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STEP News

Suzuki Talent Education Program



THE SUZUKI TALENT
EDUCATION PROGRAM
ST. JOHN'S, NL

*"Where love is
deep, much
can be
accomplished"*
Shinichi Suzuki

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A Holiday note from the Artistic Director

Hello STEP families,

Well the weather is just starting to get cold and the holidays are coming soon! Next week we're looking forward to our annual Holiday Play-In at St. Mark's Church. Please come and bring something for the pot luck afterwards! If your last name is A-M bring something hot and if it's N-Z bring a dessert. This is one of the few times we all get to relax and socialize after a concert – soak it up and take the time to get to know some new parents. Remind your children to practice as I have a feeling Santa will be making an appearance and we all know how he loves to her Twinkle!

We have an exciting year ahead, as you may have heard STEP has been approved for a SEVEC exchange with Guelph Suzuki. SEVEC is the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (www.sevec.ca) and is a federal program which has helped over 70 thousand children discover other parts of this vast country. They fund the travel for students between the ages of 12 and 17. So we are taking our book 4s and YV to Guelph in March and Guelph will get to feel our “spring” weather in May. Everyone will meet them at the May 15th group class and we'll play a joint concert that weekend. Keep your ears peeled for fundraising efforts (ie. buy a ticket for the Christmas basket). If everyone pitches in we can show them some of our Newfoundland hospitality and hopefully do a trip like this every year or two so that all our students can look forward to musical travels over the years to come!

Happiest of holidays to you all
Musically yours
Evelyn

Christmas Concert

December 12 is quickly approaching! This year's concert/play-in will be held at St. Mark's Church, Logy Bay Rd. Children should be tuned up at 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start. Following the concert, there will be a potluck. Families with last names beginning with **A to M** should bring a main dish (sandwiches, casseroles, finger food, etc) and those beginning with **M to Z** should bring a dessert (cookies, muffins etc.). This year Santa would like each family to bring a **non-perishable food item for the food bank.**

Expect a visit from someone special!

STEP Solo Concerts

Solo Concerts are a great way to get performing experience in a more formal atmosphere. Concerts take place in churches throughout the city and students are encouraged to dress up and play their best for the appreciative audience. This opportunity is a much different experience for the students than a solo in a group class or a play-in concert. Suzuki students have a unique opportunity for extensive performing opportunities which most music programs do not offer. Many musicians later in life suffer from performance anxiety and are very nervous performing even though they are excellent musicians. The best cure for stage fright is performing as much as possible at a young age. Most students with a Suzuki background think nothing of walking out on stage and performing because it has been an integral part of their musical training.

Solo Concerts happen four times a year with the next concert on February 14, 2010. Every student is welcome to play from the youngest to the oldest from Twinkle to Bach Double and beyond. Check the STEP website for more information regarding solo concert times and locations.

'I want - if I can - to get education changed from mere instruction to education in the real sense of the word - education that inculcates, brings out, develops the human potential, based on the growing life of the child. That is why I am devoting my efforts to furthering Talent Education: what a child becomes depends entirely on how he is educated. My prayer is that all children on this globe may become fine human beings, happy people of superior ability, and I am devoting all my energies to making this come about, for I am convinced that all children are born with this potential'. Shinichi Suzuki

CAMP UPDATE

Many thanks to all the students, families and faculty that took part in ACSI 2009 and helped make it a great success. Special thanks must be given to our team of volunteers that worked behind the scenes throughout the week to make sure that every detail was perfect. No matter how big or small the job they are an integral and important part of the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute.

Sean, Matthew, Heather, Scott, Barb, Sue, Michelle, Krista and David for scrubbing floors and bathrooms and moving furniture.

Sandra for loot bags

Michelle, Ann Marie, Mark, Genista and the rest of the canteen gang

Parents who donated goods to the canteen

Scotsburn Dairy for milk

Grannie Bates and Rodney DeVries

Krista, David, Marie and Merrill for running the canteen

ACSI is the only Suzuki Summer Institute in all of Atlantic Canada. This Suzuki Association approved Institute is a week long program of daily group classes, lessons, choir, ORFF, theory, fiddle, Chamber Music and Orchestra open to any violin, viola and cello student studying the Suzuki method. We have local faculty as well as visiting faculty from other Suzuki programs join of for a week of hard work and a lot of fun which ends in a series of final concerts that showcase the fine efforts of the week. The days are a mixture of classes and activities that provide just the right balance of education and recreation and result in a lot of smiles! We're happy to say that each year over 80% of our students and families attend and we're always happy to see new faces!

Keep your eyes open for information and announcements regarding ACSI 2009. Applications and complete details will be available early in 2009. We hope to see you there.



Camp 2009



Hanging out with friends. Camp 2009



Fun! Camp 2009



STEP fiddlers play for cruise ship tourists

UPCOMING EVENTS

STEP Christmas Play-in December 12
Folk Arts Society Young Folk at the Hall January 16, 23 and 24, 2010
Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra Silver Ball, Delta Hotel February 6, 2010
Solo concert February 14, 2010
STEP Avalon Mall Concert March 13, 2010
STEP Guelph exchange March 26-31, 2010
Shallaway Annual Spring Concert, A&C Centre, May 1, 2010
Guelph Suzuki kids visit May 11-18, 2010

Snow Days

'Tis the season. Group class cancellations will be announced on CBC and VOXM.

STEP teachers 2009-2010

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STEP Board

As a non-profit organization, we are governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually. The roster for 2009-10 is as follows:

- Percy Delaney, Chair
- (Vice Chair to be selected from members-at-large)
- Evelyn Osborne, Artistic Director
- Jon Waterhouse, Secretary
- Anna Trela, Treasurer
- Katie Lawton, Member-at-Large
- Krista Vokey-Sing, Member-at-Large
- David Sing, Member-at-Large
- Terri Green, Member-at-Large
- Cathy Rowe, Member-at-Large
- Shelley Andrews, Member-at-Large

Minutes of board meetings are available on our website. SuzukinI.ca