



SUZUKI FLYER



PUBLISHER Danielle Weems-Elliott Volume No4 Issue No1 November 2006



RECITAL NEWS



Recital/Dress Rehearsal Dates

Our first recital of the year is Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. Make a note of these important upcoming dates:

December 5th, 7th, 8th dress rehearsal days. Students need to attend only one dress rehearsal day. Sign up sheets for a dress rehearsal day & time are available during the lesson time.

December 9th Recital at 1:30pm.

Arrival at 1:00pm for tuning.

It is important to begin preparing for recital now. Student's practice should be done *before* the dress rehearsal so that they will be well prepared at their dress rehearsal. The dress rehearsal is not the time for students to learn their piece. Dress rehearsal is intended for the student to rehearse their tempo, and timing, and other minor adjustments with the accompanist.

Students also should prepare a short introduction (a few short sentences) to introduce their piece before their performance. They should research something about their piece, the composer, or the Suzuki method. It is often helpful for students to have their speech prepared to practice at their dress rehearsal. If a student has anxiety about this introduction, allow them to keep it very brief.

Recital Graduations

We have about 8 students who may be ready for graduation at this recital! Please remember that students who wish to graduate should meet the

following requirements:

1. Students should *already* be working on or completed the last piece in their Suzuki Book. In most cases, if the student has not started the last piece by now, it is unrealistic learn and master it by the recital.
2. Students should be consistently reviewing the earlier pieces in their book. All of the pieces in their book should still be polished.
3. Students must demonstrate their preparedness at their lesson **1 week before** the recital. This is done by earning a second star on each review piece.

Because there are so many students graduating at this recital, the graduation process will be shortened. Instead of picking the usual 3 pieces out of a hat and performing the final piece in their book (4 pieces in all), they will pick one piece from the hat and perform the final piece (2 pieces). This will keep the recital from being extremely long!

Way to Go!

Regional Orchestra Auditions

Audition for Regional Orchestras are held once a year. Hundreds of students from Southeastern Virginia compete for a spot in these orchestras. Many do not get in. Students who are accepted participate in 2 days of rehearsals and have a concert on the 2nd day. Congratulations are in order to these students who made it into regionals this year:

Senior Regional Advanced Orchestra

Jonathan Matthews

Interesting Quotes...

Jr. Regional 8th Grade Orchestra

Benjamin Coaili

Jr. Regional 7th Grade Orchestra

Brendon Elliott – (Concert Master)

Debra Cadwell

Youth Orchestras

Youth orchestras differ from regional orchestras by having weekly rehearsals and several concerts during the year. These are the students who have been accepted in to youth orchestras:

Jonathan Matthews – [Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra](#)

Stacey Hoell - Bay Youth Concert Orchestra

Benjamin Caoili - Bay Youth Concert Orchestra

KEYES Orchestra (Kingdom

Education for Young Scholars)

Brendon Elliott – [Peninsula Youth Orchestra](#)

Justine Elliott – Peninsula Youth Orchestra

Promise Paulden– Peninsula Sinfonia Orchestra

Sterling Elliott – Peninsula Sinfonia Orchestra

Other Orchestra Recognitions

Congratulations are also in order to Jonathan Matthews for his acceptance into the [National Honor Orchestra of America](#) for the 2nd year! Jonathan was also recently accepted into the [Virginia Beach Symphony](#), which is an adult community orchestra that accepts a few select high school students. Jonathan is currently the youngest member!



TUITION PAYMENTS

Please remember to make your tuition payments **before** the recital. This means that November **and** December tuition should be paid before December 9, 2006. Your tuition payments help to defray the costs associated with the recitals. Also keep in mind that all tuition payments should be made by the first lesson of every month.

The other day I came across a great quote when I was reading the bio on Yehudi Menuhin (1916-1999), who was a child prodigy and one of the most famous violinists of the 20th century.

“Anything that one wants to do really, and one loves doing, one must do every day. It should be as easy to the artist and as natural as flying is to a bird. And you can't imagine a bird saying, 'Well, I'm tired today. I'm not going to fly.'”

I loved this quote because it really makes sense and applies to not only our children, but ourselves. It made me evaluate my my own attitude towards practicing. I do truly love to play the violin, so I should never tire of it should I? After reading that quote, I come to have a more positive outlook on taking the time to practice.

With this quote burned in my mind, I challenged my children with the question one day when they were being lazy about practice time; “Do you love to play your instrument?” Luckily, they answered yes. My response was, “Well, you should never tire of playing it, even when practicing. It should be as natural to you as flying is to a bird.” Then I posed the question of “Can you imagine a bird saying they are too tired to fly today?” They really pondered that question for a while. After that day, they seem to have a better attitude about picking up those instruments to practice.

Practice is usually not much fun. But if we can get our children to focus on how much they enjoy playing the instrument and how good it feels to make music, even when they are practicing, maybe they can find some joy in it. It has helped me to enjoy my own practice time much more.

If your child does not love to play their violin, realize that all is not lost. It takes time to develop a love for playing music. It doesn't come right away for most. Focus on surrounding them with many types of performance opportunities so that they are getting lots of positive encouragement from others. This helps them develop a sense of pride which latter evolves into a love for playing.

Lastly, another quote I found intriguing by Yehudi Menuhin was this:

“My childhood was remarkably free from the deforming effects of competition. The standards against which I measured my achievements were the highest, and the attempt was made in reverent awe, not in a desire to be acknowledged superior.”

A great testament to the fact that we should teach our children that they should strive to be the best they can be at whatever they do in life, and not to be superior to others.



Nicole Graziani
Book Level: Pretwinkle
Length of Violin Study: < 1month



Talmage Johnson
Book Level: Pretwinkle
Length of Violin Study : 1 wk

Items for Sale

We have invested in a new style of portable music stands for our family quartet. So I now have several extra stands around the house. I am now selling:

3 Portable Manhasset Voyager Music Stands with Collapsing Legs. Comes with the Manhasset Voyager Music Stand Bag. Paid \$51 each for stands and \$20 each for the bags. Selling stand and bag for \$30 each.



Hunter Johnson
Book Level 4
Length of Violin Study: 5 years

NEW STUDENTS

Join me in welcoming the following new students:



Debra Cadwell
Book Level: Late Book 1
Length of Violin Study: 2 years public school & 4 months Suzuki



Catherine Miller & mom Clare Miller
Book Level: Early Book 1
Length of Violin Study: 2 months

