

## STEP Calendar of Events 2008-2009

- September 6**      **Registration 9:00-12:00/ Welcome Pre-group class *Play-In* Information Session for all Suzuki Families**  
Meet and greet the new parents and reunite with Suzuki friends to officially begin the new Suzuki year. Bring along a friend who might like to join our program.  
**Everyone signs up to volunteer for STEP.**  
**Arrive 9:00am for an information and registration session for all parents**  
**9:30 tune-up for the play in at 10am on Upper Concourse**  
*Arts and Culture Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Irwin's Court*
- September 27**      **Group classes begin at Memorial University Music School**  
Memorial University School of Music – see registration package for group classroom and schedule
- Anytime in the Year** **Volunteer to host a boy's or girl's STEP party** for any day throughout the STEP year. As there are more girls in our program and having them all over may be a little too much for one household, think of inviting all the girls of the same age over to your house so they can just have fun together and also play a few songs together. Jennifer Johnson started this concept with the boys to encourage them all to continue to play and have fun together. Remember Dr. Suzuki always recommended that you should surround your child with music and musical friends. Ask a board member for a list of children of a certain age and respective telephone numbers to help organize such an event.
- October 4**      **Group class 2**  
(Take the opportunity today to **observe another group class either before or after your own class**. Of course, you can visit other group classes anytime, but today we are trying to encourage all families to go check out another group class of your choice, perhaps the next class up or an advanced book)
- October 18**      **Group class 3**
- Would your business be willing to donate auction items for the STEP performance fund fundraiser? Do you know of businesses that would like to advertise in our newsletter that goes to all our families in the program? Call 691-2545 for further information.*
- October 23**      **STEP AUCTION –this is the first annual STEP auction, a major fundraising event for the performance fund benefiting all STEP students. This year we hope trip is for all**  
*to help send our Young Virtuosi group to London, England! While their a big one this event will help to support more performance opportunities of students both big and small.*
- October 25**      **Kiwanis Music Festival Deadline for applications**  
As part of the Festival, there are **non-competitive Suzuki classes** that offer an opportunity for students to perform and get valuable feedback from an adjudicator. There are also competitive classes that most of our students also participate in. The festival dates are February 22nd - March 5th, 2009. Registration forms now available at most music stores. Both STEP Orchestras will perform at the Kiwanis Festival.
- October 25**      Graduation Concert Rehearsal St. David's Presbyterian Church, 9:00-1:00, your group class will be given a rehearsal time within this larger block.
- October 26**      **Graduation concert** for all Suzuki books and those that completed all their Twinkles this year at *St. David's Presbyterian Church on Elizabeth Avenue at 1:30pm (1:00 for tune-up)*. Graduation tapes were to be submitted the end of September to your private teacher for evaluation. Graduation certificates presented to all graduating students. Each class will play a piece from their book for the audience. **All families are strongly recommended to come out and support the graduating students in the true Suzuki spirit!**

- November 1**                    **Group class 4**
- November 8**                    **Solo Concert Rehearsal, St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue)**  
9:00-12:00- performers will be booked a short rehearsal during this larger block, please be available for your rehearsal.
- November 9**                    **Solo Concert**  
This is the first of four chances to perform in a solo concert in the Suzuki year. Remember to perform a piece that you know really well (usually students perform a polished piece that is three pieces back from what they are currently working on). **All families are strongly recommended to come out and support the students playing their solo pieces.**  
Social and snacks to follow the concert. Everyone welcome at **St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue) at 1:30pm (1:00 tune-up).**
- November 15**                    **Group class 5**
- November 29**                    **Group class 6**
- December 7**                    Christmas **Play-In and Potluck** – St. Mark's Church, Logy Bay Road, 10:00am  
Bring along a school friend to the concert, grandparents and all your relatives, to hear nice music and get into the Christmas spirit. **Santa Claus** has in the past been able to stop by to our Christmas concert. He really enjoys hearing all the children play "twinkle, twinkle little star"!

