



Saskatoon Suzuki String Program Newsletter

October 2011

www.saskatoonsuzukistrings.com

Presidents Message

In this Issue:

President's Message.....	1
Directors' Message.....	2
Board of Directors.....	2
Saskatchewan Orchestral Association Membership.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	4

Dear Suzuki families,

I'd like to welcome you all to another exciting Suzuki year! To the returning families, may this be your best year ever in the program thus far, and to the new families, a very special welcome. I well remember when we began the Suzuki program 5 years ago. It was a mixture of excitement and nervousness. Our first year was very challenging, but at the same time very rewarding. It took us a whole year to learn all the twinkles (my daughter was 3 at the time). Frustration set in many times, (even still today) but I'm so glad we persevere each year.

Every year comes with the inevitable obstacles. The next new song or technique may seem like an impossibility but with a little determination and hard work (from the student, parent and teacher) success will always follow.

Celebrate the little triumphs with your child. A great bow hold, perfection of the first Twinkle or finishing up the last song in a Suzuki book are all great milestones. The hard work will definitely be worth it. Most of all, your child will develop a wonderful appreciation for beautiful music.

We have a wonderfully dedicated parent and teacher board this year. Our aim is to make this a memorable year for each family and to promote our Suzuki program to anyone who will listen! Some of our students have already had an excellent bit of exposure performing at the Sask Culture Days. I must say the students

performed exceptionally well on such short notice.

On a final note, there are 4 things that I would like to challenge all Suzuki families with this year. They are:

1. I encourage all of you to tell your family, friends and co-workers about Suzuki. Word of mouth is our best promotion.
2. Make friends with other Suzuki families. You will find the support to be invaluable. Other Suzuki families understand the program and can give wonderful encouragement and great tips for practicing and overcoming those obstacles.
3. Listen to your Suzuki CD music! Personally this has done wonders for my daughter's progress.
4. Take in a symphony concert. Many of the teachers perform in the Saskatoon symphony and it is exciting to see them on stage. My family is going to this Saturday's performance "Classics for Skeptics." My daughter is looking forward to it.

Lastly, have a wonderful year and enjoy every minute of it!

Sincerely,

Jann Amundson
SSSPI President



Directors' Message

Dear Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through October! We want to welcome all new students and parents to our program, as well as our new assistant to the Orchestras, Heather Wilson. We also extend a big welcome back to all returning students and parents. We are excited to be writing our first letter as the new Co-Directors.

We have already gotten started on our busy fall schedule. The V-6 and V-7 groups did a wonderful job representing our Program at Saskatoon's Culture Days. Despite the threat of rain and slightly cooler temperatures, the students performed marvelously. Thank you V-6 and V-7 groups!! Watch for the following up coming performance opportunities— Festival of the Trees (Nov. 20th) and the Sundog Arts and Crafts Fair (Dec. 4th).

Also coming up on our regular schedule is our Hallowe'en Party! Get those costumes ready! Solo Day forms will be handed out in the next while. We will be distributing Christmas music at group lesson. This music will be performed at the Sundog, Festival of the Trees and our Christmas Concert. Let's get a jump on learning this music!

If you have any suggestions or stories for future newsletters, please contact us or Tim Brown (newsletter coordinator).

Keep those fingers warm as the temperature drops by practicing more!!

Happy twinkling,
Agata and Karen

2011-2012 Board of Directors:

President - Jann Amundson	244-4734	amundsonjann@hotmail.com
Vice-President - Lariene Blackburn	244-6890	daveandlariene@hotmail.com
Treasurer - Ken Pontikes	374-3873	kpontikes@sasktel.net
Secretary - Laurie Kish	249-0407	bkish@sasktel.net
Instrument Convener - Phav Meekins	664-6176	sociallyfabulous@hotmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator - Paul & Kim Hebert	934-0427	kim.paul@sasktel.net
Piano Convener - Jessica Morelli	653-2123	up@woodartportraits.com
Registrar - Jennifer Peak	651-3123	jennpeak@shaw.ca
Social Convener - Dhyanthi Pfeifer	665-2690	mdhyanthi@hotmail.com
Fundraising Coordinator		
Newsletter - Tim Brown	651-1445	timbrown@shaw.ca

Teachers:

Karen Bindle (Violin, Co-Director)	343-9488	kbindle@gmail.com
Agata Czajkowski (Violin, Co-Director)	242-0151	jczejkowski@shaw.ca
Lillian Jen-Payzant (Violin)	373-9130	jenpayzant@sasktel.net
Philip Kashap (Violin)	241-4766	pkashap@shaw.ca
James Legge (Viola/Violin)	373-3518	j.e.legge@gmail.com
John Payzant (Cello/Violin/Bass)	373-9130	jenpayzant@sasktel.net
Bernadette Wilson (Cello)	244-1431	bwcello53@hotmail.com

Membership in the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (S.O.A.)

The following is some information on your family's membership in the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association.

Do families in the Saskatoon Suzuki Strings Program also have to join the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association?

All families who register in the fall and winter sessions of the Saskatoon Suzuki Strings Program are required to be members of both Saskatoon Suzuki Strings (1996) Inc. and the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA). Membership in both organizations is not a new requirement of the Suzuki Strings Program. However, beginning in 2011-12, all families are required to write separate cheques for their membership in the SOA.

Who is the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association?

