



The Write Note



Volume 1 Issue 2

February, 1998



From the President's Desk

HELLO.....Hope the 1998 holidays have been good to you so far-New Year's, Martin Luther King Day, Ground Hog's Day and that all important Valentine's Day. ☺

We all know that holidays make for special memories, so why not add Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday on March 21st to your list of days to remember? Suzuki Plus is happy to announce it's 3rd annual Bach's lunch, which will be celebrated on Thurs., March 19th. In honor of J.S. Bach's 313th birthday, we will once again be working hard to fill those boxes with a delicious lunch. Bach by popular demand. So, fill in the blanks on the Music House sign-up wall and come help Suzuki Plus celebrate Bach's birthday by joining in on the fun of Bach's Lunch.

Do you need an excuse for another holiday in February? How about bringing the whole family to your child's performance during Recital Week, Feb. 23-26 at ECC. It's not too late to plan for a party afterward (or perhaps a shopping trip to Jewel) and of course the timing couldn't be better for you to use your Jewel Shop and Share coupons. This is such an easy way to raise money for Suzuki Plus. Just give the Shop and Share coupon to the cashier at any Jewel location and we get 5% of the total amount purchased. During our dates in November, 28 people participated and we earned 109.94!!! So spread those coupons out amongst your family and friends and use them Feb. 23, 24 or 25th.

I hope you have all been reading the ESTE Notes and Calendar For The Week. This most beneficial schedule is being constantly updated by Jeff Goodlove. Please check each calendar that is put in your file, because even though they may look the same, each issue may contain new info about upcoming events and important holidays. Many thanks to Jeff for helping us all attempt to stay a little more organized. ☺

Since we're on the subject of holidays-let's think ahead to the month of May. Many exciting occasions occur during May. There is Mother's Day (perfect reason to buy flowers from Suzuki Plus), Graduations, Memorial Day and the ESTE Spring Concert on Saturday, May 16, 1998. Mark your calendars for the week of rehearsal and purchase your reserved seat tickets now. "Suzuki is-Training For The Whole Child" and obviously that means a busy, yet rewarding schedule.

With that in mind, let us all take a moment to reflect upon the life and recent passing of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. His method of talent education has touched the lives of so very many people throughout the world. His life has enabled us all to learn and enjoy beautiful music-for ourselves and for our children. Now is the perfect time to pick up a copy of "Nurtured by Love" and refamiliarize yourselves with his philosophies. Our lives are richer because of him. Dr. Suzuki says, "For the sake of the children, let us educate them from the cradle to have a noble mind, a high sense of values, and splendid ability." What more can I say?

Happily Yours Once Again,
Bette Biasotti, President ☺

This issue of *The Write Note* is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki.



BOOK GRADUATIONS

Volume 1

Esther Fiebig - Violin
Ryan Shyu - Violin
Lupita Martinez - Flute
Stefanie Hendricks - Bass

Volume 2

Jenna Barba - Violin
Alex Fiebig - Violin
Amy Tompkins - Violin
Meghan Bonham - Flute
Stefanie Hendricks - Bass

Volume 3

Carla Klehm - Violin
Lauren Klehm - Flute

Volume 4

Jennifer Fester - Violin
Talitha Klehm - Violin

Volume 5

Hanna Jueng - Violin
Colin Maki - Violin

Volume 6

Parkson Lin - Violin
Jonathan Richards - Violin



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Spring Program - Tom & Lisa Rougas

A CONTEST !! A CONTEST !! A CONTEST !!

Name the Performance Groups!!

Books 1 and 2 group and Books 3 and 4 group

For example Books 5 and up is named the Tempo One Performing Group

Just put **your** suggestions (using a musical theme), along with your name on a slip of paper and insert it into the box in the music house for the contest.

The winner in each category will win 2 movie passes for the Elgin Fox Theatre!!!!

So, get **your** entries in soon--Contest ends **March 15!**

THANKS !!

Thanks to Vickie Wiese for the donation of a video camera so that students in all studios can video tape their lessons!!!

THANKS !!

New Concert Dress Update

If you are one of the many forty-five ESTE students who have already performed during the 1997-1998 school year, you should already have the New Concert Dress requirements. Now is the time to check to be sure that your cummerbund fits properly-the velcro in the back should overlap to meet perfectly or slightly over, not too tight so that the velcro shows on the outside. The cummerbunds should fit loosely over the pants. If yours is too tight or too loose, please let us know now before we make the cummerbunds for the other students. Please put your child's name on a piece of masking tape and put it inside the plaid bottom pleat to avoid C.C. (cummerbund confusion) at the performances!

