

November 2011

Playing with the Pros: A Concerto Experience

On Saturday, November 12, about a dozen SEMSA students performed Concertos accompanied by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, led by Jere Lantz.

What an exciting experience this has been! Playing a solo with an orchestra is something very few student musicians get to do. **To the best of our knowledge there is no other program like this in the country.**

Listening to all these talented students play was both a privilege and an honor.

One orchestra musician told me that he and his colleagues were thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity for youth and that he wishes he could have done this when he was a kid.

We hope that all of you, whether a concerto performer, parent, or fellow musician, found this to be inspiring and motivating. Realize what you can achieve when you decide to focus your time and energy toward a positive goal.

Please take the time to share your feedback on the form found on page 4. This feedback will be used as support in the SEMAC grant report. (The SEMAC grant helped fund this project.)

Also, please don't forget to complete and submit both the **Holiday Gift Card and Kwik Trip Fundraisers.** Thank you!

Lynela Becker, President

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From the Studio of Barbara Bartleson

Piano students from the studio of Barbara Bartleson participated in the following activities this fall:

Southeastern Minnesota Suzuki Association Honors Recital

Katie Anderson, Nick Crockett & Michaela Wentz

SEMSA and Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale Concerto Workshop “Playing with the Pros”

Kristina Allen - Mozart Concerto in C Major, III. Menuetto;
Katie Anderson - Beethoven Concerto #2, III. Rondo;
George Bao - Mozart Concerto in C Major, III. Menuetto;
Isabel Kramlinger - Mozart Concerto in C Major, III. Menuetto;
Donna Unseth - Haydn Concerto in D Major, III. Rondo a la Ongarese;
Ashley Vincent - Mozart Concerto #17 in G Major, I. Allegro

We invite all SEMSA members to our early winter recital

Sunday, November 20, 2011, at Petit Music in Eyota, MN, at 3 and 4pm.
Students will perform repertoire pieces, contest materials and concertos presented at the SEMSA/Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale concerto workshop, “Playing with the Pros.”

From the Studio of Linda Thompson

Several students from the studio of Linda Thompson participated in a performance during Mayo Heritage Days.



In addition, Linda's students have also performed in the fall SEMSA Honors recital and the SEMSA/Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale concerto workshop.

From the Studio of Paula Stewart

This autumn has been a busy time for my students and me. September and early October kept me running as I transferred my Rochester Montessori School violin/viola classes to **Kathleen Lamb**, our new Rochester Suzuki violin and viola teacher. Kathleen has done a great job assuming responsibility for the school program and also has a private studio. She is SEMSA's Music Nuts and Bolts teacher for this year's group lessons. I am very pleased to have found such a fine addition for the SE Minnesota Suzuki community.

Due to popular demand, piano teacher **Judy Boyum** and I taught the Positive Practice! Workshop twice this fall. It's a parent workshop designed to help make practice more effective and motivational. If you'd like to attend next year, look for it in next fall's Rochester Community Education brochure.

My students have been busy with this year's Fall Practice Challenge. Students were challenged through all of September and October. Bronze, silver and gold medals were awarded, with a gold medal requiring a minimum of five days of practicing, five days of listening and an age-specific, challenging number of practice minutes every week. I am thrilled that the number of medalists doubled from last year, to 17! Medal winners accumulated over 20,000 minutes of practice. Congratulations to the following SEMSA medalists: **Elliot A., Daniel E., Isabelle E., Greta Mae G., Marina J., Eleanor L., Soren L., Xavier L., Natalie T., Ethan W. and Angelique W.**



Soren and Xavier celebrate their gold medals, Angelique performs on her viola

Visit our website, www.semsa-suzuki.org, for the complete list of SEMSA group lessons, workshops, recitals and SAM event dates

Need to sell/buy an instrument? Take a look at what is available at www.semsa-suzuki.org.

Concerto Project Feedback

Did you attend the Concerto Project on November 12? If you did, we need and welcome your input. Please respond to the following questions and email them to Linda Thompson at lindakwthompson@gmail.com

1. As a parent, what was a highlight from attending the Concerto Project?
2. Have you ever seen and/or participated in a similar event before?
3. If given the opportunity, would you attend again? Would you encourage your children/others to participate?
4. Do you have any ideas that would enhance a similar event?