Incorporated in 1985, the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association is the provincial arm of the national organization, Orchestras Canada. The provincial association encompasses most orchestral groups and activities in Saskatchewan. Its membership includes individuals and groups, as well as associate and corporate members.

Seventeen groups are affiliated with the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association. In addition to the Saskatoon Suzuki Strings, some of the other groups who are members of the S.O.A. include: the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras, the Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra, the Saskatoon Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra.

Why are families in the Saskatoon Suzuki Strings Program required to join the S.O.A.?

The S.O.A. was established to access provincial cultural funding for orchestral activities in Saskatchewan. Through the S.O.A., its members are eligible to receive funding provided by Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

In 2010-11, the Saskatoon Suzuki Strings Program received two grants from the funding available to the S.O.A.:

- An operating grant for the fall and winter session and for general administration (\$ 4,855), and
- A project grant for the Summer Strings Experience (\$ 7,500).

Together, these grants represented 17% of our Program's total revenues in 2010-11.

Membership by Suzuki families in the S.O.A. is an important factor in determining our annual operating grant. The grant is calculated on the number of S.O.A. memberships that are attributed to families registered in the Suzuki Program.

In 2010-11, Suzuki families paid \$ 1,440 in memberships to the S.O.A. and in return, the Suzuki Program received an operating grant of \$ 4,885. The latter was used to lower the registration fees for group and orchestra programs during our fall and winter program.

Similarly, the \$ 7,500 project grant allowed us to provide lower registration fees for the Summer Strings Experience.

Why do families in the Suzuki Strings Program have to write separate cheques to the S.O.A. as part of their registration in the fall and winter Suzuki Program?

In previous years, the S.O.A. membership fee was incorporated into the Suzuki String Program's fees for the fall and winter sessions. We would collect the S.O.A. fee from all families and then submit the payments to the S.O.A. through a single cheque issued by the Suzuki Program. Families would be registered individually as members of the S.O.A.

Last year, the Canada Revenue Agency advised us that since the S.O.A. is not a registered charity, the Suzuki Strings Program (which is a registered charity) could not collect and remit fees on behalf of the S.O.A. Therefore, this year, we have asked all families to provide cheques, as part of the fall and winter registration, for their family's membership to the S.O.A.

These cheques have been collected by the Suzuki Program and forwarded to the S.O.A. The cheques were cashed by the S.O.A. in October. Receipts will be issued by the S.O.A. to each family and will be distributed by the Suzuki Strings Program in January 2012 (when we distribute the receipts for the fall and winter sessions).

Ken Pontikes, Treasurer

Upcoming Special Events

Calendar of Events

- Oct 13, 2011 All Suzuki activities
Oct 20, 2011 **Group Lessons Cancelled!**
Oct 27, 2011 Suzuki Halloween Party
Nov 3, 2011 All Suzuki activities
Nov 10, 2011 No group/orchestra
Nov 17, 2011 All Suzuki activities
Nov 24, 2011 All Suzuki activities,
Solo Day Practice
Dec 1, 2011 Solo Day, no group/orchestra
Dec 8, 2011 All Suzuki activities
Dec 15, 2011 Suzuki Christmas Party

Please Note:

**Group Lessons are Cancelled
Thursday October 20**

Volunteers Needed!

We are still looking for volunteers for a few things so if people haven't signed up for their two duties yet they can contact Paul Hebert at 934-0427 or email: kim.paul@sasktel.net

Events and opportunities include:

- Room Parents are still needed for Term One and Two at both 5:30 and 6:30 (note this counts as two volunteer duties!)
- One person is needed for the Christmas Party take-down on December 1st
- One Solo Day 2 rehearsal runner is needed at 6:30 on March 22nd
- Four people are needed for Solo Day 2 take-down on March 29th

HALLOWEEN SPOOK-TACULAR

BeMUSed's Halloween Spook-tacular! Halloween stories accompanied by classical music. The Sorcerer's Apprentice, The Spider and the Fly, and more! BeMUSed is Saache Heinrich, James Legge, Scott McKnight, Joan Savage, and Sara Spigott – innovative, professional storyteller and musicians with a passion for blending stories and music. 2:30 pm Sunday, Oct 30, at The Refinery \$5 children, \$10 adults, tickets at the door or in advance at McNally Robinson 242-6983

Halloween Party

This years Halloween Party will be held **Thursday October 27th** at **McClure United Church** (4025 Taylor Street East with access through the main doors).
Tuning at 6:00 , playing at 6:15.
A-L- Sweet treats, M-Z-Healthy snacks.
Come in a costume!

Festival of the Trees

Sunday November 20th- use the stage door of the Western Development Museum-at the back of the building.
3:30 tuning, 4:00 playing.
Wear something Christmasy...red and green.
Watch for sign up sheet

Sundog

Sunday December 4th
11:30 tuning, 12:00 playing.
Christmasy clothing again.
Watch for sign up sheet and more info to come as to where to go and meet etc.

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Performances

Classics for Skeptics - Masters Series
Saturday, October 15, 2011, 07:30pm

Celebrating Seventy - Music for a Sunday
Afternoon -Sunday, November 06, 2011, 02:30pm

Spanish Fire
Saturday, November 19, 2011, 07:30pm

Messiah
Wednesday, December 07, 2011, 07:30pm

Symphony Holiday Spectacular
Saturday, December 10, 2011, 07:30pm