

ELGIN AREA SUZUKI STRINGS
"THE WRITE NOTE"

Volume II

May 1984

Number 1

Greetings From 'The Write Note'!!

We would like for our newsletter to become active once again. Debbie Yelverton has agreed to get things together for us. But, she needs your help. Do you have ideas to contribute? How about reviewing a book that has made an impression on you; OR submitting a question about playing or practice time; or sharing some tricks you've learned in working with your child. Let us know what your interests are. For the Spring we will have only one issue (this one). Next year let's get together enough information to have a Write Note issue every quarter.

SPRING PROGRAM

Our Spring Program this year will be on Thursday, June 7 at 7:30pm. It will be held at the United Methodist Church in downtown Elgin. All playing children need to be there by 6:45. Children playing only See Saw can arrive at 7:15. Attire for girls will be performing dresses with white knee socks and black shoes; for new students white blouses with navy skirt, white knee socks and black shoes. Boys wear long-sleeved white shirts, navy ties, and black shoes.

REHERSAL SCHEDULE:

Tuesday--at the Methodist Church
6:30-7:00 Children who play See Saw
6:45(for tuning)-8:00 All others.

Wednesday--at the Baptist Church
4:00-4:30 Children who play See Saw
and Twinkle only
4:30-5:30 All others

REPERTOIRE:

See Saw
Folk Tunes
Minuet 1
Minuet 3-with minor Middle
The Happy Farmer
Hunters' Chorus
Bourree
The Two Grenadiers
Theme from "Withes' Dance"
Gavotte - Mignon
Gavotte - Lully
Kuchler - Concertino
Humoresque
Bouree - Bach
Seitz
Vivaldi
Small World
Minuet 2 - Solo Group
Boccherini - Solo Group

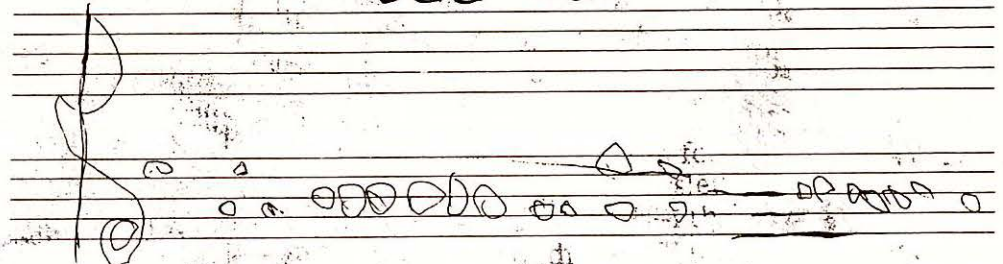
A Play-In on June 8:

Friday, the day after our Spring Program we'll have a Play-in and picnic at ECC with the Suzuki group from Sycamore. Sarah Nelson and Ann Montzka have a group in Sycamore that would like to get to know the Elgin people and play together. More details later.

Another Contest--But HURRY!

Suzuki artists! If we can get it together, we may just have professionally printed invitations to our Spring Program this year. But we need your help. Please enter our contest: we want a small drawing that might be turned into invitations for our Spring Program. If you wish to incorporate the wording of the invitation into the picture some way please be sure to include place, date, time, and that there is a \$1 donation at the door (used as scholarship money for students). Just give your picture to your teacher at your very next lesson; and don't forget we have a deadline. All pictures must be submitted by May 23! The winner will have the pleasure of seeing his picture distributed to the family and friends of our many fine Suzuki players!

See Saw



by Danny Anderson

Wheaton Suzuki Workshop

March 9th and 10th the McNulty Family attended a week-end Suzuki workshop. Here they have shared their experiences with us:

Tim McNulty, Viola Department--

"I finally got to go to a workshop. There were about 15 viola players there. Our teacher was Mr. David Petron. We each had a semi-private lesson and then a group lesson afterwards during the afternoon. Mr. Petron was a very different kind of teacher for me. He talked a lot about the Suzuki "circle tone" which means using the elbow more to move the bow. Then, during group lesson, while we played Minuet 1, we had to do the waltz step forward and backward which was really hard to do while we kept playing. Mostly everyone got mixed up on that one. Then he divided the group in half and played Twinkle and May Song the way Mrs. Blum does. It was great to play with other viola people."

Andrew McNulty, Cello and Violin Departments--

"Mrs. Field was in charge of my group which had 4 players. We were all about the same age and working on the same literature which made for a really close group. She is a very positive person and I got a great deal out of her time with me. It is always neat to work with a different teacher to see how a piece can be played a little differently and better. We were working on the Brevi Sonata and she really brightened it up a bit with a few changes. After my lesson with her, I had to come back to ECC to audition for the scholarship for summer study and I was going to play this piece, so it came out a bit stronger and I won 4th place. I'm looking forward to the Lake Forest Institute because they will be having Chamber Music again like last year with Dr. Vamos."

