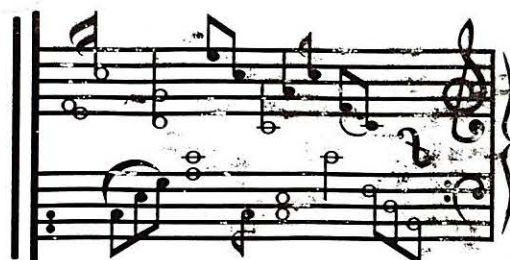


Volume 2, Issue 1

# The Write Note



October 1999

## From the President's Desk...

"What in the world am I going to write about?" Once again, this was my first panicked thought as I faced the composing of another missive for the newsletter. But, before even one drop of cold sweat formed on my brow, scads of things you all need to know about came to mind. So, rather than waste a minute of your time, let's get down to business.

We officially kicked off the 1999-2000 year with our September board meeting, at which I was extremely pleased to introduce Madhu Desai as our new Treasurer. We are truly grateful that Madhu has so cheerfully agreed to fill this position for us. Her dedication and thoroughness is already apparent, though we are but two months into our year.

For those of you who may be unaware, Suzuki Plus board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month during the regular lesson year. They begin at 7:15 p.m. and are held at the Music House. **These meetings are open to any and all of you.** That is not just something I feel obligated to say, it is something I say because we (the Suzuki Plus Board) wholeheartedly MEAN it. The issues we discuss affect YOU! YOUR input is important. We want you to become involved and to be a vested part of Suzuki Plus. PLEASE, make an effort to attend one or more meetings - consider this a personal invitation.

On September 25, 1999 we held our third annual "Bonfire Bash" once again graciously hosted by John and Lamar Blum. There were fun and games, good food and even face painting. This year's "Bash" provided us with a special treat - the Pingree Grove Fire Department came with one of their engines to give the kids a fire safety presentation. I use the term "kids" very loosely, because as I recall, there were several grown men who hovered around the fire truck long after the kids had left asking questions and admiring the tools and equipment. After the presentation, anyone who wished was able to climb on and in the fire truck as well as try on all the gear. Finally, before they left, the firefighters lit our enormous bonfire for us. A note of thanks and a donation

were sent to the Pingree Grove Fire Department for their kindness. I think I speak for everyone when I say a wonderful time was had by all.

Our first fund-raiser of the year has been completed. Thanks to everyone who participated by selling wrapping paper and gifts to friends and family. If you instead opted to donate money to Suzuki Plus directly we also thank you. As you have already read in the letter placed in your family file by Dale Mink we are going to undertake an additional means of raising funds this year - FUNDABILITY. By taking the small amount of time needed to fill out the order form you can earn dollars for Suzuki Plus. Without spending any money you wouldn't ordinarily spend, you purchase purchasing cash certificates to use at stores you regularly shop at. This could not be any less painless!

Why do we need all this money, you may ask? For a variety of many good reasons all of which relate directly to the children in our program. Here are some concrete examples of how we have used funds this year. Suzuki Plus will disburse over \$2200.00 this year in scholarship money directly to students of our program. We recently purchased a new, and much needed, keyboard that will allow us to continue to provide performing opportunities for students. We are in the process of researching and shopping for an amplifier to further enhance the capabilities of the new keyboard. Contracts for space rental have already been signed for the Spring Concert, a huge financial commitment made each year by Suzuki Plus so that students have the opportunity to perform in a professional venue.

Finally, please mark your calendars with the following important dates. December 13, 1999 will be our annual Holiday Party, make plans to attend and watch your family file for details on the time and place. March 18 & 19, 2000 will be the dates of our Mini Institute. Block that weekend on your calendars for what will be a new, exciting and expanded experience for everyone.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Vogel  
(847) 683-4954



## A Year Under My Belt (Practice Tips)

by Sandy Rea

Because Alaina began her Suzuki training at 2 1/2 years old, we had to incorporate a lot of play into our practice time. One of the methods that really worked in the early going was having concerts for a few cherished stuffed animals. We would have the stuffed animals sit in a row and each would request Alaina to do or play something with her violin. The animals learned the violin parts and would sing to her. They would sing "Up Like a Rocket" and she would clap. Soon enough she was doing it along with them. This method worked well because it wasn't her mother asking, it was a bear or a raccoon (Rocky to be exact). We would then take the best audience member to her private lesson to watch. On the way home from our private lesson the animal would congratulate her and give her a big kiss. She would hug him tight and say "Let's do it again next week". It really worked.

