

SEMSA NEWSLETTER



September 2011

WELCOME TO THE 2011-2012 SEMSA YEAR!

The new school year is upon us! With this new year comes some exciting opportunities for SEMSA families.

Please come hear **Jere Lantz, Music Director and Conductor of Rochester Symphony & Orchestra Chorale**, as he gives an entertaining and informative talk to all SEMSA students, parents and teachers on group lesson day, Sept. 16 at 5:00 p.m. at Pax Christi Catholic Church. Jere's wonderful sense of humor always makes for an interesting presentation. Our annual potluck will follow at 6:00 p.m. with sloppy joes and drinks provided. Please join us for some fellowship, information and fun.

As in the past, we will have group lessons once per month, Honors recitals, Ensemble recital and a string performance group. This year advanced students will have the opportunity to perform concertos with the Rochester Symphony & Orchestra Chorale.

Are you looking for an instrument? Check out the instruments available on the website at www.Semsa-Suzuki.org

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The SEMSA Membership form is on page 7, please fill out & return in the studio of the oldest child.

For this year only, we are able to receive 10% back on all Kwik Trip gas cards. Please consider buying some cards. If 100 cards are purchased at \$100/card, SEMSA will receive \$1000. This is an easy fundraiser as every needs gasoline. You may contact Judy Hickey at 292-0576 or hickey.judy@gmail.com to purchase cards. The cards are also available at group lessons.

I hope this will be a great year for all SEMSA students, parents and teachers.

Lynela Becker, President

Group Lesson Welcome:

Parents, we are excited to start another season of Group Lessons for your children. These sessions provide important opportunities for group performance and fun! We appreciate your continued support with making these sessions a priority. Our first session will be Friday, September 16th, at 4pm. We will again be meeting at Pax Christi Catholic Church (at the intersection of 41st Street and 18th Avenue NW). Class lists and class rooms will be posted in the lobby of the lower level.

As is customary, we will have a **Pot-Luck dinner** at 6pm following the September Group Sessions. Please bring a dish to place on the serving line -- the SEMSA Board will provide "Sloppy Joe" sandwiches, drinks, eating and serving utensils. This event allows you to relax and visit with new and existing SEMSA friends without having to rush home to prepare and clean up from dinner!

Jan Glowacki, Group Lesson Coordinator
(woodspirit@charter.net)

There will be a potluck following group lessons on Friday the 16th! Bring a side dish to share.

Format Change – First Group Lesson

SEMSA Group lessons begin Friday, September 16. As usual, group lessons (except the May concert and pizza party) will be held at Pax Christi Church, 4:00 - 6:00 pm. **The format for the September group lesson will be different than usual:**

- **At 4:00:**

Cellists: Meet with Miss Mead in choir room.

Pianists: Meet with Mrs. Bartleson in the sanctuary.

Violins: Twinklers and other beginning students meet with Mrs. Thompson.

Violins and Violas: Book 1 through early Book 5 meet with Mrs. Stewart for a play-in.

Violins: Later Book 5 and beyond meet with Mrs. Spencer for Performance group.

More details and assistance will be available at check-in.

- **At 5:00:**

- **Jere Lantz** will speak on the topic of concertos. Maestro Lantz is a fascinating speaker! He will be discussing concertos in preparation for the joint SEMSA / Rochester Symphony Concerto Workshop, coming Saturday, November 12. This presentation is for everyone.

- **After the presentation (around 6:00):**

- **Potluck dinner** for all participating families. Sloppy joe sandwiches, drinks and eating utensils will be provided by SEMSA. Families should bring a dish to share.

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



SEMSA Group Lessons – Benefits and Etiquette

SEMSA students and parents are very fortunate to have group lessons as part of the Suzuki program offered by our member teachers. Group lessons benefit our students in many ways: review and polish repertory pieces, the opportunity to play in an ensemble and an orchestra, meet and form friendships with other musically minded students. Parents have the opportunity to meet other Suzuki parents and informally gather practice tips and suggestions. In order for our children to gain the most benefit from these special group lessons, parents might want to carefully consider the following points

1. Park and enter the building from the lower level parking lot. The lower level entrance is located to the rear of the main building. Parent volunteers will be available to help direct you to the correct rooms.
2. Commit to attending each monthly group lesson. The SEMSA group music lessons are an effective way for your child to review and preview the technical skills and Suzuki music repertoire. Group lessons build a music community for the child and parents.
3. Arrive before 4:00pm, as this will allow you to get your child to the appropriate classroom, prepare the instrument to be played, and visit the restroom, if necessary. It is disruptive to the instructor and other students in the class to have late arrivals.
4. Consistently attend the assigned orchestra lesson. Playing in an ensemble is one of the goals and joys of studying to play an instrument. The instructor selects the music for the orchestra session according to the number of students and kinds of instruments assigned to attend. If students do not attend, the orchestra is unbalance and does not sound correct.
5. Stay in the building during group lessons if you are a parent of elementary and pre-school students, and preferably in the classrooms with your youngest children. Parents of middle and high school students need to provide their children, or someone at the check-in table, with contact information when leaving the premises.
6. Help the teacher arrange the classroom both before the group lesson session starts and to help the teacher return the room to its original set-up at the end.
7. Parents, please guide your children to show respect for the church and the classrooms we are allowed to use. Our group is fortunate to be allowed the privilege of using Pax Christi Catholic Church for our group lessons. We can return the courtesy by respectful use of the space during the SEMSA monthly group lessons.

