

Welcome to Group Classes!

January 2012 Newsletter

“EXCELLENCE is a habit”

--*Aristotle*

“Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is a triumph of some ENTHUSIASM”

--*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Utilizing children's natural enthusiasm when they gather in groups to play a common repertoire is a repeated theme in Dr. Suzuki's philosophy. In his vision, group classes provide the constant motivation for excellence as students learn new music while perfecting the “old” pieces. As always, FSTE is striving for a musical community built on the camaraderie of enthusiasm and excellence.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL! Welcome to Group Classes

Please Register by January 12 and SAVE! Group classes resume on January 12. Come at your usual time. January 12 will be the last class of the fall semester; spring semester begins on January 19. Registration for the spring semester must be in by January 12 to receive the savings. It's easy to register in the UPark Commons at group classes on January 12.

Any registrations received after the 12th will not be processed unless they include the \$25 late fee. Several people are involved in entering the registrations, and late entries create extra trips across town to pick up forms and drop them off, and they also are more likely to be misplaced. The late fee is there to encourage timely response; if you are late, please pay the late fee in recognition of the additional work this creates.

The fee for second semester is \$140 per child. Families with three or more children may take a \$25 discount starting with the third student. The fee for registrations received after January 12 is \$165. Mail your registrations (including late registrations) to Nancy Morgan, 3240 Rosie Creek Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709. Registration forms can be printed from our website, www.suzukifairbanks.com. Please note that we cannot refund fees after February 1st.

We will schedule classes after January 12. You will be notified by e-mail before January 19 if there is a change in your class time.

Many Thanks to UPark School. We are fortunate to be able to use University Park School for our classes. Please respect this facility. PARENTS, PLEASE SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES! Running is only for outside the building.

UPark teachers have invited us to use their classrooms. Let's be sure to leave these rooms just as we find them, putting furniture back that we may have moved. Please help us continue to be welcome at this school. USE STANDS only from the orchestra room, (#36), and return them where you found them.

Check out our website: Cheri Weed is our webmaster. She can be reached at 488-0450 and emailed at: fbks.suzuki@gmail.com.

Group Lesson Teacher

Gail Johansen (violin, viola) – 479-4327 – johansen@mosquitonet.com
Jean Krause (violin) – 457-5716 – simplystrings1@gmail.com
Thom McLean (violin, viola) – 458-0007 – thomwmclean@gmail.com
Dorli McWayne (flute) – 479-6701 – dorli@gci.net
Nancy Morgan (viola, violin) – 479-4936 – jwmorgan@alaska.edu
Mandi Silveira (flute) – 687-4220 – mandisilveira87@gmail.com
Peg Swartz (cello) – 479-2316 – swartz@mosquitonet.com
Cheri Weed (violin, viola) – 488-0450 – akkid78@hotmail.com

FSTE encourages teachers to pursue on-going teacher training and to be members of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. SAA is making an effort nation wide to raise teaching standards. All teachers claiming to use the Suzuki method are encouraged to refer to the SAA journal for training guidelines.

Mark Your Calendars: Group Lesson Dates

January 12 – Last class of the 1st semester
January 19 – First class of the 2nd semester
January 26 – Parents Practicing Ideas/Exchange (6:30-7)
January 28 and 29 – Concerto Competition at Davis Concert Hall
February 23 – Twinkle Celebration
March 15 – Spring Break
April 1 – Suzuki Institute application deadline
April 26 – Last group class
May 3 – Final Concert
May 29-June 3 – Suzuki Institute at UAF

Community Concerts and Events

February 10-12 – String Fling Chamber Music Symposium (Bk. 4+) at UAF
February 12 – Alaska Chamber Players 4pm UAF
February 26 – Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra 4pm UAF
March 25 – Arctic Chamber Orchestra 4pm UAF
April 14 – Annual Beat Beethoven 5K Race, 11am
April 29 – Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra 4pm UAF
May 27 – Fairbanks Flutists Concert 4pm UAF

Group Class Recitals

Don't forget to plan for our First-Thursday-of-the-Month group lesson recitals. February 2 will be our first recital of the second semester. Students are nominated for these recitals by their private teachers and need to practice with our accompanist, JIM SPONTAK (458-7548) or spontak@gci.net. Arrange to practice with him the week before the recital; there is only limited time immediately before the recital from 6-6:30.