Now that she is 3 1/2 years old we are on the reward system. I work part-time just to pay for all the stickers I buy (just kidding). She gets to pick out some stickers when we grocery shop each week, it makes her feel she has control in the process. We have a spare room in our house that is called Alaina's Studio., It is only for violin lessons. It has no toys, only her violin, stickers, stickers and more stickers. I made a poster board with the days of the week, like a calendar and she puts stickers on it after successfully completing a task. Our lessons take a long time because we stop after earning a sticker to choose and strategically ( I mean strategically) place the sticker on the poster board.

In the desperate late summer days when playtime outside was so precious, I would pretend to call Mrs. Blum and put her on the speaker phone. I would tell Alaina we have to stay focused because Mrs. Blum is very busy and she just has time to listen and then she has to give a lesson to another child. This would help her focus on what I was asking her to do. If she would play something wrong she would yell, " Sorry Mrs. Blum - I'm starting again". After her practice time, she would run down to the speaker phone and pick it up and say hello Mrs. Blum - See ya tomorrow! This also worked well.

I give direction to Alaina on all matters of her life - brush your teeth, pick-up your toys, get you shoes, don't torture the dogs, etc., when it comes to violin, it has helped that I became some other creature to give her direction. This also helps a late 30's mother clear her cluttered mind and have a little bit of fun!

Good Luck to you and your child!



## Suzuki Plus Board Members

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## Why Teach Music?

Music is a science

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's and pianist's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a foreign language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is history

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

Music is physical education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all these things, but most of all, Music is art. It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring, (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will

### **THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!**

**NOT because we expect you to major in music**

**NOT because we expect you to play or sing all your life**

**NOT so you can relax**

**NOT so you can have fun**

**BUT so you will be human**

**so you will recognize beauty**

**so you will be sensitive**

**so you will be close to an infinite beyond this world**

**so you will have something to cling to**

**so you will have more love, more compassion,**

**more gentleness, more good - in short, more life.**

**Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?**

### **THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!**

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by Lamar Blum

Last Spring, I decided to take a look at the entire ESTE student body and where each student is in their book progress. Even since May the charts have changed. Chart A shows the number of students playing each instrument. These have gone up with the fall enrollment. Chart B shows which book students are in putting all instruments together and, of course, this has shifted. Take a look at which column your child is in. Some questions to ask would be: how long has my child studied his/her instrument? How long has he/she been in this book? Am I satisfied with my child's progress? If not, what can I do about it?

Remember that we are not here to see how fast we can teach your child pieces, but to help make your musical journey a time of learning how to approach the successful study of a musical instrument; to nurture you and your child into developing an appreciation for the beauty of the music he/she can make and to teach the skill necessary for fine musicianship. Remember Dr. Suzuki's statement "All children can learn". With the right combination of the above, your child will make progress on his instrument.

Save this newsletter and compare it to charts in the next issue where you will find an updated and more detailed account of our students.

