



Culver's 75 Day Practice Challenge – June 10th, 2004 through September 15th, 2004



Can you meet the challenge? SEMSA and Culver's Frozen Custard of Rochester are sponsoring a **75 Day Practice Challenge**. SEMSA students need to practice for a minimum of 75 days between June 10th, 2004 and September 15th, 2004. Log the practices daily on the paper chart provided in this newsletter. Upon completion of 75 practice days, have your parent sign the form and then turn the form in to your lesson teacher. After all the practice forms have been collected, frozen custard cone coupons will be distributed to all SEMSA students who have met the challenge!

Yes, you can meet the challenge!

Orchestra Concert, Senior Recognition and Pizza Party

The year-end concert was a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of a fun-filled year of music making. The recital program included: SEMSA Orchestras, SEMSA Cellos, SEMSA Violin Twinklers, SEMSA Flutes and a special presentation for SEMSA Graduating Seniors. The concert was followed by a Valentino's Pizza feast in the Pax Christi dining hall.

A big thank you to our SEMSA teachers for our monthly lessons: **Barbara Bartleson, Mary Carlson, Charles Li, Carolyn Mead, Nancy Osteraas, Shannon Richardson, DeAnn Spencer and Linda Thompson**. The parents and students appreciate your preparation, dedication and commitment to the monthly lessons. Thank you to Pax Christi Catholic Church for hosting our monthly group lessons. It is a pleasure to have such a big space to house all our different levels of classes.

Graduating Seniors

The following seniors received recognition for their years of dedication to the SEMSA program. Each senior was presented with a SEMSA mug filled with treats. Thank you seniors! Your years of hard work are inspiring to the younger students and their parents!

**Peder Aadahl
R.J. Krom
Stith Wiggs**

**Kyle Textor
Ashley Ignatious
Katie Roenigk**

**Sarah Landin
Jill Schuler
Bob Wallin**

Suzuki Association of Americas Conference

The Suzuki Association of the Americas held their bi-annual conference in Minneapolis on May28-31. Saturday was designated as parent day and a special mini-conference was held for parents. Called Parents As Partners the conference offered presentations from experts in the field of parenting and music pedagogy. The keynote speaker was Barbara Coloroso, an internationally recognized speaker and the author of "Kids Are Worth It, Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline" and "Parenting Through Crisis". Parents and teachers had the opportunity to visit the exhibit hall where endless booths of music, instruments, and music "stuff" were available for viewing and purchase.

The flutes played a larger role in the SAA Conference this year. For the first time, there was a performance by a flute choir made up of students from around the country. Leading the flute choir was SEMSA flute teacher Nancy Osteraas. SEMSA flute students who participated in the flute choir were be Alyssa Edlund, Dalena Moser, and Whitney Noxon. This was a wonderful opportunity for Nancy Osteraas and her fine students.

SEMSA violin teacher, Linda Thompson, had a group of her advanced violinists perform at the conference on Saturday. The group began memorizing and rehearsing the music in January in preparation for the performance. The program consisted of music selections by Fritz Kreisler.

New Baby Congratulations

Charles and Christina Li are the proud parents of a new baby daughter. Her name is Keirstin Dora and she weighed 6 lb 11 oz at birth.

SEMSA Board of Directors for 2003 – 2004

The following slate of officers and board members was approved at the election held during the pizza party on Friday, May 7th, 2004. Thank you to these people for dedicating their time and talents to the planning of SEMSA events and activities.

President – Nancy Oстераas **President Elect** – DeAnn Spencer
Secretary – Elizabeth Dunn-Ouellette **Treasurer** – Janet Munger **Newsletter** – Judy Hickey
Group Lessons – Mary Schneekloth **Recitals** – Heidi Miksanek, Cindy Macon and Lisa Ferrell
Fund Raising – Rene Chartier **Special Events** – Carolyn Mead
Members-at-Large – Barbara Bartleson, Mary Carlson, Charles Li, Shannon Richardson, and Linda Thompson

A big thank you to **Camille Marks** for serving on the SEMSA board of directors for a three year term. Her service as secretary has aided in the month to month organization of the SEMSA board.