*Play for your friends, parents and relatives over the holidays. Keep listening to your Suzuki CDs. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

- January 10**                    **Group class 7**  
Welcome back to a new year 2009 and the continuation of STEP. Three group classes in January!!
- January 17**                    **Group class 8**
- January 31**                    **Group class 9** (remember to **visit another group class after or before your own** to show your children what they have to look forward to, or so they can see how far they have come).
- February 7**                    **Group class 10**
- February 4**                    **Solo Concert Rehearsal, St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue)**  
9:00-12:00- performers will be booked a short rehearsal during this larger block, please be available for your rehearsal.
- February 5**                    **Pre-Kiwanis Solo Concert at 1:30pm (Tune-up at 1:00pm) at St. David's Presbyterian Church on Elizabeth Avenue**  
This is the second solo concert of the STEP year and many of our students take the opportunity to use it as a practice concert of their Kiwanis piece. Come out and hear some of the students play non-Suzuki music also.

*Volunteers needed for camp ACSI 2009. If we want to run an efficient camp we need many volunteers. Please remember that STEP is totally run by parent volunteers and that every family must make a contribution of time to ensure the program remains affordable to as many families as possible and runs as smoothly as possible.*

- February 21**                    **Group class 11**
- February 22nd to March 5th Kiwanis Music Festival**  
Each year most of our STEP students perform in the Kiwanis Music Festival. Some students choose to enter the competitive classes and we are proud to say do very well. There are also **non-competitive Suzuki classes** that we encourage all students to take part in as they will receive positive comments back from the adjudicator and it offers another opportunity for children to perform. **Watch for**

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registration for Kiwanis Music Festival several months earlier (Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> deadline).

**March 14**                    **Group class 12**

**March 21**                    **Public Performance 1:00 tune up 1:30-3:00 Location TBA**  
For over 25 years STEP has had a spring performance in a non conventional space (ie. Avalon or Village Mall). It is fun for the passer-bys to hear surprise violins! In this way we can help share our music with the wider community.

**March 28**                    **Group class 13**

*Would your employer consider being a sponsor of our Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institut e(STEP Music Camp), the only one in Atlantic Canada? We are a non-profit charitable organization. We can offer sponsors a variety of advertising opportunities. Please contact [step@nfld.com](mailto:step@nfld.com).*

**April 4**                      **Group class 14**

*Time to start thinking about STEP summer music camp. Pick up your registration forms and get them in early. Watch the newsletter for more ACSI2009 information.*

**April 25**                    **Group class 15**

**May 2**                        **Solo Concert Rehearsal, St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue)**  
9:00-12:00- performers will be booked a short rehearsal during this larger block, please be available for your rehearsal.

**May 3**                        **Solo Concert**  
This is the third of four chances to perform in a solo concert in the Suzuki year. Remember to perform a piece that you know really well (usually students perform a polished piece that is three pieces back from what they are currently working on). **All families are strongly recommended to come out and support the students playing their solo pieces.**  
Social and snacks to follow the concert. Everyone welcome at **St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue) at 1:30pm (1:00 tune-up).**

**May 9**                        **Group class 16**

**May 23**                      **Group class 17**

**May 30**                      **Group class 18**  
Bring a friend to your group class to see you play

*Have you approached a business that you frequent with a sponsor/donator package about their possible interest in sponsoring our Suzuki Music Institute? Have your business sponsor a class and have their name proudly displayed for the week on the door of the class, be mentioned in concert programs, and be known for supporting music for children in our community.*

**June 2**                        **Solo Concert Rehearsal, St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue)**  
9:00-1:00- performers will be booked a short rehearsal during this larger block, please be available for your rehearsal.