Submitted by: Judy Hickey

What is a CONCERTO?

SEMSA is quite fortunate to have many resources available to our organization. One of the best is **Jere Lantz, conductor of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale**. He has become a familiar face at our GASSHUKU retreats and can address whatever topic we select! When we approached him about having SEMSA students play a concerto movement with the symphony, he was intrigued and the wheels started turning immediately. A grant from SEMAC to assist with costs was the tipping point. Playing a solo with an orchestra is something very few student musicians get to do. Symphonies are busy with rehearsals for their own concerts. To the best of our knowledge there is no other program like this in the country.

On Friday, September 16, Maestro Lantz will speak to all SEMSA students and parents about what a CONCERTO is. His ideas will teach more than one gets at Wikipedia! He relates to all ages and all levels of music experience. Be sure to stay for this part of SEMSA's first group lesson of the 2011-2012 school year. We will all know more about this form of music after this talk.

Several SEMSA students have memorized concerto movements. They will rehearse with a piano accompanist, once with Mr. Lantz present, polish their pieces even more, and then play with the Symphony on Saturday, November 12, Hill Auditorium at RCTC. This will not be a formal concert (too many soloists!). Everyone should come for a portion of this day to hear our very own SEMSA students play with the Rochester Symphony.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

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

Announcing the 8th season of recitals especially for teenage classical musicians!
Here's all you need to know...



Young Musicians of Southeastern Minnesota

Players of All Instruments and Vocalists – Ages 13
and Up

Sponsored by
The Rochester Area Keyboard Club/Local Association
Rochester Music Guild
&
The Southeastern Minnesota Suzuki Association

Mark your calendar...

December 9, 2011
Friday, 7 pm
Register by 12/2/11

January 27, 2012
Friday, 7 pm
Register by 1/20/12

March 2, 2012
Friday, 7pm
Register by 2/23/12

All recitals will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1727 Walden Lane SW, Rochester, Minnesota, (507) 282-5209.

To register your student contact:
Barbara Bartleson
2303 Crest Lane SW
Rochester, MN, 55902
286-9230 or bwbartleson@gmail.com

- ❖ Students must be 13 years of age or older to perform.
- ❖ Solo and ensemble performances are welcome.
- ❖ Teachers may register two students for each program by mail, phone or e-mail.
- ❖ Performers should represent the highest standards of preparation and musicality.
- ❖ Memorization is preferred.
- ❖ Students must find and pay their own accompanists.
- ❖ You need not be a member of one of the sponsoring organizations to present a student. We wish to include as many teachers and students as possible from all around our area.
- ❖ There is no performance fee. A basket for donations will be displayed at each event.
- ❖ When you register your student include the student's name, complete title of the piece (include composer, key, opus number, etc.), contact information and where the student attends school.
- ❖ Contact Barbara Bartleson with questions and/or comments.

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



Southeastern Minnesota Suzuki Association

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION
Membership Form—Please register in the studio of the oldest child.

Father's Name Mother's Name Date

Street Address City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone e-mail: print legibly

Table with 6 columns: Student Name, Age, School, Grade, Instrument, Teacher. Includes three rows of blank lines for data entry.

SEMSA typically uses student photos (unidentified by name) in our brochure and website. If you do not want your child's photo in these publications, please sign here.

SEMSA is a non-profit organization and is totally dependent on volunteers. Please check each category for which you are willing to assist. All types of contributions are appreciated.

- Host/Hostess: Provide treats, serve, clean-up, help at group events
Piano accompaniment (specify instruments and levels)
Word Processing: forms, recital programs, web-site assistance.
GASSHUKU volunteer: set-up, clean-up, snacks (needs vary from event to event)
Phone calls Other (be specific)

2011-2012 SEMSA Membership Fee:

- \$40 for parents + one student:
\$ 5 for each additional student
Donation 501c status-tax deductible; support for activities is greatly appreciated

Total: Please make checks payable to SEMSA

Deadline for inclusion in the 2011-2012 SEMSA directory is September 24, 2011.
Submit form & check to your teacher, at SEMSA group lesson, or mail to SEMSA Treasurer:

Yeoniee Kim
5725 Shetland Dr NW
Rochester, MN 55901