Annual Twinkle Celebration

Teachers may nominate any student for the Twinkle Celebration who is playing "Perpetual Motion" or beyond (violins, violas, cellos) and beyond "Amaryllis" (flutes). This represents a happy and important achievement. The celebration will be on February 23rd. at 6:30 in the Commons.

Parents as Partners Online will return January 30!

SAA is again providing this wonderful series. Talk to your private or group teacher about taking advantage of it. From Suzuki E-News #41: "The 2012 project will feature more than 30 new inspirational talks, plus selected presentations from the 2011 PPO event. Aimed to provide a dose of parent education on Suzuki-related topics, all sessions can be viewed online at your convenience, 24-7. We'll post a few new talks once a week in February and March and let you know by email. Once posted, everything can be viewed until the end on June 30." \$45.00 covers a teacher plus 1-5 parents/home teachers, \$8 for each additional. Teachers sign up, listing the names and emails of their participating families.

A personal note from Nancy Morgan: my computer downloaded these wonderful talks very slowly. So I used Noel Wien Library's computers and they were easy and efficient.

A Note About Absences

Please email your group teacher if your student will be absent from class, and be aware that repeated absences may leave a student unable to perform in our end-of-semester concerts. You will see a new section on the registration form in which you can furnish information about late starts to the semester and/or special needs of students.

Cold Weather Policy

If the temperature is -30 degrees or colder at 4pm, as recorded on our website "Weather Service" page, group lessons will be canceled. If group class is canceled due to the cold, we cannot offer make-up classes.

Instrument Repair

For your instrument repair needs contact Chris Kilgore at Stringworks 457-6939; in Anchorage, Petr Bucinsky at Petr's Violin Shop, 1408 Hyder St., Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99501, tel. 277-9115.

UAF music Dept. arranges for instrument repair from the Col Legno shop in Chicago. Karl Knapp reports that Mitsugu will be in Fairbanks from February 12-19. Please email karl.knapp@alaska.edu with the following information: name, phone #, email address, instrument (include size) and work you'd like done.

A note from Gail Johansen about FAIRBANKS SUZUKI INSTITUTE 2011:

Fairbanks Suzuki Institute will be May 29-June 3 for students of all levels, from Pre-Twinkle through the Advanced Program. Violin Book 3 Teacher Training will be taught by Kimberly Meier-Sims of the Cleveland Institute of Music Suzuki Pedagogy Program. It will be held on the UAF campus, courtesy of the music department and the Fairbanks Symphony.

FSI is an intense 5-day workshop for students, parents and teachers that will motivate and excite participants for months to come. A lot of ability and sensitivity can be developed in a short time due to the daily concentration and focus. Many of our favorite clinicians will be returning, and some new teachers will join them to round out the instrumental offerings. Our well-known and loved David Brown will return to teach Dalcroze Eurhythmics. Steel Drums, Chamber Music, Fiddle, Viola for Violinists, and Keyboard Geography Basics will fill out the electives selection.

The Fairbanks Suzuki Institute was recognized at the 2008 Suzuki Association of the Americas international conference for its excellent programming and the strong community support it receives. The high level of parental involvement and ongoing collaboration with UAF and the Fairbanks Symphony was noted in awarding FSI the Creating Learning Community award, "Gathering Community around Suzuki's Vision". Many thanks go to all who make FSI available for our students, parents and teachers.

This year we have some need-based scholarships available to students who attend the FSTE group lesson program regularly. Please talk with your teacher about this opportunity. Applications will be due by the March deadline.

There are many volunteer opportunities of all shapes and sizes, large and small. Please speak to Sally Endestad if you are able to help this year. Financial contributions to FSI are welcome and are tax deductible. Businesses that support FSI will be recognized and able to advertise in our printed materials. We are working on the brochure and will post it on the FSTE website in January. Look for new offerings and save the dates. We'd like to see everyone there!

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