SEMSA Calendar

Group Lessons

Pax Christi Church

4pm-6pm

September 16, 2011
(*Potluck, Jere Lantz*)

October 14, 2011

November 18, 2011

December 16, 2011

January 20, 2012

February 3, 2012

March 16, 2012

April 20, 2012

May 18, 2012

(*Pizza Party, Concert*)

Honors Recital

Congregational Church

October 9, 2011 at 2pm

January 21, 2012 at 2pm

March 3, 2012 at 2pm

Young Musicians Recital

Unitarian Universalist Church

December 9, 2011

January 27, 2012

March 2, 2012

SAM Graduation

March 10, 2012 - Piano Graduation
at Westminster Presbyterian

March 17, 2012 - Graduation at
Orchestra Hall

March 20, 2012 - Upper level
Soloist Recital

Ensemble Recital

Unitarian Universalist Church

April 28, 2012 – Time to be
announced

100 Day Challenge

This year's American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, WI was a great motivator for the year ahead. We had a chance to hear great music, participate in fun group classes, and refine our 'polished' pieces to make them more musically expressive.

One of the most impressive events at the Institute are the awards given to the students who have practiced for a consecutive number of days throughout the year. Some of the students are recognized for their practice of 100 days, 1 year, and even up to several years in a row! Truly amazing!

As often as I have struggled to ensure the practice was complete in our own home, I thought this might be a way to try to motivate beyond my nagging! So, the day we returned from camp this past August, we printed out our very own 100 day practice charts. I am happy to report we are on day 69 and it is no longer just ME instigating the practice sessions!

My daughter, Cate, has said about her cello practice, "The chart has been fun to fill up with stickers and I like to see my progress as I get closer to the 100th day". Nick, our pianist, has been excited to reach each milestone -- 10 days, 25 days and soon the 75th day! To me, that sums it up; we are on our way. I am proud to see them take an interest in completing a practice session and I think we all see the benefit of consistent practice as they progress. It makes it easier to move forward and is no longer, "will we practice today?", but "when will we practice?" Here's to the next 100!

---Submitted by SEMSA parent, Amy Crockett



Photo 1: Nick Crockett, Ahn McGeeney, Emma Crockett, Cate Crockett, Anna McGeeney

Photo 2: Anna and Ahn McGeeney

Stevens Point Institute – Learning & Fun

For the second year in a row, the McGeeney family had an awesome time going with and staying next door to the Crockett family at the Stevens Point Institute this past summer. What a blast the Institute time was! Anna (student of DeAnn Spencer) has been practicing every single day since Institute in August and is still fired up about it. Anh (student of Carolyn Mead) had a chance to lead other cellos on a couple of occasions, which he loved! The kids had practice time AND play time. (Bringing the Grandmas was such an important help to keep it all together with the 5 kids.)

--- Submitted by SEMSA parent, Elizabeth McGeeney

SEMSA 2011 Holiday Gift Card Fund Raiser
(Order Form)

SEMSA will be offering gift cards during the holiday season on a **pre-paid** basis. Orders must be received by **12/7** and will be delivered at the December 16 Group Lesson. Orders can be placed during group lessons or mailed to:

Sherry Jester
222 River Bluffs Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Please make checks payable to **SEMSA**.
(Parentheses indicate the amount SEMSA receives when the card is purchased.)

BOOKS AND MUSIC:

	Value	Quantity	Total
Barnes and Noble (9%)	\$10		
	\$20		
	\$25		
iTunes (5%)	\$15		
	\$25		

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES:

American Eagle (10%)	\$25		
Claire's (9%)	\$10		
Gap/Old Navy/Banana Republic (14%)	\$25		
Gymboree/Crazy 8 (13%)	\$25		
Talbot's (13%)	\$25		
The Children's Place (12%)	\$25		

DEPARTMENT STORE:

Bed Bath & Beyond (7%)	\$25		
Herberger's (8%)	\$25		
JC Penney (5%)	\$25		
Kohl's (4%)	\$25		
Macy's (10%)	\$25		

DISCOUNT STORE:

TJ Maxx/HomeGoods (7%)	\$25		
	\$100		
Target (2%)	\$25		
	\$100		
WalMart/Sam's Club (2%)	\$25		
	\$100		

ELECTRONICS AND OFFICE:

	Value	Quantity	Total
Best Buy (3%)	\$25		
	\$100		
Office Max (5%)	\$25		
Staples (5%)	\$25		