**June 3**                        **STEP Final Concert, MUN recital hall, 10:00am**  
(bring your friends and relatives). **Everyone participates in a play-in.**

**June 12**                      **Solo Concert Rehearsal, St. David's Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth Avenue)**  
9:00-1:00- performers will be booked a short rehearsal during this larger block, please be available for your rehearsal.

- June 13**                    **Final Solo Concert**  
This is usually a big solo concert and last year it was two solo concerts creating a wonderful afternoon of music. Everyone is welcome. Social and snacks follow the concerts.  
*Held at St. David's Church*
- June 23 – 26**            **Pre-Camp Events** – Look in your June newsletter for the exciting pre-camp activities if you have ideas or would like to host a musical social please let us know!
- June 29 - July 3**        Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute a.k.a. **STEP Camp 2009 (the only Suzuki Music Institute in Atlantic Canada - held in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador)**  
We have had people come from western Canada, eastern USA to participate in our camp in past years. Teachers have been brought in from the United Kingdom, possibly the USA, and other parts of Canada. Everyone in the program should take part in music camp regardless of book level. This is a great experience for the children and parents. Book your holidays now for camp.
- July 2nd**                    **Annual General Meeting of STEP, Election of Officers, Chair's Report, Treasurer's Report, Artistic Report (Held during Music Camp in St. John's, NL)**

## Some information about our events for this year 2008-2009

**Play-ins and Potlucks** – Play-Ins are an opportunity for all children to listen to music from all the Suzuki books and to play along with others all the pieces they know. Good fun for all. The potluck offers time for parents and children to chat and eat. Parents whose last name falls between A and M please bring a main dish – hot or cold (e.g., sandwiches, salads, casserole, etc) and those from M to Z, please bring along a dessert (e.g., cookies, muffins, etc.).

**Group classes** – In the Suzuki method it is so important for children to be surrounded by their peers playing, learning and listening from each other. Our group classes (pre-twinkle, twinkle, early book 1, late book 1, books 2, 3, 4, 5 and up) provide opportunities for children to meet and make friends and play together. All classes are lead by a trained Suzuki teacher. We also have beginner, intermediate, and advanced/ super fiddle classes available to all children once they have reached a certain level. Listen to the fiddling CD by the STEP fiddlers, “Galing for a Storm”.

**Boys or girls STEP parties** - As parents we all know that our children’s participation in certain activities either when they are young or a little older depends a lot on their peer group and friends. Dr. Suzuki suggested the need to immerse children in a musical environment and surround children with others involved in similar interests so to allow children to encourage and drive each other. We need volunteer parents to host parties throughout the STEP year for children of the same age (in the case of the girls) or for the boys in our program so they can simply get together, have fun playing indoors or outside, eat together, and also play a few pieces together in a non-group class setting. Call Jennifer Budden or email [jbudden@npl.ca](mailto:jbudden@npl.ca) (574-3417) to get the telephone numbers and numbers of children in a certain age group and to volunteer to have a boys or girls STEP party. Friends made at these parties often become little performing groups at an older age.

**Graduation concert** – Once a child has completed a Suzuki book, the child’s teacher requests that they tape various pieces from that book. There is also a graduation for those students who can play all their twinkles well. Tapes should be submitted by September 30, 2008 to your private teacher. This tape is reviewed by the child’s teacher and then sent to another teacher for an independent assessment. If considered acceptable then the child graduates officially from that book. At the concert, children graduating from each book play together (usually the last piece in the book) resulting in a very nice concert. Each child is presented with a graduation certificate. In the Suzuki spirit of encouraging and supporting each child in the program, we really strongly encourage all families, friends and relatives to come out for the concert.

**Solo concerts** – An opportunity for the children to play a piece that they have polished and know well, thus ensuring a positive experience. Children should not be performing their latest piece (exception perhaps for the pre-twinklers and twinklers who may play a piece of bread or cheese or a twinkle variation). Usually the child plays a piece that was polished three pieces previous to their current piece. Solo concerts allow each child to get performance experience and build confidence. Advanced students often use the solo concert as a practice performance for upcoming competitions (e.g., Kiwanis Music Festival). A practice occurs on the day before.