Matt McNulty, Violin--

"We had three violin students in the private lesson class, so we each had plenty of time with David Petron who

also taught viola. He is really picky about position and bow hold. The play-in after group with Mrs. Hudler was held in the large concert hall and was really great. It was not as formal as the summer institutes, and everyone was really relaxed during the final concert. It was over too soon since it was all just one day, so I'm looking forward to the summer institute with my brothers at Lake Forest because we'll have five full days.

A New Column To Our Newsletter--Dear Suki:

The Write Note now has a helpful medium through which parents can ask questions that might be of interest to all Suzuki parents--Dear Suki. If you have a question or suggestion for this column please give it to Mrs. Blum. Who knows? Maybe "Suki" will answer it in the next issue of the Write Note! It can offer us all new ideas.

Dear SUKI,

I know it is good for my child to listen to the entire Suzuki violin tape every day, but what about when I want him to hear his newest piece frequently? Is there an easier way than backtracking over and over on the tape?

Signed,
Listening Parent

Dear Listening Parent,

Yes, there is a better way! Use an endless cassette tape. The Ability Development catalog advertises them this way, and it is really true: "Just record one or more songs on these cassettes, and they will play over and over--without attention to the recorder. An effortless way for your child to listen repeatedly to his latest song." Their three-minute endless tapes list at \$4.20 each (+shipping) and can be a boon to specific listening. But you can't buy these tapes just anywhere. If you can't find them locally write: Ability Development, Box 4260, Athens, Ohio 45701-4260.

Signed,
SUKI

FOCUS ON BOOKS:

The Write Note wants to offer parents the opportunity to share what they have learned from books they have found helpful or inspiring. We hope this column continues with your efforts! Thanks to Beth Carow for the following book report.

Ability Development From Age Zero, by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

As I attempt to write a 'short' synopsis of this book, I find the task more difficult than I had anticipated. Dr. Suzuki's style of writing is somewhat unconventional. He writes as if he were merely jotting down his thoughts for the day. But, regardless of his style, he is one of the best, most important educators in the world today.

Dr. Suzuki's basic premise is that "Talent is not inborn." It is controlled by a child's early education and nurtured from age zero to five years. The philosophy stems from an observation Dr. Suzuki made thirty years ago. He noticed that Japanese children were able to master the Japanese language excellently by the ages of six or seven. He refers to this theory as Mother Tongue Education. Since children have the ability to learn such a complicated and sophisticated process, then, in turn, they have the ability to learn many more facts that are presented.

Dr. Suzuki also speaks of nurturing children with love, kindness, and sensitivity. He believes this nurturing is basically the responsibility of the parents. He emphasizes music in the world as being of prime importance. Says Dr. Suzuki, "We do not have to become professional musicians. It is enough to grow up playing the violin."

One last point Dr. Suzuki presents which I believe reflects an important part of his theory is the extreme importance of educating the very young. He sites the example of a withering seedling which, he explains cannot be suddenly doused with fertilizer and water and be expected to grow. As with the seedling, we as parents cannot begin to educate our

children at age five when they enter kindergarten and expect them to grow. We must begin the formal educational process at birth.

Dr. Suzuki closes his book with a beautiful thought which reflects his purpose: "If this book becomes a light of hope for mothers who love their children and wish for them to grow up wonderfully, I could not be happier."

Note: If anyone wants further information on Dr. Suzuki's works, please contact me. Presently, both my children attend Summit School in Dundee which is patterned after his theories and curriculum and they work!

Beth Carow
742-4476

Summer Workshops:

It is always refreshing to hear other children play and see how other teachers teach. Suzuki children are fortunate in that they can take part in summer institutes at such an early age. These are held in all areas of the country throughout the summer. Check the table on Wednesday afternoons at group: the summer directory will be there. One workshop not in the directory will be at River Forest July 2 through 6. You should be getting more information on that in your mail.

Students Who Have Been There:

When asked the question, "What do you remember about a Suzuki Institute?" students answered this way:

Natalie Steinbach: "Fun, hard work, exciting, practicing old things and learning new things, good food, meeting new people, concerts, talent show or solo."

Morna Gibbons: "It was good. And our teacher was very nice. But the classes were too close together."

Becky Blum: "Meeting new friends, play-ins were fun. Staying in a high-rise dorm."

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Miki Roche who finished Book I and received her violin pin.

Students who have completed Book II and received their tuning forks are:

Amy Kaupisch Sarah Palomaki

Miki Roche Tony Bradburn

Kevin Stephano

Coming in the Fall:

The fall edition of the Write Note will continue the columns started in the earlier editions: "Teacher's Page," "Special Students" Feature, and "Student Reporter." If you want to be the Student Reporter for the fall--let us know.

Also, we hope to have lots of new ideas from you all about what to include!

Hooray for Andrew McNulty!

Andrew, a cellist with the Elgin Youth Orchestra, was awarded \$50 by the Elgin Symphony Women's League for his playing ability. He will use that money to attend a summer Suzuki Institute.

Want Ads:

FOR RENT: Narrow quarter size violin.
Call Fran Huges. 464-5426

LOTS OF SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR AD IN
THE NEXT WRITE NOTE!!!!!!



the end

by Elizabeth Stephano