to be able to afford to run exciting occasions such as on March 16.

Three areas were examined and the first was about leaving the Association

A	Forgot, thought they'd joined	27%
B	Problems with teacher or method	28%
C	Unable to keep up with expectations	9%
D	Not playing anymore	6%

There were also a lot of minor causes including too many activities and cost. A further analysis showed that the proportion of each instrument on the list was the same. The % of teachers' students who left ranged from 8% to 30% for different teachers, so this was a concern. Our more advanced training should probably help if B was still an issue and reminders with A if that is still an issue. They were big percentages in 1990.

The next area considered was the age that most students left, which was between 12 and 14. In my own studio it is usually 17-18 years due to further studies probably in Adelaide, work commitments or merely continuing with orchestra instead of lessons, being satisfied with a certain level of achievement. Many of these people were members of the Association but left at that point.

The last survey was of graduation records showing which level was achieved by those who left the Association. I would suspect this to be very different today. 21% graduated at level 1 - 1% at level 2 and 3 - 4% at level 5. I wonder what happened to level 4. As the article continued, the point was made strongly about the Suzuki Philosophy allowing students to work at their own pace in a supportive and caring environment. This in reference to B. We have a long history of this style of teaching now, with the individual lessons and group workshops motivated and motivating by fun and friendship.

Remaining or becoming a member of the Suzuki Association is important for the wider picture outside your own studio. You will be motivated and inspired by fresh faces, new friends and different teachers. If you have a problem such as issues A, B, C or D, hopefully not D, there might well be a solution for you at Winter School, joining some parent talks or simply seeing such exuberance and excitement with students and teachers.

This article is a précis of one by the then treasurer Jeff Ayres, who ends by saying “It would be a tragedy to deny any student the great opportunities that the complete Suzuki method presents”.

Reminder: A concert given by older Suzuki students will be held in the Willunga Old Show Hall (opposite the Alma Hotel) on Sunday June 29 at 2:30 pm. It is a Baroque concert, including the Vivaldi double violin concerto in D minor. Please support us in our effort to raise money for ‘Save the Children Foundation’ and the Willunga Chamber Orchestra.



“Lighting the fire within”

Motivation lecture for teachers by Jane Kutscher

Victorian Autumn Festival, 2nd April 2008
transcription by Kylie Mahony

Good afternoon! I'm Jane Kutscher I'm a Suzuki piano teacher from Westerville, Ohio. It's great to be here in Australia and I'm very delighted to be able to interact with you and learn and share with you.

The topic for today is “Lighting the Fire Within” and that translates to *motivation*.

First of all, I'm going to share a story that inspired me and caused me to think. There was a lady who had a very special pet - a great parakeet with beautiful feathers that she adored - he was the apple of her eye! His name was Chippy! One day she decided that she would go clean this parakeet's cage. She opened up Chippy's cage, got out her vacuum cleaner and started to clean the debris from beneath his cage when the phone rang! She went over to answer the phone and forgot that she left the vacuum cleaner on. You guessed it - her beloved Chippy was sucked up into the vacuum cleaner bag! She came back from her conversation, couldn't find the love of her life, searched and searched - finally found him, pulled him out and said “My beloved Chippy - you are covered with soot!” So she ran to the shower and blasted him with cold water to try to get the soot off. Then she realised he was standing there shivering furiously. So she got out her hairdryer and blasted him with a blast of hot air!

Now you're probably thinking “what does this have to do with things?” Well when I first became a Suzuki teacher I also instantly became a Suzuki parent because my daughter was my first student. And I tried so hard to do everything for my daughter - the apple of my eye - that I have a feeling she eventually felt like Chippy - sucked up, washed up and blown away! I wanted so much to be an exceptional Suzuki teacher, I wanted my children to be exceptional Suzuki students and I wanted my own students to pursue excellence. Somehow I kept thinking - maybe it was influenced by my traditional music background - that if I manipulated or coerced or did something special that I could just somehow twist their arms into being motivated! Well it didn't take me long to figure out that didn't work! So I am here today to try to discover ways that might work for you and might work for your parents and students that you can take home with you so you can build stronger, better studios.

I thought long and hard about how to motivate others. Finally, after much soul searching I came to the realisation that the only way to motivate others was to be motivated myself! It was a pretty easy answer after all that trying! I would like you now to take a moment and in your mind while I am speaking I would

by Amanda Just

In each of the things that we do we learn new skills or apply and adapt our existing skills and abilities. When children are participating in early music or playing an instrument they start the journey to learning pieces of music that they are playing.