Please also check the fit of your pants-both boys and girls-and remember that all shoes, socks and hair accessories must be BLACK!

For those of you who will be playing at performances later in the year, we will be getting your measurements in March to prepare for the Spring Program on Saturday, May 16th at ECC.

Please note that cummerbunds and ties are to be dry-cleaned only.

If you have any questions, or are interested in helping to make the remaining 40+ outfits, please call Bette Biasotti at (847) 428-0719 or Chris Galvin at (847) 426-7743.

If you have seen the students perform in the new outfits, I am certain you will agree that they now look as good as they sound!!!



This contribution may need a bit of explanation. My cello and bass students must all study "The Moon Over the Ruined Castle," a decidedly sad song. In order to find the sadness within themselves and to bring it out in their music, I ask them to invent a story. Why is the castle ruined? Who is witnessing this scene? How does the moon add to it? Stefanie chose to express it this way.....

Moon Over the Ruined Castle

by: Stefanie Hendricks

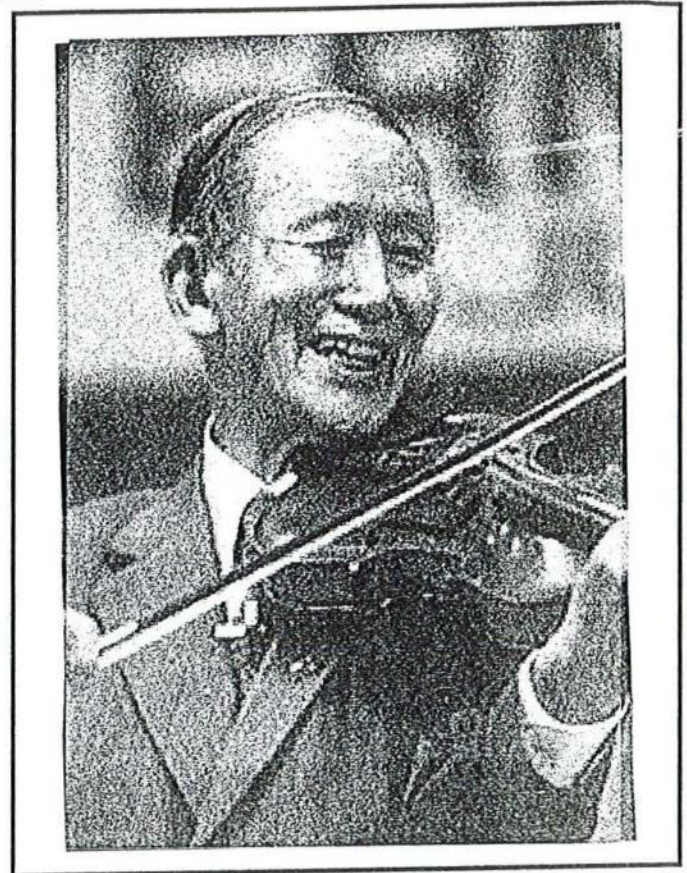
Once there was a prince and a princess. One day they found a ruined castle. The prince told the princess to wait outside while he went in the castle. The princess waited and waited, but the prince never came out. Finally, the princess went home and requested that the guards go in the castle and try to find the prince. The guards came out and they told the princess that the prince was dead. She cried and cried. She cried for three weeks. She wished that the prince never died.

In Memory of
Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

1898-1998



"The future of the world lies with the children"



"Man is a son of his environment"



The National Concert in Japan-1991, Lamar Blum was privileged to present Dr. Suzuki with her special Orchid, The Shinichi Suzuki Orchid

A TRIBUTE

DR. SHINICHI SUZUKI 1898 - 1998

It was hardly 50 years ago that major symphony orchestras were concerned that they would not have enough players to fill the vacancies that were left by retiring players. The importance and interest in music as a career was waning. Science was the exciting direction. What was so important about making music? The "Space Race" seemed to be the direction for an exciting and significant career. Enter Suzuki - with his ability to develop musical skills in children as early as three and four years old. Unheard of - what's the trick? Skeptics reasoned it was an Oriental gimmick. Yet, a handful of insightful music educators went to Japan to explore what caused this phenomenon. As a result of their diligence in investigating and returning with reports of, "It's true, it works!", within 25 years, orchestras are so full with outstanding string players at young ages that auditions are highly selective and competitive. Because of Suzuki, there is a "healthy economy" in the music world.

