

# The Suzuki Fanfare

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Dear Suzuki Students and Parents,

Summer is just around the corner and we are gearing up for our May 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Hour and Potluck Picnic. With all the events of the Spring Semester we have decided to have normal group & theory classes that morning with an extended Performance Hour, featuring the Outreach Group and Sato Faculty, followed by a Potluck Picnic (read through the Fanfare for details!). We hope all the Sato Families will join in the fun! Saturday, May 8 will be our final theory and group classes. Yes, this is the day of the Prep Orchestra Concerts.

Our March workshop was a great success. Thank you for all your comments. The guest clinicians were so complimentary of the work that we are doing at CIM. They were very impressed with the high level of performance of students at all levels as well as the hospitality extended to them in their encounters with the parents and faculty. Bravo to all that participated and practiced in preparation for this event.

We have included in this Fanfare tips on continuing your music theory education for the summer, books for Suzuki Parents to purchase, how to donate strings to help music students in Haiti, student and teacher accomplishments, an update from the Robinson Library, and an article from one of our graduating seniors.

As you think back over the school year I hope some of the events will inspire you to keep practicing and progressing through the summer months. Summer is a great time for reflection and setting new goals. I encourage everyone to take lessons as well as attend a summer music camp or Suzuki Institute. Please use the summer months as time to review your Suzuki pieces. Be creative and plan a review party at your house, find places to perform, give book graduation recitals, or call friends to read duets or chamber music in your home. In summary, play your instrument lots and enjoy what music can bring to your day!

As always, we look forward to seeing everyone back in August refreshed and ready to go. Have a wonderful summer!

For the happiness of all children,

Kimberly Meier-Sims  
Director, Sato Center for Suzuki Studies  
Cleveland Institute of Music

# A Graduating Senior's Perspective

By Anahita Ameri



Have you ever heard Chopin's first Ballad, the third movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, the violin solo in Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade", and an opera singer tuning her voice with songs from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", all performed at once? A walk down the halls of the Cleveland Institute of Music is an experience almost unexplainable to those who've never experienced it. The feeling is almost fascinatingly confusing; some days, I'm not sure whether I want to fight a revolution or frolic in the meadow. It is in these very hallways –the hallways where I sat waiting for my piano lessons for almost fifteen years – where I learned about the true influence of music. The mixture of the centuries and themes is so compelling that I sometimes expect the melodies to produce some sort of aroma. I studied piano in these halls since the age of three, and the piano teacher I started with –Ms. Kiki Barley –drove all the way from Pittsburg every Friday just to teach a few of us, and as children often drop music lessons after a couple of years, she still made the trip, hoping that at least one of us would continue.

After she decided to stay in Pittsburg, I was fortunate enough to have Ms. Tanya Groys as my next piano teacher. These teachers are the reason I love the piano as much as I do today. During my time with Ms. Groys, I found my love for Chopin and am always ready to learn another of his pieces. I have recently finished learning Chopin's Nocturne in B Flat Minor, and it is one of the most beautiful pieces I have ever had the privilege of playing. My theory teacher, Dr. Jenny Connor, has also been an incredible addition to my music studies. I have studied music theory with Dr. Connor for the past thirteen years and I'm not sure I will ever be able to find a better theory teacher than she. When I was learning Chopin's Fantaisie Impromptu, she helped me break the piece apart into simple chords, almost allowing me to get inside of Chopin's mind as he wrote this piece. She also taught me how to properly compose music and –as amazing as it may be –taught me how to sing. Overall, without Ms. Barley, Ms. Groys, Dr. Connor, and the musically confused hallways of CIM, I would never be the person I am today, and there is not a single day when I regret spending my Friday nights at CIM. Because of my CIM experience, music will always be a part of my life. For this, I am thankful.



# Theoretically Speaking

By Dr. Jenny Connor

The students are just finishing up their testing for class placements next year (if you have been absent and missed taking the test check with your theory teacher to make it up during class or performance time). Now that summer will quickly be upon us, here are ways to keep your theory skills strong.