**Students by Instrument**

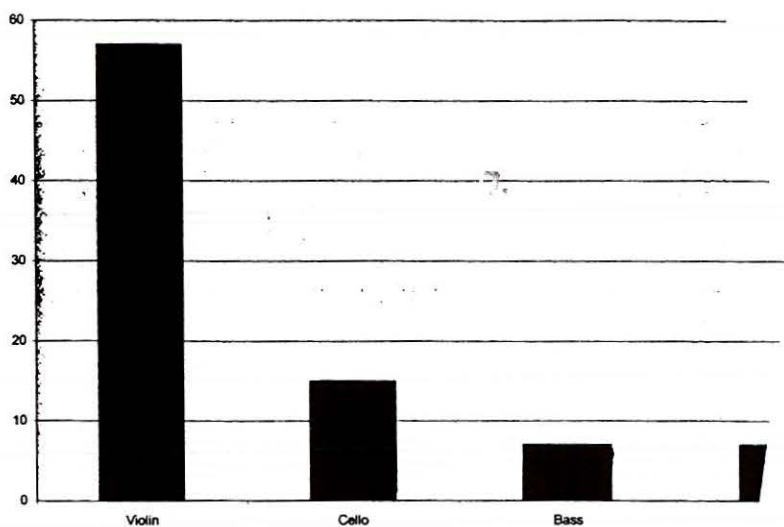
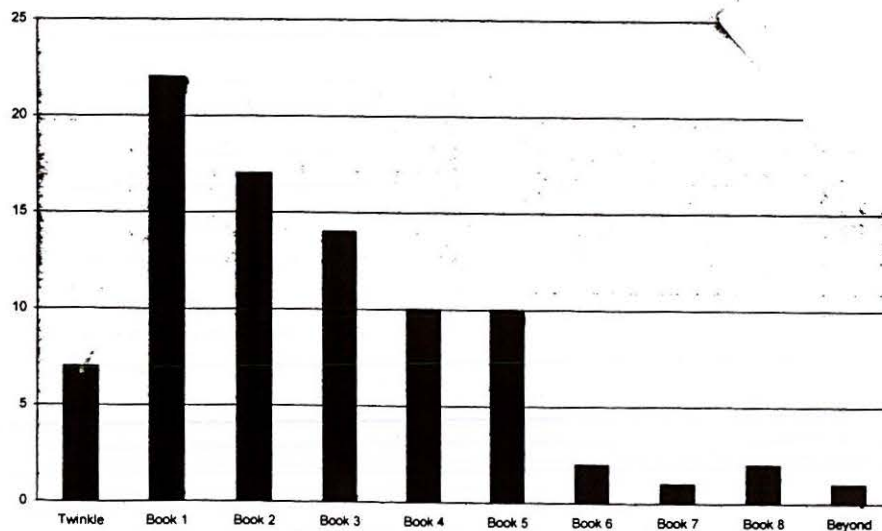


Chart A

**Students by Book Level**

Chart B





## Library Notes

Barbara Dawson - ESTE Librarian

Welcome back everyone...the library is open and has already received two generous donations:

CD - The Mozart Effect

donated by Lamar Blum

Book - Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls

donated by Ruth Bradburn

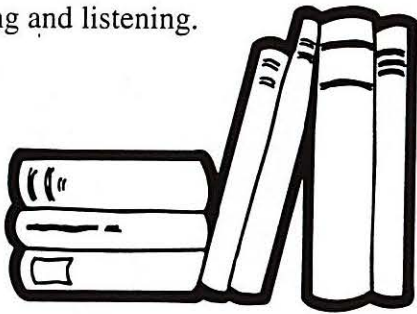
Thank you both for your very thoughtful gifts.

A couple of items have been brought to may attention by observing parents. Our library books are available not only for our ESTE students and parents but also for siblings. However, please, if during a lesson, a sibling is reading one of our library books, watch that it is not used as a coloring book and that it is returned to the shelves. We take great pride in our small but growing library. I would also like to mention that there are some books that were checked out last Spring that have not yet been returned. I have put reminder sheets in your family folder to jog your memories! We ask that materials are checked out for no longer than 2-3 weeks at a time. This way, others get a chance to enjoy the materials and it helps to keep things from getting lost or misplaced.

Checking out Library material is easy. Just sign and date the card located in the book, game, CD or cassette of your choice. Put the card in the pocket located in your family folder and enjoy! When returning the material, remove the card from your family folder and place it back into the pocket on the book, CD, etc.

Lastly, if you read, listen to or hear about something that you think would be a perfect addition to our library, please let us know or better yet ...MAKE A DONATION!

Happy reading and listening.



## FYI Area Orchestras

### *Elgin Youth*

Want something to do.

Come see Jenny Mink and Johnathan Richards members of the Youth Orchestra and Alex Fiebig, Bradley Biasotti, Margot Seigle, Sara Evanusich, Nathan Kappes, Justine Yoder Emily Lambert, Sarah Lee, Leah Vento and Christine Riotto members of the String Orchestra play at ECC VPAC Stage 1. Concert dates and times are as follows:

November 30 at 7:30 p.m.

March 7 at 7:30 p.m.

May 9 at 7:30

Show the many ESTE students you support them by attending one or all of the concerts. What a great experience for younger students to witness.