Who is this man who reversed the tide of the music world? Who is Suzuki that he knew intuitively what behaviorists are just now understanding? How dare he say that music isn't an inborn talent. What authority did he have to say that the environment in which a child is raised is more influential than the genetic coding passed down from his parents. Such radical thinkers are usually talked about by the press, criticized by colleagues; interviewed and quoted for the public to decide for themselves the values of his ideas. Humanitarians like Albert Schweitzer and Mother Theresa, the scientific genius of Albert Einstein and Marie Curie are heralded throughout the world. Suzuki ranks in stature with them - yet, a large portion of the world does not recognize Suzuki's contributions.

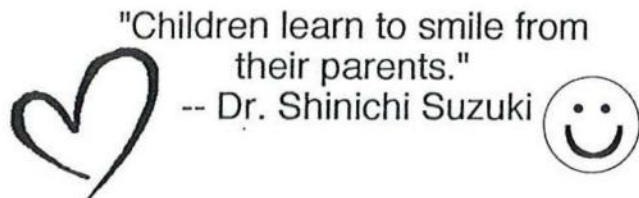
What attracted me to Suzuki violin? I was intrigued by the result of learning an instrument that I didn't want to play - little steps made for easy success. If I did what my teacher showed me, I learned. That fascinated me. The music was interesting - none of this counting whole notes for six pages with a scratchy tone - Suzuki offered the rhythms of the great masters as an introduction to playing the instrument. No music to interpret, use your ears, imitate what you hear - I was encouraged at every step. This was different. I was in music school where I was used to being corrected when I made a mistake. After all, how can you learn something if you don't know what you did wrong? Suzuki says encouragement nurtures the person in a way that gives the confidence to try again. We do not correct a child when he says his first words. We provide praise and celebration! Music can be taught the same way. I was fascinated how my attitude was changed by the approach of the teaching and the teacher.

What has Dr. Suzuki provided me? From my college days when I was first introduced to the Suzuki Method until now, I have been involved in a movement to continue what Dr. Suzuki has set forth. His philosophy has given me a lifestyle as well as career direction and foundation for my own teaching. It has provided me with a love of music that might have come to a dead end if I hadn't been introduced to Suzuki Method. I have had the privilege of being in the first generation of teachers who are passing on Suzuki's ideas. I have a camaraderie of colleagues who uphold Suzuki philosophy as being some of the important work of the era. I have the joy and satisfaction of putting Suzuki Method into practice with your children.

He considered himself a servant to mankind with a single focus of making better human beings through music. His ultimate goal of "Peace in the world through the music of children" resounds on every continent. Why isn't he recognized by more people as someone who has changed educational patterns? Those of us involved shake our heads and ask the same question. Maybe it's because he didn't write a book. Maybe it's because he didn't hold a press conference and announce his discoveries on satellite television. Maybe it takes being involved in Dr. Suzuki's practices where one begins to see his greatness-his unique approach to learning. Being in his presence was treasured time. Whether time spent was long or short, the contact with him changed a person. He modeled what he wanted, laughing and playing with students. We all knew we were with someone of unique value to us and to mankind. Still, it is hard to explain.

Time moves on and an era has passed. The Suzuki movement has had an encouraging beginning. What is important to me is Dr. Suzuki's goal - to help children fulfill their capabilities as human beings, "Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens, noble human beings. If a child hears fine music from the day of his birth, and learns to play it himself, he develops sensitivity, discipline and endurance. He gets a beautiful heart."

Lamar Blum



"Children learn to smile from
their parents."
-- Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

Super!

That Special Practice Time!

Are you tired of the same old practice habits?? Do your kids race through a song just to "get it over with?" We have found a way to make weekend practicing fun. Since we usually play our instruments right after school during the week, dad isn't home to listen, and he NEVER goes to a lesson. Therefore, he doesn't really know how to help when practicing and certainly doesn't know what is the correct bow hold or position, etc... To get him more involved and give mom a break, we play the "30 Point Game" whenever he is home on the weekends. Each child selects songs they want to play, and he gives them points based on the difficulty of the piece, speed of playing (the slower the better), if it sounds pleasing to the ear and other things like keeping the bow thumb bent, etc... Deductions would be made for making mistakes with the bow or playing way out of tune! (Even dad can tell THAT!!) The most points given per song is "10," and the practice time isn't finished until the child reaches at least 30 points. For a more advanced student you can try 40 points, but keep it fun!