FOOD/DINING:

Applebee's (8%)	\$25		
	\$50		
Brueggers Bagels (7%)	\$10		
Carlos O'Kelly's (9%)	\$25		
Chipotle (10%)	\$10		
Chuck E Cheese (8%)	\$10		
Cold Stone Creamery (8%)	\$10		
Cub Foods/Albertsons/Jewel (4%)	\$25		
Dunn Bros. Coffee (8%)	\$10		
Great Harvest Bread Co. (6%)	\$10		
Noodles and Company (8%)	\$10		
Olive Garden/Red Lobster (9%)	\$25		
Outback Steakhouse (8%)	\$25		
Papa John's (8%)	\$10		
Papa Murphy's (8%)	\$10		
Panera Bread (9%)	\$10		
	\$25		
Starbucks (7%)	\$10		
Subway (3%)	\$10		
TGIFridays (9%)	\$25		

HEALTH AND BEAUTY:

Bath and Body Works (13%)	\$10		
	\$25		
Walgreens (6%)	\$25		

HOME IMPROVEMENT:

Home Depot (4%)	\$25		
	\$100		
Lowes (4%)	\$25		
	\$100		
Menards (3%)	\$25		
	\$100		

ONLINE AND CATALOG:

	Value	Quantity	Total
Amazon.com (4%)	\$25		
Groupon.com (7%)	\$25		
Lands' End (16%)	\$25		
LL Bean (15%)	\$25		
Shutterfly (9%)	\$25		

PETS:

PetSmart (4%)	\$25		
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SPORTING GOODS:

Cabelas (11%)	\$25		
Dick's Sporting Goods (8%)	\$25		
	\$100		
Gander Mountain (8%)	\$25		
Sports Authority (8%)	\$25		

TOYS AND GAMES:

Gamestop (3%)	\$25		
Toys R Us (1.5%)	\$20		

TOTALS:	-----		
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Support SEMSA through the Kwik Trip Gas Card Fundraiser

Kwik Trip has increased the percent of the fundraising profit for non-profit organizations participating in their SCRIP program to 10%. This special offer continues until April 1, 2012. Over the last four years, SEMSA has raised over \$600 annually with this fundraiser. The goal this year is to raise over \$3000 through the Kwik Trip fundraiser. The SEMSA Board of Directors hopes to increase the participation and have every SEMSA family participate in this fundraising effort. If every SEMSA family would purchase one \$100 gas card each month over the next year, SEMSA could earn considerable funds to support enrichment activities for our students.

The funds raised will be used to support SEMSA activities - such as, the up-coming Gasshuku Music Workshop, which is scheduled for the fall of 2012. Past Gasshuku workshops have brought renowned Suzuki instructors from across the nation to Rochester for an exciting weekend of learning and music making. These instructors are often well-known clinicians from Suzuki Summer Institutes that SEMSA students have attended.

These pre-paid gas cards are very convenient and easy to use. When you scan the Kwik Trip gas card at the pump, choose the credit card option. When filling your gas tank, the pump will automatically stop at the amount remaining on the card. Beside purchasing gas at the pump, the cards can be used for in-store purchases, such as, milk, bananas, newspapers, doughnuts, . . .

You may use discount fuel coupons from any gas station, Cub Foods, or Fleet n' Farm at Kwik Trip gas stations. After you fill you gas tank, pay inside the Kwik Trip store for your fuel purchase; first present the fuel coupon to the clerk, before you use your Kwik Trip gas card to pay for your fuel.

Please plan to purchase Kwik Trip cards at the Friday, September 16th group lesson or email me with the number and denomination of Kwik Trip gas cards you would like to purchase and I will make arrangements to get the cards to you.

The number of families participating in this fundraiser, throughout the year, needs to increase. This is the 5th year SEMSA has offered this simple and fat-free fundraiser (with no door to door sales requirement); please support this important fundraising effort.

Kwik Trip Gas Card Order Form

Kwik Trip Gas Card Value \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100

Number of Cards _____

Total Value of Kwik Trip Card Order \$_____

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SEMSA TEACHER STUDIO _____

Contact: Judy Hickey

Mailing Address: 1807 Northern Viola Lane NE, Rochester, MN 55906

Email: hickey.judy@gmail.com

Phone Number: 292-0576