-----

### *Dundee Middle School*

Dundee Middle School (7th and 8th grade) Orchestra students will take part in a festival at Dundee-Crown High School on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:30 pm. This will be a concert with combined Middle School and High School students.

---

## Dr. Milton Goldberg Says:

Author of The Violin Column says..."When my students say they don't have time to practice, I ask them if they have their own room. Most of them say "yes". Then, I ask if they have a pet and most of them say "no". So, I tell them to leave their violin (cello, flute or bass) case open in their room so that when they come to their room for a few minutes they can do a few scales, some review or one piece. It is amazing how the few minutes' add up to some worthwhile practicing."

Our thanks to Dr. Goldberg for submitting this to our newsletter.

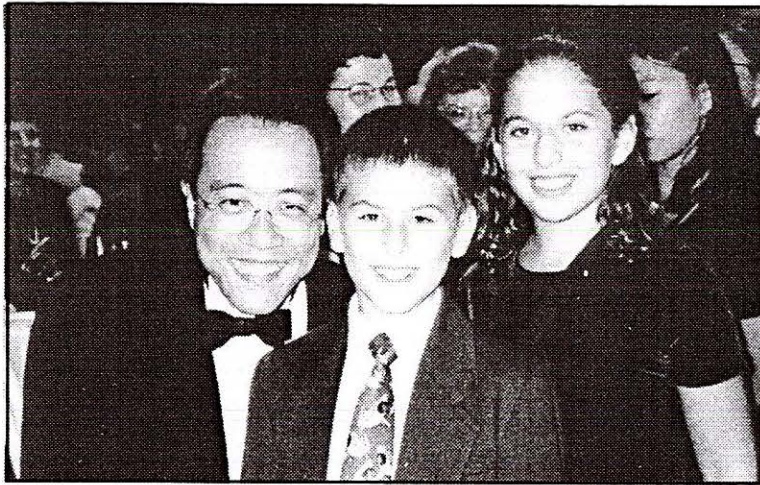


# An Evening With Yo Yo Ma

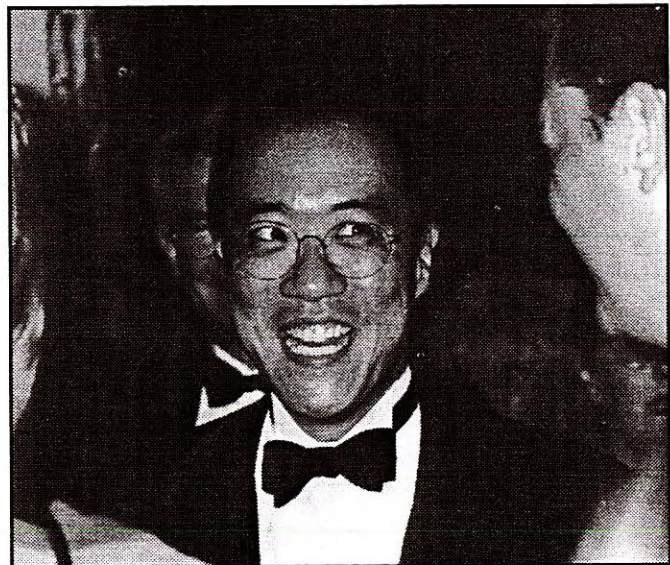
*by the Seigle Family*

For Those of you who had the good fortune to see and hear Yo Yo Ma perform with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra on September 17th, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! It was such a delight to watch someone who is so very devoted to his music and who seems to love what he does. The passion just flowed from his fingers and he was able to draw the audience into his beautiful world!! What a delight! And meeting him was like finding a long lost best friend. He was so sincere and seemed genuinely interested in each person he spoke with.

Be sure to see Mr. Ma if you ever get the chance. He is an inspiration to everyone who comes in contact with him, and he especially inspired a 9 year old boy who now realizes cello can actually be fun!