This really helps with technique because the students don't rush and they seem to play their best for dad! This could work with a neighbor or grandparent, just someone who doesn't usually get involved with lesson time. It is a nice change of pace for those of you who are "stuck in a rut." Good Luck!



Coming Soon...

Suzuki Plus Flower Sale



Look for order forms in your family files
in the coming weeks.

Offered in this event are geraniums,
a wide selection of quality annuals,
and hanging baskets.

These make great Mother's Day gifts!!

Use that video camera!!

At Mrs. Blum's violin studio, one of the things that amazed me the first time when Ryan just started with Mrs. Blum was that we could video record the whole private lesson. This really helps us a lot. Ryan could play along with the tape at home. For some Christmas songs, not on the regular Suzuki tape, Ryan could still play along by watching the tape that Mrs. Blum played in class.

Watching the tape at home reminded us of a lot of things that Mrs. Blum taught in class which we might have forgotten otherwise, and solved a lot of problems that came from the things I could not catch up with in class.

When starting a new song, this video tape could show the clear fingering and bowing that Mrs. Blum did in class. This has helped Ryan learn new songs faster.

I appreciate this policy and the convenience ESTE provides.

Huan Shyu

**Just a reminder--there are cameras in both studios now, thanks to one donated by Vickie Wiese. Instructions are next to the camera. Bring a blank tape and see yourself on camera!!



We Three Kings of Random Acts of Kindness are....
Scott Rougas.....Joel Seigle.....Richard Dean

These kind young men were crowned at the ESTE
Christmas party held at the Gail Bordon Public Library

Fast Breaking News!!!

Mark Schambach placed 2nd chair in the IMEA district bass auditions, which means that he will probably attend All State as well.



November

- 2 Margot Seigle
- 2 Lisa Maenpaa
- 8 Hannah Vogel
- 11 Alexander Joyce
- 23 Jennifer Fester
- 30 Richard Dean



Dawn Hummel and Greg Schambach won chairs in the IMEA district Middle School orchestra. Bravi!!!
Virginia Dixon



December

- 5 Dawn DeVries
- 6 Ryan Shyu
- 11 Steve Lorado
- 14 Cory Hansen Bunting
- 17 Austin Baron
- 22 Bridget Mortell
- 22 Jonathan Richards
- 23 Sam Stevenson
- 24 Greg Schambach

KUDOS!!!!!!!

Congratulations to **JOANNA RICHARDSON** who has been accepted into the Fine Arts Academy at Larkin High School beginning in the Fall of 1998.

January

- 11 Lauren Klehm
- 15 Lindsey Jones
- 15 Travis Novak
- 25 Abbey Galvin
- 27 Alexandra Luciani
- 29 Carl Porter

February

- 1 Hanna Jueng
- 13 Roelle Eugenio
- 17 Heather Petry
- 18 Jessica Fester
- 18 Bobbie Lamothe
- 28 Alex Fiebig
- 28 Esther Fiebig



35 Families participated in the Innisbrook Giftwrap Fund-raiser and together raised \$1,311.51 for Suzuki Plus.

Top Selling Awards

Bradley Biasotti.....\$50.00
Scott Rougas.....\$ 30.00
Abbey Galvin.....\$20.00



DAY CLUB

What is the 100-200-365-500-1000+ DAY CLUB?

It is an exclusive club consisting of the students in ESTE that have practiced each day consistently, without missing a day; 100 days, 200 days etc... The rules to follow have been to play each day. If they miss a day, they must start over again in counting the days. If a child is sick, they still need to listen to their tapes and then they won't lose out. I've been asked about vacations and what to do. It is best to confer with your child's teacher, but sometimes it is not practical to take an instrument into the North Woods. If they continue to listen to their tapes daily, they are still in the club. They can also practice fingerings. You also may be able to practice, "what is this note?" on flash cards while in the car if your child is into note reading. Some of what is appropriate is dependent on age. If you have any questions, please call Dale Mink at (847) 426-3802 and I would be happy to assist you in answering them.