- **SUMMER LESSONS:** Most of the theory teachers do teach the 6 week summer session. If you want to strengthen skills, or if you want to try to push ahead to a higher class level, summer is a great opportunity to focus on your individual theory goals.
- **WEBSITES:** There are many websites available to drill theory and ear training fundamentals. My favorites are **teoria.net** and **musictheory.net**. Both of these allow you to set the parameters for the drills you want to do. For instance, in note reading you can set the clefs and the pitches to be included. The Teoria website even allows you to try your skills at melodic and harmonic dictation.
- **FOUNDATIONS RESOURCES:** Use the hidden resources in your books. Many of the theory teachers don't get to the coloring pages in the notes and rhythm books. These can be fun sheets to do over the summer to keep the skills from getting rusty. The note books also have note drills in the back of the books to practice note timings. You can also use the flash cards that you made with the note books to play theory games.
- **PLAY GAMES:** Theory games are a great way to keep the skills up. Here are some easy possibilities:
  - ❖ **Hangman:** This is one of our favorites. Starting on pitch 1 of the scale, choose 13 “mystery” notes (example: 1 3 5 4 3 2 3 1 5 6 5 3 4 2 1). For beginners keep pitches between 1 and 5 of the scale. For more advanced students use 1-8 and include more leaps. Draw a hangman and 13 lines. Write 1 on the first line. One person sings or plays the pitches in quarter note rhythms. The listener tries to figure out what numbers were played. A wrong answer gets something added to the hangman. After every 1-3 guesses, sing the melody again
  - ❖ **Note games:** Using flash cards, how many notes can you get in 30 seconds. Or draw a card and try to play it on your instrument as quickly as possible. Or make a maze of ABC letters and try to quickly match the note cards to their letter (in order). A variation of this last game is playing memory with notes and letters. Place ABC letters face down in one side of the board, notes on the other. Pick a letter card and a note card trying to match the two up.
  - ❖ **Rhythm:** You can play rhythm detective similarly to hangman. Take turns creating and beating or saying 4 beat rhythm patterns that the other team member has to figure out. Another fun game is to create flash cards of the different rhythm patterns you now. Pick a card. Say or play this on your instrument. (You can play the rhythm pattern on just one pitch or you can play each new rhythm pattern on successive notes of a scale you are working on). If you play the card correctly add a second card and play both. Keep going until you get 8 cards in a row or make a mistake and have to shuffle the cards and start over.
  - ❖ **Scavenger Hunts:** Create a list of music theory ideas (keys and scales, chords, specific intervals, notes, rhythm patterns—it can be anything you have worked with). Then try to find as many examples of these specific things in actual pieces of music through the course of the summer. You can make it a challenge amongst several Suzuki students to see who can find the most musical items on the list.

# Listening in the Library

As Suzuki students and parents, you know the importance of listening to good music. We invite you to visit the **Robinson Music Library at CIM** (<http://www.cim.edu/library/index.php>), where we have over 13,000 CDs and 500 DVDs available for in-house listening. **Browse our DVD and video collection by genre** (<http://www.cim.edu/library/locate/mediasearch.php>) or **search the CIM/Case library catalog** (<http://catalog.case.edu/>) for a particular composer or performer. There is always a Media Center staff member on duty to help you find what you are looking for. Library cards are available at the main circulation desk for any registered preparatory department student.

Thank you to those who participated in the “Library Hour” during the Sato Center workshop in March. We hope to see you again soon!

~Denise Smith Green, Media Librarian

## Library Hours during the Academic Semester:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8 am to 9 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday: 4 to 8 pm

## Summer Hours:

Monday - Friday: 10 am to 3 pm

Saturday/Sunday: **Closed**



## Books for Suzuki Parents to Read

(Available in the CIM Bookstore)

Over the years I have asked Toni Miller, manager of the CIM bookstore, to order books specifically for the Sato Center to help parents in their role as the home teacher. I highly recommend that every parent in the program have a copy of:

Helping Parents Practice, Ideas for Making it Easier by Edmund Sprunger. Ed’s book starts off with a quote “Every child “talks” in code; every parent’s job is to break the code” by Peter Ruderman, MSW. This book is put together as a reference book to help parents in decoding, practice basics, musicianship, rhythm, and games. This is a required book for my Suzuki teacher training course.

Time to Practice: A Companion for Parents by Carrie Reuning Hummel. This is a guided parenting journal designed to foster discoveries about you and your child through your musical journey together. This book will help you through the long summer months of practice.

The New Pre-Twinkle Book by Kathryn Merrill & Jean Brandt. This is a book of poems for posture, bow hold, bow arm, left arm and hand, fingering, and basic concepts. The poems help children concentrate through the many repetitions of practice. The poems also help develop pulse. Many of them can be sung to the Suzuki tunes.

*If you have a book that would be helpful to parents in our program, please email us at [cimsuzuki@yahoo.com](mailto:cimsuzuki@yahoo.com) so that we can publish this in our next Fanfare.*

# Faculty Congratulations!

- Tracy Rowell was a guest teacher for students of George Vance, in Maryland in January. In March and April she performed with Apollo's Fire and City Music Cleveland. She will be presenting a session titled "Starting a Bass Program from Scratch" at the SAA Conference in May. This summer she will be on the faculty of the George Vance Memorial Bass Workshop, where she will perform a half recital, then off to NC to perform at the Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival. In August she plans to take teacher training classes at the Stevens Point Suzuki Institute in WI. She will be presenting a session titled "Starting a Bass Program from Scratch" at the SAA Conference in May.
- Laura Shuster and Carol Ruzicka (CIM faculty) performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola with Heights Chamber Orchestra on March 29th.
- Kimberly Meier-Sims will be training violin teachers at the Atlanta Suzuki Institute in June and the Ithaca Suzuki Institute in July. She will be a guest clinician at the Stanford Advanced Suzuki Institute in CA in August.
- Stephen Sims was invited to play in a violin, cello, piano trio at the University of Arkansas in Jonesboro on Saturday, April 17. He performed works by Shostakovich and Ravel. Stephen also gave recitals with pianist Sean Schulze (chair of the Preparatory piano department) at the University of Akron, Denison University and CIM during the month of March. They performed works by Stravinsky and Prokofiev.
- Stephen Sims will be a guest clinician at Sound Encounters in Ottawa, Kansas in June and at the Stanford Advanced Suzuki Institute in CA in August.