**Kiwanis Music Festival** - The Kiwanis Music Festival has a non-competitive component for Suzuki students, providing an excellent opportunity for children to get feedback from an adjudicator and additional performance experience. Be sure to register when the forms become available. Registration this year is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Public performances** (e.g., senior centres, hospitals, etc.) – Each year all children from our program have the opportunity to participate in public performances to help increase the awareness of our program within the community and to bring music to people who may not have the opportunity to go out and hear it. Through email and our newsletter you will hear about such events. This year we may hold a certain group class in a venue to share music with those who may not be able to get out and hear children play. If you have any requests for the children to play somewhere please call [step@nfld.com](mailto:step@nfld.com).

**The STEP Fiddlers** – The STEP Fiddlers are the performing group of children from the program who play a variety of Newfoundland fiddle music throughout the year at different venues. The vision is to create a high quality group of fiddlers who are able to go on tour and perform at various venues. In the past the STEP Fiddlers have performed on the main stage and children’s stage at the St. John’s Folk Festival and produced a CD, “Galing for a Storm”. This past year, the STEP Fiddlers have opened for Ron Hynes and Band at the Cook Recital Hall and opened the St. John’s Folk Festival on the main stage. There are group classes for fiddle available to all children (beginner, intermediate, and advanced/super) as part of our program. Usually, children in late book one and book two can enroll in the beginner fiddle class and learn the repertoire. Intermediate fiddlers usually are in book three or four while the advanced/

## STEP Events Calendar

super fiddlers are usually in book five and up. This year we will continue with an additional practice for the STEP fiddlers, held on group class days from 12:00-12:45pm with Christina Smith, and a registration fee to be a member of the group. It is envisioned that children once they have mastered the repertoire of the beginner class are eligible for the STEP fiddlers. A performance may involve the advanced students playing pieces, then joined by the intermediate fiddlers for a set of pieces, and then finally joined by the beginner fiddlers for a final set of pieces. The repertoire for each group will be determined this year and the same procedure as for the classical Suzuki pieces, of listening to your CD several times each day, will apply to the STEP Fiddlers. If you wish to book the STEP Fiddlers for an upcoming event (Christmas social, office party, etc) or for information about the STEP Fiddlers, please email [step@nfld.com](mailto:step@nfld.com).

**STEP Junior and STEP Senior Orchestra** – Each week there are regular one-hour practices for the junior orchestra and one and a half hours for the senior orchestra. All groups will perform in a final concert in the spring of 2006. Stay tuned to hear more about this fantastic concert!

**STEP Spring Public Play-In** – The Step Play-In has traditionally been held in a public venue such as the Avalon Mall. All children participate in their group class and in a play-in format at the Avalon Mall. This is a wonderful opportunity for STEP to share its music with wider community.

**STEP Newsletter** – Our STEP newsletter is available to all members. Please feel free to advertise free of charge your request to buy or sell instruments and share any experiences with us. If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in the newsletter, there is a nominal fee. Monies from advertisements help keep the program financially viable and overall costs kept reasonable.

**STEP Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute (ACSI)/camp** – A full week of music activities (Orff, choir, private lesson, group lesson, music theory, orchestra, chamber group, drama, fiddle, solo concerts, faculty concert, lunch talks by the teachers and this year by parents) and a great time for the children and adults. More information will be available in the newsletter, closer to camp. This is the only Suzuki Music camp in Atlantic Canada and we usually get a few visitors from the eastern USA who come up for our music camp. We are already looking for sponsors or donations by organizations for ACSI. Organizations can sponsor a camp class and have their name on the door for the week, be mentioned verbally and in writing on concert programs, and be provided with advertising space in the STEP newsletter. We have also had some of our sponsors showcase their goods one day during camp week.