The model in this article illustrates the process of learning a piece of music to performance standard. This approach is just as valuable for our 'Little Musicians' learning their favourite nursery rhyme and later performing for family and friends as it is for an advanced instrumental student.

You can also consider this model in the context of other skills that our children will 'master' over time, including those involved in literacy, mathematics or art.

1 Learning the Elements

We are all familiar with this stage - learning the individual elements one by one. Whether learning the words and tune of a song, the movements of a dance or a finger-play,

or the phases of a musical composition these are our first, awkward steps in learning a piece.

2 Consolidating and Memorising

Once we have initial familiarity with each of the elements we need to practise them - individually and together. During this stage of repeated practice we focus on integrating the individual pieces into a whole, and on improving the skills they require. This is also the stage at which we memorise the piece and can confidently perform it from end to end without reference to the written script.

3 Playing Musically

Once we can play the piece from end to end (or dance the dance) we can start to breathe life into it. The focus now shifts to adding the dynamics to the piece, playing it musically and moving the performance to the next level of skill and expression.

4 Knowing it Thoroughly

Once we have developed a full-bodied and comprehensive knowledge of the piece then we can take it

on to the next level. We need to practise the piece passionately and precisely again and again (and again) so that we know it intrinsically - our hands and body can play it in our sleep.

5 Performing with Confidence

Once we know the composition in our soul then we are in a position to perform the piece in front of an audience with confidence.

The transition to putting it on the line and playing with presence and authority in front of others is a psychological step. It takes further work and experience to take that piece and perform it as well in public as you do in practice.

Selecting a Piece

You don't develop every piece to this level, but instrumental students should find one piece per book that they can hone to this level. Little Ones can apply the same principles to a favourite tune that they can perform to their family at home - eg “Here we go around the Mulberry Bush” or “Incy Wincy”.



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Adelaide Music Club Concert

On Monday, March 3rd at 8:00 pm a large number of Suzuki students performed in a concert at the Tropeano Function Centre at Fulham Gardens. The students were invited to play as guests of the Adelaide Music Club. The Adelaide Music Club consists of people with an interest in music and who meet on the first Monday evening of every month to share dinner and a concert. There were approximately 250 club members present and they were an extremely appreciative audience.

Various groups performed including flautists, violinists and cellists. There were also some outstanding solo performances by pianists and a very talented harpist. The violin group performed many pieces including Humoresque, Theme from Witches' Dance, Hunters' Chorus, Waltz, Hungarian Dance No. 5, the Bach Double Violin Concerto and Pachelbel's Canon.

The concert concluded at approximately 10:00 pm and many children went home tired yet exhilarated from their performances. The Suzuki Association received an \$800 donation from the Adelaide Music Club in appreciation for the wonderful concert.

"Lighting the fire within"

(Continued from page 10)

teacher" because your input and your focus are going to be child-centred. They are going to be centred on "what can I do to make a difference?" A lot of us have met music teachers or other teachers who walk into the room as if to say "I sure hope these students are good enough for me." My challenge to you is walk into your teaching experience each day, look at the child and think "Ah - there you are. A gift has come to me."

Attitude is everything. If you go with the idea that that child is an opportunity for you to work a miracle, for you to change a life forever - wow - are you motivated! And guess what? When you are motivated it rubs off on the student and they become motivated as well. I believe that the teachers who impressed me as a child not only had a strong belief in what they were doing - they had a strong belief in me. Not every teacher I encountered had a strong belief in me and that was often very obvious! Sometimes they just didn't know me enough to care or sometimes they compared me unfavourably to my brilliant older brother. And those teachers didn't impress me! I didn't need them to tell me in words that they lacked belief in me. But I had a fifth grade teacher who through her actions made me feel like my book reports were the best things you'd ever heard in your life. I knew she'd heard better book reports but somehow the way she encouraged my efforts allowed me to think "well maybe I do like to get up

in front of people and speak." My piano teacher was always very critical of me but my parents loved everything I did at the piano. If I had depended upon my teacher to guide me into a music career I would have stopped and done something else very early on. But it was very much impressed upon me that my parents thought that piano lessons were the finest gift they could ever give me in the world. And how did they motivate me to practise? Believe it or not I lived back in the old archaic times when there were no dishwashers! And for some reason it was my job to do the dishes each evening. But when I started piano lessons, every evening without fail, my mother said to me "Janie if you would like to practise, I will do the dishes for you". Ha! No way was I going to do the dishes and she knew me well enough to know that! While I didn't think of this while she was still living, looking back I am pretty certain she would go out into the kitchen and clang and bang as long as possible because she knew if there as a chance I would have to dry one dish I wouldn't stop practising!