## Strings for Haiti

New & Used Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass strings needed!

Box for donated strings  
Located at CIM West Security Desk

Bernadette Williams from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is the Executive Administrator for Holy Trinity Music School and Orchestra. She came to visit CIM a few weeks ago. She spent a Saturday observing preparatory classes including some of the Sato Group Classes. I asked her how the Sato Center could help. She said, "please ask students and families to donate new or used strings for the students at Holy Trinity Music School". I am assuming that they need mostly violin strings but they will take all types of strings. We will be accepting donations now through June 5.

## Become a member of the SAA!

I encourage everyone to become members of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Membership entitles you to receive five journals a year that will connect you with the national Suzuki community as well as provide you with valuable articles for parents and teachers. The Spring Journal has a full listing of summer institutes and teacher training classes. Google Suzuki Association of the Americas for more information.

# Suzuki Student News!

## Graduation Recitals & Performances

*Congratulations* to the following students:

Anna Briglia (Viola Book 1)  
Xander Cikanek (Viola Twinkles)  
Nadia DeGeorgia (Viola Book 4)  
Rebecca Friedberg (Violin Book 6)  
Sara Friedberg (Violin Book 6)  
Faith Geho (Cello Book 3)  
Lauren Hertzner (Cello Book 1)  
Charna Katz (Cello Book 1)  
Abby Miklowski (Cello Book 1)  
Emily Miklowski (Cello Book 1)  
Claire Peyrebrune (Viola Book 3)  
Nicha Poolpol (Viola Book 4)  
Caitlin Slusarski (Cello Book 3)  
Meghan Slusarski (Cello Book 1)  
Sophie Soltanian (Cello Twinkles)

## Congratulations!

*The Sato Center would like to congratulate our graduation seniors:*

Anahita Ameri  
Devon Copfer  
Elizabeth Kilbane

*Congratulations to Nadia DeGeorgia, viola student of Laura Shuster, for winning the Ohio Viola Society's Viola Competition, Division One.*

*Congratulations to Claire Geho and Serena Shapard for their participation in the Preparatory String Exams.*

*We wish Claire Geho and Serena Shapard safe travels to Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend for the SSA National Conference as they perform in the Suzuki Youth Orchestra of the Americas. Claire will perform the Eccles Sonata for one of the violin master classes.*

## 100 Day Practice Club Members!

*Congratulations* to our latest 100-Day Practice Club Members!

*Elisa Katz  
Owen Lockwood  
Catherine Martin  
Elizabeth Martin  
Victoria Martin*

Would you like to join the 2009-2010 100 Day Practice Club?

If so, this is how you can get started. Use the chart found on the Suzuki website to keep track of your daily practicing and listening. Each day that you practice and listen to your Suzuki CD, place a sticker on the chart. Upon completion of the 100 days, hand in the chart to your private teacher. Your private teacher will let us know your name so that you can be recognized in our 100 Day Practice Club Corner. The rules are:

1. Each participant must practice and listen for 100 days in a row.
2. If for some reason the participant is unable to practice on a particular day, the student can hold on that day if listening to the Suzuki CD occurs on that day.
3. If the participant does not practice and listen to his or her Suzuki CD for one day, he or she must start again at day 1.
4. Don't worry though, one can always start again. Just download another chart, or make up your own. The idea of this club is to instill strong practice habits.



## Sato Center for Suzuki Studies End of the Year Potluck Picnic May 1, 2010



### Parents:

Please bring a blanket and one food item or beverage to share. Please list the items you wish to share on the sign-up sheet posted on the Suzuki bulletin board or email them to [kxm117@case.edu](mailto:kxm117@case.edu). CIM will furnish plates, plastic ware, cups, napkins, and ice. Please drop food items off on Saturday morning. They will be stored in the CIM kitchen until the picnic begins at 11:30 a.m.

### *Schedule for Saturday, May 1:*

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 9:00-9:30 a.m.   | Drop off food items to the CIM kitchen located near the Prep office in the Lennon Education Building  |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m.   | Normal theory and group classes   |
| 9:30-10:30 a.m.  | Performance Hour in Mixon featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Group and</li> <li>• Sato Faculty as never seen before!</li> </ul> |
| 10:30-11:00 a.m. | Drop off food items to the CIM kitchen as above   |
| 10:30-11:00 a.m. | Normal theory and group classes   |
| 11:00-11:30 a.m. | Normal theory and group classes   |
| 11:30-1:30 p.m.  | Sato Center Potluck Picnic, outside the Lennon Education Building   |

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### Sato Calendar

#### Spring Semester

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Potluck Picnic            | Saturday, May 1, 11:30 am-1:30 pm |
| Last Group & Theory Class | Saturday, May 8                   |
| Memorial Day (CIM closed) | Monday, May 31                    |
| Spring Semester Ends      | Saturday, June 5                  |

#### Summer Semester

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Classes Begin             | Monday, June 7   |
| Independence Day Observed | Monday, July 5   |
| Classes End               | Tuesday, July 27 |