STEP Events Calendar  
**Welcome to the STEP 2008-2009 year**

**Welcome** to all the new families joining us this year and welcome back to all the other Suzuki families for the upcoming 2008-2009 year. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and been able to enjoy the warm days with your families. It is time to register once again for the fall and winter semesters of the Suzuki Talent Education Program (STEP). Please find attached information regarding registration and our opening “**information, registration, play-in and potluck**” event to be held at Arts and Culture Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Irwin’s Court, Saturday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>**. **All parents and children** are asked to **arrive sharply at 9:30am** for an information session (for all parents), while the children get tuned up for the play-in. Parents will have time to tune-up after the information session and just before the play-in begins.

The teachers in the program have welcomed our addition of theory classes and have worked hard to juggle schedules to ensure an active program for this year. We will have group classes almost every two weeks plus solo concerts and a variety of other events. This year we will offer 18 group classes, four solo concerts and practice sessions for the concert, a graduation concert, a play-a-thon, a Christmas play-in, an orchestra concert, and a final concert, as well as maintaining the additional practice times for the STEP Fiddlers. **STEP Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute (ACSI)**, the only Suzuki Music camp in Atlantic Canada will be **the week following school in June/July** held in St. John’s, NL.

**Evelyn Osborne** remains highly committed to our program as the Artistic Director and some of the Board members from last year are continuing to serve in a variety of ways to keep the program running as smoothly as possible for a non-profit charitable volunteer organization. The administrative part of STEP is run by volunteer parents. We strive to do our best for our children creating a nurturing environment to foster learning through music (viola, violin and cello). We can always use more help and ideas. Please feel free to contact us with your ideas and your willingness to volunteer.

Our biggest challenge for the program remains **sharing the workload** amongst all families to keep the program running. The program is dangerously unstable because it depends on a few very dedicated parent volunteers to carry the program. This year we are asking each family to specifically think about ways to **volunteer for the program**. There are small things that can be done by each family (e.g., a clean-up crew after a social event, coordinating the snacks for a concert, baking some goods, helping with fundraising, public awareness, contributing to the newsletter, etc). Please participate in your STEP program, offer ideas for improvement, and help keep alive this Suzuki Talent Education Program (STEP). Thank you.

The year ahead offers new challenges and opportunities. Last year we began looking to businesses for **sponsorship and donations** to help make our program more financially stable and to keep the costs as low as possible so that all families who want to participate in the program have an opportunity to do so. We encourage everyone to explore possible donations of services and/or funds from businesses you frequent or are employed at. As a program we can offer businesses advertisements and recognition in our STEP newsletter, concert programs, and throughout the STEP Camp. We have information that can be distributed to possible sponsors/donators to the program; please call Jennifer Budden at 754-3417 or [jbudden@nlpl.ca](mailto:jbudden@nlpl.ca) for further information. We also make available our STEP Fiddlers for hire at special events and to a sponsor/donor who makes a significant financial contribution to the program.

Please **encourage friends** to attend our registration day and sign up for the program. The more families involved in the Suzuki program the stronger artistically and financially the program will be.

# Suzuki Talent Education Program

## Member Benefits

- 18 group classes per STEP year with highly trained Suzuki teachers and accompanists at each group class
- Top notch facility for group classes – MUN Faculty of Music rooms
- “Welcome back” potluck and play-in
- 4 student solo concerts – family and friends are welcome to attend
- Accompanists for all solo concert practice and performance
- Opportunities to visit other group classes and observe
- Graduation concert and certificates for each student upon completion of each book
- Graduation tape reviews conducted by Suzuki teachers
- Our STEP newsletter mailed to you or given to you at group class
- Practice tips workshop
- Christmas Concert
- Final Concert
- STEP Orchestras (Junior and Senior) and Orchestra Concert
- STEP Fiddlers
- Group fiddle classes (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
- Master classes with guest artists
- STEP Camp
- STEP Public Play-In