Summer Music Events

Grand Excursion Flotilla

John Reed (violin maker and Suzuki teacher) and his blue grass band, called **Five Swell Guys**, will be performing during Red Wing's Grand Excursion celebration. On July 2nd, the band will be performing at Colvill Park sometime between 10AM and 8PM. July 3rd they will perform at Bay Point Park on the River Valley Power & Sport Stage from 4PM to 7PM. For information on the exciting events planned for the Grand Excursion Flotilla check the web page at www.grandexcursion.com.

2004 Lanesboro Barn Dances

The following is a slightly different concert experience, but if you family enjoys old time music and fiddling it would be well worth the drive to Lanesboro to attend one of these Lanesboro Barn Dances.

Saturday, July 24th, 2004 – Music by **The Root River Mudthumpers**, calling by **Gail Heil**
8:00PM at the **Sons of Norway (Lanesboro)** **\$5.00**

Saturday, September 18th, 2004 – Music by **The Blackhammer Rhythm Wreckers**, calling by **Gail Heil**
8:00PM at the **Sons of Norway (Lanesboro)**, **\$5.00**

For additional information, check the web page: www.boveeheil.com – go to the Lanesboro Barn Dance link.

Brian Wicklund Performance

Brian Wicklund (fiddling clinician for SEMSA in 2003 & 2004) with **Chris Silver** will be performing at the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul, MN September 3rd and 4th, 2004.

Honors Recitals 2003 – 2004

It is a special recognition to be selected to perform at a SEMSA honors recital. Students selected demonstrate commitment and dedication. The piece of music they are selected to play must be polished to a high level. The following students were selected by their teacher to perform at a SEMSA Honor Recital.

October 12, 2003

Jennifer Kim
Jessie Newcomer-Aney
Hannah Lai
Jessika Stucky
Eldon Lai
Elizabeth Michelson
Teresa Edwards
Tomoaki Ono
Melanie Vincent

January 24, 2004.

Faith Grunewald
Mary Bundrick
Annie Ryu
Caitlin Bell
Jina Kim
Julia Macken
Joshua Rohde
Michael Resman
Tommy Bacon
Diana Schull
Carly Blazing
Yukina Ono
Madison Clarke
Lauren Textor
Meghan Lemens

February 20, 2004

Dalena Moser
Noah Hickey
Benjamin Hickey
Katie Anderson
Kieren Teh
Sara Manulik
Irisa Hubka
Gina Dacy
Callum Hubka
Michaelie Woolley
Nolan Perry-Arnold
Thomas Ouelette
Nathan Hickey

??? Car Practice???

Whether on a short trip across town or a road trip across the country to visit grandparents, make the best use of the time spent driving by incorporating some music practice. There are many activities that can be done in the car that will reinforce your daily practice or add some music appreciation and theory knowledge. The items and ideas can also be used while waiting, whether at the doctor's office or a sibling's sporting event.

A good start would be to purchase a plastic shoebox size tub in which to store your car practice items, books or listening material. This will keep them all in one convenient place and prevent spills or muddy shoes from damaging your music study items.

- A copy of the Suzuki CD or tape that corresponds to the book level your child is learning. Everyone could do more listening to their Suzuki material. Make listening in the car a regular habit. If you have more than one child taking lessons make a mixed tape or CD, so all students can listen to their material without having to juggle several CDs. Older students can make these CDs/tapes themselves.
- For older students, when the lesson teacher allows the child to look at and use the Suzuki repertoire books, make photo copies of the pieces they are learning and have the child listen to the Suzuki CD while they study the written music in the car.
- Make or purchase an extra set of music note reading flash cards for drilling students learning to read music. Cards can be made for drills on dynamics, note value, time signatures, musical terms and symbols. A student could drill themselves for review, siblings could drill each other or the child could quiz the parent, while the parent is driving.
- Practice clapping and counting rhythms in the car. Parent and child can play an echo game, where one claps a rhythm and the other copies the same rhythm.
- A card game can be made for matching composers with their music compositions for the Suzuki repertoire pieces your student has learned.
- Purchase the books *Stories of Composers for Young Musicians* and *More Stories of Composers for Young Musicians*, both by Catherine Wolff Kendall. The books highlight composers from early Suzuki repertoire with short biographies and portraits of the composers. The books are written at an elementary to middle school interest level. The first book features composer from the Suzuki violin and viola repertoire. The second book features composers from the Suzuki cello and piano repertoire. Keep them in the car for your child to read while on the road.
- Make a habit of tuning in to a classical music station and listening to a piece or two. Discuss the pieces you listen to with your child. Use questions such as: Have you heard the piece before? Do you know the composer? Does it sound similar to another piece you know? What time period do you think it is from? Can you identify the instruments featured in the piece?
- Keep music staff paper in the car and have the child write a composition. When he gets home he can play his new composition on his instrument.
- Purchase some CDs/tape for listening in the car. The popular **Classical Kids Series** combines music, history and drama; each CD focuses on the life of one composer. Titles in this series include: **Hallelujah Handel!**, **Tchaikovsky Discovers America**, **Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery**, **Mozart's Magic Fantasy**, **Beethoven Lives Upstairs** and **Mr. Bach Comes to Call**. This series is appealing to both children and adults. Another series of tapes/CDs that sound appealing, but I have not heard, are called **Music Masters**. **Music Masters** interweave a narrative about a composer's life with selections of his important works. There are eighteen CDs available in the series. Composers in the series range from Bach, Beethoven, Dvorak, Handel, Mozart, Strauss, Verdi and Wagner. They can be purchased for \$2.75/tape and \$3.50/CD from the Rainbow Resource Center, Rt. 1 Box 159A, 50 N 500 East Rd., Toulon, IL 61483, Phone 1-309-695-3200 www.rainbowresource.com.