What do you get for all your hard work?

For each level attained the student received an item with an original, hand painted, glow-in-the dark, Dale Mink design. The items were:

100 days.....T-Shirt
 200 days.....Hat
 365 days.....Leggings/Sweatshirt
 500 days.....Tote Bag
 700 days.....Big Cookie
 1000 days.....Sweatshirt



Congratulations to each of the following students for their accomplishments. Great Work!!! Keep it Up!!!

100 DAY CLUB

Bradley Biasotti

Meghan Bonham
 Richard Dean
 Esther Fiebig
 Jacquilin Goodlove
 Michael Haeffliger
 Charlie Klehm
 Steve Lorado
 Trisha Kellenberger
 Eva Martinez
 Ashley Miller
 Lauren Mink
 Ryan Shyu
 Lizzie Vicars
 Justine Yoder

200 DAY CLUB

Jenna Barba
 Richard Dean
 Mike Eschenbach
 Sara Evanusich
 Jenny Fester
 Alex Fiebig
 Anna Goodlove
 Abbey Galvin
 Nathan Kappas
 Jon Richards
 Scott Rougas
 Abigail Stevenson
 Lisa Tippy
 Amy Tomkins
 Melissa Van Dusen

365 DAY CLUB

Bobbie Lamothe

500 DAY CLUB

Meghan Fritz
 Jennifer Mink

700 DAY CLUB

Sarah Chaffee
 Joel Seigle

1000 DAY CLUB

Brennan Biasotti
 Carl Porter

1200 DAY CLUB

Erik Malmquist
 Lisa Malmquist

1515 DAY CLUB

Margot Seigle

(If I have missed a name or am late in updating your child's star, please put a reminder note in my family file. I sometimes get distracted from what I really intended to do and I appreciate the reminder.)

In celebration of the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, Suzuki Plus will again sponsor a Bach's lunch fund raiser. Our first lunch, held in March 1996, garnered over \$700.00 for our treasury. Last year, over 260 lunches were sold with our profit nearing \$1,000.00. Monies earned assist with funding scholarships for students attending mini-institute or workshops.

Planning for the third annual lunch, to be held March 19, 1998 has begun. It's not too early to offer assistance. Tasks which are begun in January and completed prior to March include preparing flyers, advertising, soliciting orders and donations, coordinating orders and ordering supplies. Those completed just prior to, or on the lunch date include packing pickles, assembling and packing boxes, baking brownies, making sandwiches and finally, delivering orders.

The lunches have received rave reviews. Quality ingredients packed with care have made this an excellent project for Suzuki Plus. But, we need YOU to help this project grow. To offer your assistance, drop a note in the Maki Family File--no offer will be refused! Say "Yes!" when we call for help. Mark your calendars today and help us celebrate Bach's birthday in 1998.

Resolving the Rosin Dilemma

by: Robin Seigle



Anybody ever have rosin that is all cracked and in about 20 pieces? A great way to fix this problem is to wrap the entire block of rosin in a piece of aluminum foil, real tight, and bake in a very low oven (250 to 300 degrees). After about 10 minutes remove from oven, but don't unwrap the rosin until it had begun to cool. Otherwise it will turn into a big puddle of melted rosin!! Good Luck!!!

"Quotable Quotes"

A professor at the University of California at Irvine.

"But arts education is not a frill; it's a facilitator of brain development. Depriving young children of art and music is like denying them a fundamental tool for making sense of the world that will aid them the rest of their lives."

WANTED---Piano accompanist for flute group class. Must be able to play through flute volume 3 accompaniments. Flute classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 pm Mondays at the Music House. If you are interested, or know someone who might be-call Lamar Blum at (847) 695-7216.






Shop and Share

Were you 1 of the 28 people who used a Jewel Shop and Share coupon in November? If so, be proud to know that you helped raise \$109.94 for Suzuki Plus.

It is so easy--just hand the cashier the yellow Shop and Share coupon with payment for your purchase, sign it after the amount is entered and Suzuki Plus automatically makes a 5% profit from the total.

You should have received Shop and Share coupons in your family file recently--please take additional coupons for your family and friends. It costs nothing extra for this service! Lets beat the previous total this month!!
P.S. The Pharmacy and Camera Counter take the coupons also. It adds up!!