What did that do for me? Well even though I was afraid of every piano lesson I ever went to - I was a nervous wreck because my teacher was so stern and so critical and so negative - I learned to enjoy playing the instrument because it was important to my parents. *Because they believed in me.* I want you to believe in every student you get. Furthermore it is important that you instil in the parents that they must let that child know that this is one of the most important gifts they can ever give the child. The only reason they go through all of this work and sacrifice is because they love that child more than anybody else in the world, and they want things that are beneficial for that child.

Back to the teachers I strongly admired as a child. They not only believed in what they were doing but they had knowledge about what they were doing - and sometimes it seemed endless knowledge. It seemed that if you asked them a question they could answer it, but behind their answer was a huge treasure chest of knowledge untapped by your simple question and answer. It is so important for teachers to have this depth of knowledge. And the fact that you are willing to attend seminars like this, go to teacher training and always be growing and learning is essential to motivating your students. Dr. Suzuki said the only requirement you need to become a Suzuki teacher is that you are always willing to learn. And when we are always willing to learn, learning is an adventure! It isn't a task to sit at the book and study or sit at the piano (or violin or flute) and dig out those notes. It is an opportunity to learn, to grow, to change, and through that - an opportunity to change other people. Fantastic!

I also think that the teachers I admired were centred on being of service to others. And let's face it - we are in a service job. As I mentioned before, we might think students come to us and we are just supposed to impart knowledge (Continued on page 16)

Showcase Concert - Audition Application

It is time to start planning for the Suzuki Showcase Concert for 2008! Once again the Showcase Concert will include group, ensemble and solo items and provide an opportunity for almost every one of our young musicians to be involved and perform onstage no matter what their age or ability.

Auditions for Solo and Group Items

Students currently studying any instrument with a registered Suzuki teacher and who are current members of the Association may audition to perform in the Showcase Concert. Soloists, small ensembles and groups are all welcome to audition. However, the students must be relatively advanced in their studies. This means a general standard of **Book 4 and up** for most students. Items are to be no more than 6 minutes in length and may be either Suzuki or non-Suzuki repertoire.

Rehearsals for Piano Ensemble

This year we are organising the senior piano students to play in keyboard/piano ensembles.

Teachers may nominate their students to be part of the ensembles. Each piece will require a different complement of performers so there is plenty of opportunity for young pianists to be involved. There is no audition but it will be up to teachers to make sure the pianists are able to play their pieces at tempo. Anne ApThomas will be in charge of organising ensemble members and rehearsals and more information about this will be available to piano teachers through her soon.

Teachers must be involved in the audition process, making sure those students that do apply to audition are playing at a very high standard and are well-prepared on the day. **Applications close on June 6th and no late auditions will be accepted.**

Rehearsals for String Groups

There are two rehearsal dates for string players, **Sunday, August 3rd (3:00-5:00 pm) and Sunday, August 17th (10 am-12 noon)**. Both rehearsals will be held at **Adelaide High School**. Students from Book 1 and up will be included in the string group items and all are welcome to participate. There is only one stipulation – the students involved must be present at **both** rehearsals and must learn and/or review their repertoire well ahead of the rehearsal dates. Students must not be sight-reading through music on the rehearsal days – these will only be for practising playing as an ensemble. It will be up to teachers to make sure the students involved are fluent in their pieces before the rehearsal days. Senior string students (book 3 and up for cello and viola and book 5 Vivaldi concerto and up for violin) are also invited to be part of the Senior Suzuki Ensemble. This will require extra rehearsal times. You will find more details on page 4 of this newsletter.

Please complete the form below by Friday 6th June and post to Suzuki SA, PO Box 378, Mitcham Shop, Centre, Torrens Park SA 5062

Results of the audition will be mailed out. An adjudicator from outside of the Suzuki community will be used and their decision will be final.

The audition day is **Sunday, June 29 at Adelaide High School Assembly Hall**. Those who have applied to audition will be notified of their audition time which will be from 1:00 pm onwards. An accompanist will be provided on the day free of charge, but if students prefer to use their own accompanist, their costs will not be covered. It is expected that auditioning students perform with appropriate accompaniment at the audition and that they organise and pay for their own rehearsals beforehand if necessary. (To contact Judy Homburg phone 8396 1418). Cost will be \$10 per item, but a maximum cost of \$10 per family.

Audition Application—Suzuki Showcase Concert—24th August, 2008	
Student's name	
Address	
Email address	
Name and signature of Suzuki Teacher	
Suzuki membership no.	
Composer	
Time length of piece	
Preferred time for audition (please circle)	1—2 pm 2—3 pm 3—4 pm 4—5 pm