

# SEMSA News

Volume 33 Number 1 | October 2017

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## SEMSA Calendar

### 2017 dates

- October 27, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- October 28, 2pm:** Honors Recital at CC
- November 17, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- December 1, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- December 8, 7pm:** Young Musicians Recital at UUC

### 2018 dates

- January 19, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- January 21, 2pm:** Honors Recital at CC
- February 16, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- February 18, 7pm:** Young Musicians Recital at UUC
- February 23, 7pm:** Honors Recital at CC
- March 9, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- March 23, 7pm:** Young Musicians Recital at UUC
- April 13, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- May 5 times TBD:** Ensemble Recital at UUC
- May 11, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC

- RCC is: Rochester Covenant Church  
4950 31<sup>st</sup> Ave NW in Rochester
- UUC is: Unitarian Universalist Church  
1727 Walden Lane SW in Rochester
- CC is: Congregational Church  
974 Skyline Drive in Rochester
- SAM is: Suzuki Association of Minnesota

## SEMSA Board President Letter

Dear SEMSA Members,  
 It was great to see so many of you and your families at our first group lesson in September. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to make the potluck a delicious success!

This year, SEMSA will be using the TeamSnap application to communicate and connect with our members. In addition to being our primary mode of communication with you, it will be a central location for our calendar, member and teacher directory, photo and video sharing, and much more. A couple of weeks ago, we sent out invitations to join our TeamSnap group. If you have not yet logged into TeamSnap, you will receive a follow-up invitation soon. Please look for it.

On the app you can also sign up for one of our volunteer opportunities. Thank you to everyone who already signed up at the parent meeting. If you have not yet chosen an event at which you can help, please look to see which event(s) best fits your schedules.

And finally, this year, SEMSA received a generous \$2,000 grant from IBM on behalf of Jan Glowacki for her tireless volunteer efforts. Jan will be stepping back her SEMSA involvement next year, so we are looking for another IBMer through whom we can receive future grants. If you are an IBM employee and would like more information, please contact me, Tim O’Neill, or Jan Glowacki for more details.

Best Wishes,  
 Tim O’Neill  
 SEMSA President

## Studio Updates

### *Linda Thompson Violin & Viola Studio*

Summer and fall have had high activity levels for many students. In May students were challenged to practice 50 days over the summer, keeping track on a calendar. There are lots of bright notes in the studio reflecting those who did. Another challenge was to play three pieces informally for friends, for relatives or in the park. So more bright signs tell where students played. This was an exercise in staying current with personal instruments and pieces. Fernando Jimenez even set a personal goal last spring to play his violin for 100 days in a row. Congratulations!

Now students are busy with theory assignments and preparation for our November recital. We're staying CURRENT by using devices to record, then watch and listen and evaluate. We identify spots that don't work as well and search for ways to improve prior to the recital, prior to graduation recording. Students and parents are looking for positive points. What is going well? Sometimes we forget to acknowledge the 32 or 96 or 792 (yes, I counted them!) notes that are we do really well because one squirrely note or measure sounds AWFUL. There are many ways to eliminate those and make entire pieces sound beautiful and musical. This is all part of our musical journey!

### *DeAnn Spencer Violin Studio*

We are having our Fall Recital on November 4. Students will perform in small groups and soloists will also treat our ears. My students have worked really hard to listen to each other, use their best dynamics and expression, and enjoy playing their violins!

#### **Fall Recital**

November 4

3:00 pm

Peace United Church of Christ

### *Barbara Bartleson Piano Studio*

So far it's all about preparation!

Pianists are busy with repertoire - preparing for performances, graduation and contests; and with theory - preparing for MMTA theory and advanced placement theory testing.

Any SEMSA student who studies piano is invited to attend theory class focusing on the state theory curriculum. Piano theory classes take place during regular SEMSA group lessons. Students need not be in our studio. Please call me if you would like more information. (286-9230)

We look forward to another year of beautiful music. It's all about preparation.

### *Laura Geissler Violin Studio*

Fall lessons at the Geissler violin studio in Northfield began on September 11th with a six week practice challenge. With healthy practice routines being brushed off for the fall, it's fun to see students launching into new books, techniques and orchestra participation.

The following students are recognized for their achievements and milestones: Arlo, Emily, Madeline, Laya and Astrid performed their Twinkle recitals and are off to exciting new songs in book 1. Maia and Anna graduated book 1. Elizabeth graduated book 2 and performed the Beethoven Minuet at Stevens Point Suzuki Camp.

## *Sharon Neufeld Violin & Viola Studio*

SEMSA welcomes new SEMSA teacher Sharon Neufeld !!!

Sharon has had over 25 years of experience teaching Violin and Viola in public schools, music centers, and privately in her home. Her teaching is centered on The Suzuki Philosophy, specializing in working with young children (age 4 and up). She incorporates scales, technique development, basic music theory & history, and ear/rhythm training into each child's musical education, and more advanced students are challenged with advanced scales, etudes and repertoire. All teaching is tailored to each student's individual strengths and learning style(s).

Sharon has enjoyed extensive ensemble performing experience in different contexts and locations around the country and the world, including chamber music groups and orchestras in Massachusetts, Ohio, Texas, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and Southern Russia. While living in Durango, she was the Principal Violist of the San Juan Symphony, and often collaborated with other area professional musicians to bring great chamber music to the Four Corners region as part of the Durango Bach Festival, the Durango Chamber Music Festival, and other musical events in the area. She was also given the honor of Principal Violist of the Colorado MahlerFest Orchestra in 2012.

For a more full biography, see <http://www.thesuzukiacademyatrosehaven.com/faculty.html>

You can contact Sharon at [TheSuzukiAcademy@gmail.com](mailto:TheSuzukiAcademy@gmail.com)