Do you have any practice suggestions? Email your ideas to: hickeyfamily@magnaspeed.net.

Studio News

From the studio of Barbara Bartleson

The following piano students have received honors.

National College of Musicians 2004 Guild Auditions

Aaron Anderson, Katie Anderson, Caitlin Bell, Sophie Charlton, Madison Clarke, Joey Marks, Nolan Perry-Arnold, Ashley Vincent & Melanie Vincent

Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Contest Finalists 2004

Caitlin Bell, Jake Gabriel, Jeff Gabriel, Joey Marks, Lauren Textor & Melanie Vincent

Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Contest Winners 2004

Joey Marks, Melanie Vincent & Lauren Textor

Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Honors Recital Performers 2004

Joey Marks & Melanie Vincent

Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Theory Testing – 2004

Irissa Hubka (level 1) & Leandra Hubka (level 2)

Suzuki Association of Minnesota (SAM) 2004 Graduates

Jessie Aney (1), Aaron Anderson (3), Madison Clarke (1), Joey Marks (3), Nolan Perry-Arnold (4), Ashley Vincent (2), Melanie Vincent (4), Michaela Wentz (2) & Ryan Witzig (5)

From the studio of MaryAnn Swallum

The following students participated in the Minnesota Suzuki Association's state-wide graduation. Congratulations! Brian Pagnano and Joe Marks graduated from book 3; Adam Zumbrunnen and Michelle Marks graduated from book 4; Steve Marks graduated from book 6, and Megan Wille graduated from books 6 & 7. Also, Steve Marks placed 2nd in the 7th-9th grade category of the Clement's competition.

From the studio of DeAnn Spencer

The fiddling groups, **Fiddle Stix** and **Fiddlers & Co.**, under the direction of DeAnn Spencer, will be busy performing during the month of June. **Fiddle Stix** is the beginning fiddling group and **Fiddlers & Co.** is the advanced fiddling group.

Make plans to be in the audience for the following June performances:

June 22, 2004 – RochesterFest, "Celebrity Game Show" – Fiddlers & Co. 6:30PM – 7:00PM

June 26, 2004 – RochesterFest, Mayo Garden Tour, Central Park Gazebo – Combined groups 12:00PM – 1:00PM

Anyone interested learning this fun music style and wanting information on joining one of the fiddling groups should contact DeAnn Spencer at 285-0970 for more information.

Suzuki Summer Institutes

Parents if you are attending a Suzuki Summer Institute with your child, write a journal of your experiences. Send me a copy or excerpts of your experiences. The information will be printed in future editions of the SEMSA newsletter. This is a great way to inform fellow SEMSA families of the joys of attending a Suzuki Institute. Write about the types of classes, new tips or tricks learned, the housing and the food service. By sharing your Institute experience, you can encourage more SEMSA families to attend in 2005!

SEMSA Parent Survey

Parents please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed parent survey. Your comments and suggestions are important to the SEMSA Board of Directors as they plan future SEMSA activities and operations. Completed surveys can be turned in to your lesson teacher's studio or mailed to: Judy Hickey, 1807 Northern Viola LN NE, Rochester, MN 55906.

Have a musical summer!