*Mr. Ma with Joel and Margot Seigle.*



*Mr. Ma talking with audience members at his performance with the ESO.*

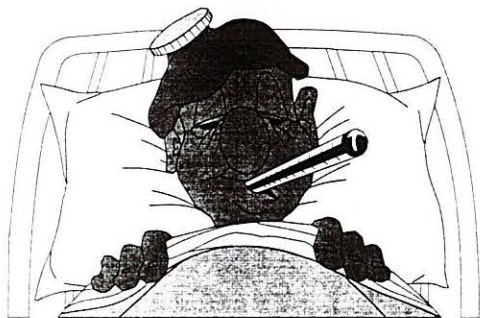
# ESTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 21 - 28, 1999 - Thanksgiving Break - No lessons  
December 13, 1999 - Holiday Party  
December 19, 1999 - January 2, 2000 - Holiday Break - No lessons  
January 22, 2000 - End of Term 1  
January 24 - 30, 2000 Make up week  
January 31, 2000 - Term 2 begins  
February 12, 2000 - Easter Seals Telethon Performance  
March 13 - 17, 2000 Recital Week  
March 18 - 19, 2000 - Mini-Institute  
March 26 - April 9, 2000 - Spring Break - No lessons  
May 17 - 19, 2000 - Spring Program Rehearsals  
May 20, 2000 - Spring Program  
June 4, 2000 - End of Term 2  
June 5 - 10, 2000 - Make up week

## Absences Due To Illness

Parents, please note:

If your child is sick in the morning, notify your teacher then. Don't wait to see if they are better by lesson time. A child with a fever will not be able to concentrate in the afternoon. Because the teachers travel to teach at ESTE, they often miss messages left on their home machine. Many times they don't know until after your lesson time that the child is ill. In this case, the lesson will not be made up.



## Book Completions

Twinkle Certificate

Elio Vento - violin

Book 1

Lisa Maenpaa - violin

Mary McCarthy - violin

Abigail Stevenson - cello

Book 2

Kyle Dawson - violin

Sara Evanusich - violin

Stacie Milostan - violin

Scott Rougas - cello

Joel Seigle - cello

Book 3

Emily Lambert - violin

Book 4

Trisha Kellenberger - violin

Margot Seigle - violin

Justine Yoder - violin

Eva Martinez - flute

Book 5

Dawn DeVries - violin

Jennifer Fester - violin

Book 8

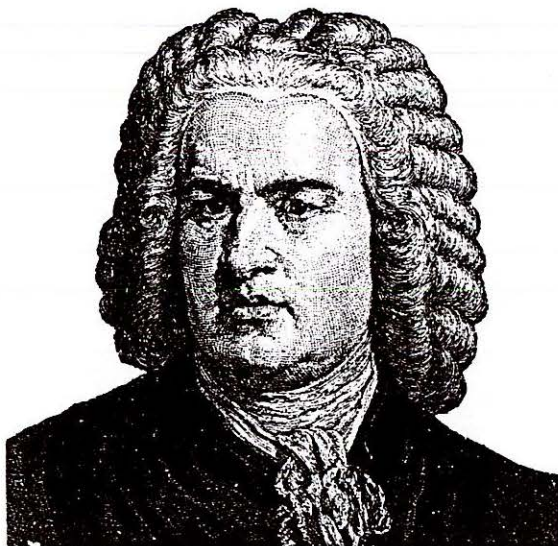
Jonathan Richards - violin



# CRUEL MURDER REVEALED

by Maxine Komlos submitted by Chelsea Musson

The mangled corpse of Johann Sebastian Bach was discovered in a back room of Adelaide High School on the evening of Sunday, March 28th. It seems that he was murdered most cruelly by a multitude of young violinists playing his composition "Minuet 2" in the wrong key. It appears that most of the young violinists did not perpetrate this act deliberately, but rather through neglect. Most reported when questioned that it was too much bother to place their 2nd finger back into the required low position necessary to produce a C natural. Mr. Bach apparently died in agony.



---

## Summer Institute Participants

Each of the following ESTE students attended an institute this summer.