Shop & Share Identification Slip										
		0140436								
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Signature _____										
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Admit One

March 16, 1998
Elgin Suzuki Talent Education
Spring Performance



Get your reserved seat tickets now for the
ESTE Spring Performance
on sale Feb. 9
call (847) 622-0300 for tickets

Who is very little and lives
underground in New York?

a metronome

MUSIC WORD FINDER No. 5

D	A	T	M	U	I	N	O	H	P	U	E
N	O	E	Z	G	R	I	E	G	R	I	D
H	T	N	E	T	L	K	T	N	E	T	A
O	T	O	G	B	U	L	G	T	S	S	Z
S	R	N	U	I	A	A	U	A	U	O	A
S	O	G	F	R	O	L	I	C	B	T	R
L	L	R	U	I	F	V	T	S	M	O	E
E	L	T	D	C	F	L	A	T	U	A	H
D	A	I	I	I	V	E	R	N	H	G	E
N	X	G	R	I	N	G	D	K	N	N	H
E	A	Z	I	T	H	E	R	I	U	I	C
M	S	D	A	L	L	A	B	T	E	S	S

ballad
bugle
dirge
Don Giovanni
euphonium
fife
flat
Grieg
guitar
hum

kit
Magic Flute
Mendelssohn
natural
nonet
ring
roundel
sax
scat
Scheherazade
set

sing
sordine
tenth
Tosti
trill
troll
tune
tutti
uke
zither

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Can you or someone you know help Suzuki Plus with any of the following items?

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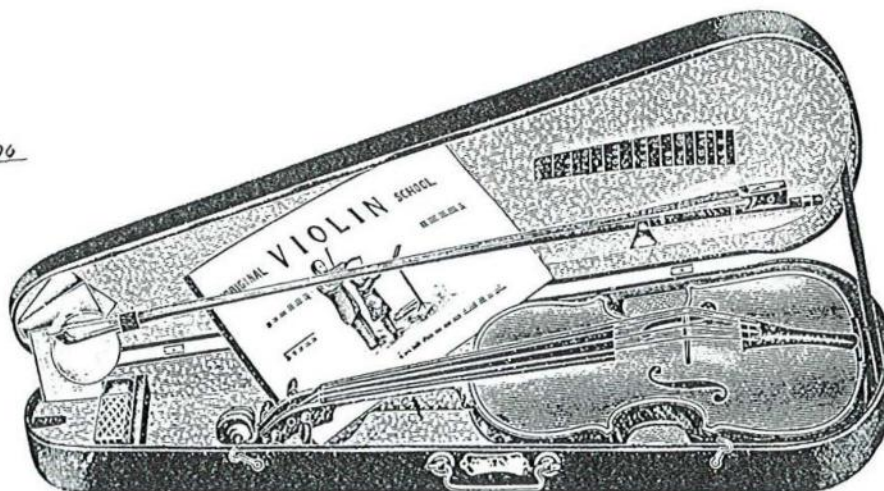
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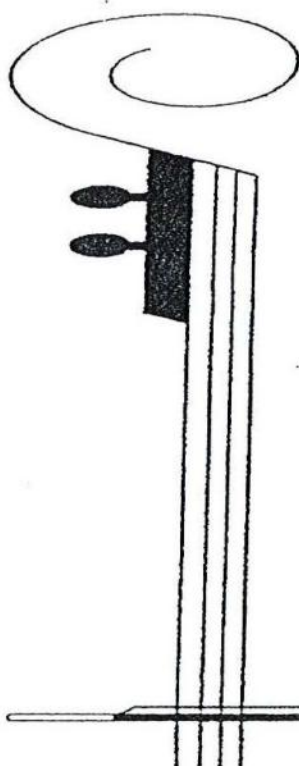
Keyboard to be used upstairs at the Music House

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Someone interested in seeking grants for ESTE

Please contact Bette Biasotti - 847-428-0719 if you have any info to share.....☺





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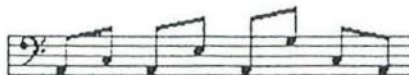
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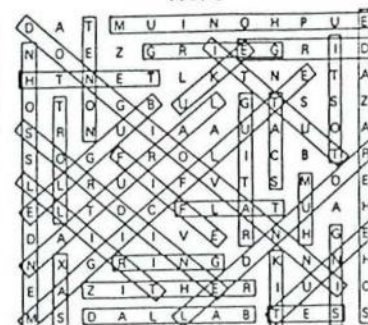
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