### Louisville, KY

Colin Maki\*, violin

### Snow Mass, CO

Virginia Dixon

Martha McDonnell

Clara Shelton

### Stevens Point, WI

Bradley Biasotti, bass

Brennan Biasotti, cello

Meghan Bonham\*, flute

Kristina Brockner, violin

Karen Darling\*, violin

Kyle Dawson\*, violin

Amee Desai, violin

Sara Evanusich, violin

Alex Fiebig, violin

Esther Fiebig, violin

### Stevens Point, WI (con't)

Meaghan Fritz, violin

Abbey Galvin, violin

Issaac Keating\*, Violin

Bobbie Lamothe, violin

Emma Marston, flute

Jenny Mink, violin

Lauren Mink, violin

Chelsea Musson\*, violin

Eric Porter\*\*, cello

Joel Seigle, cello

Margot Seigle\*, violin

Abbey Stevenson, cello

Amy Tompkins, violin

Hannah Vogel, violin

Justine Yoder, violin

Kate Yoder, violin

### Deerfield, IL

Mike Eschenbach, cello

Maria Fadrowski, flute

Alaina Rea, violin

Betsy Start, cello

\*played on dorm recital

\*\*played on honors recital

Look how many students went to institutes last summer! Do you think we could break 50 next year?

Rhonda Hotap took part in Suzuki Institutes in Stevens Point, WI and Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She also studied Paul Roland technique in Milwaukee, WI and Brain Gym In Depth in Glen Ellyn, IL

Lamar Blum attended the Leadership Conference sponsored by the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Estes Park, CO.

Suzuki families and teachers can enjoy travel as well as music. Look for information about the 2001 World Convention to be held in Melbourne Australia in future newsletters!



# Stevens Point Snapshots



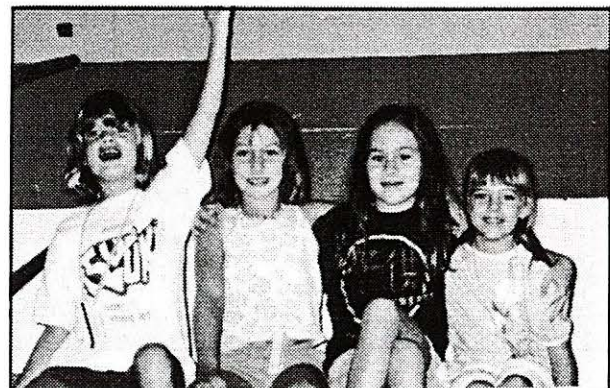
*Can you guess who is behind those plates?*



*Our second annual pizza hut dinner on dorm recital night*



*Karen Darling and Chelsea Musson  
at their Dorm Recital.*



*Karen Darling, Kristina Brockner, Hannah Vogel  
and Chelsea Musson at the Talent Show.*



# Fire Safety

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

ALARM  
CRAWL  
DARK  
DETECTOR  
DRILL  
EXIT  
FIREMEN  
HELP  
LADDER  
STOP DROP RILL

RESCUE  
SIREN  
LADDER  
OUTSIDE  
PREPARE  
QUICKLY  
SMOKE  
STAY LOW  
WINDOW



Mrs. Blum gave Kyle Dawson and Sara Evanusich and assignment: Stop at every rest area on the way to Steven's Point and play HUMORESQUE. Anybody throw any coins into your violin cases?





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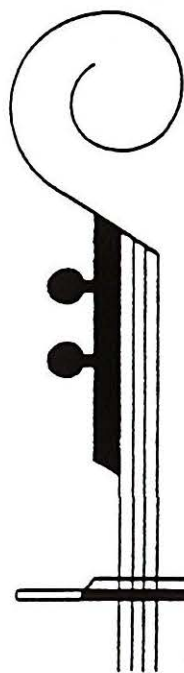
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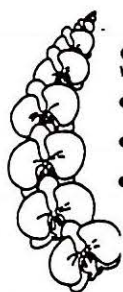
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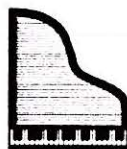
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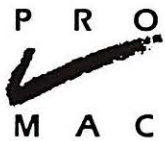
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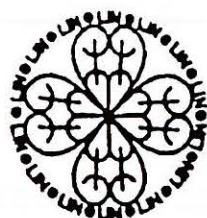


*We wish you the joy of  
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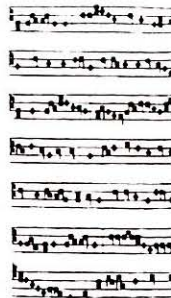
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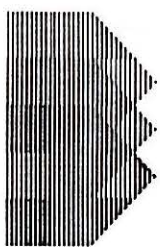
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