



Talent Education Suzuki School

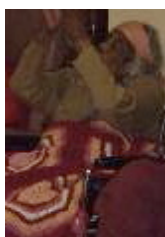
# *Talent Education Suzuki School*

**January 2010 Newsletter**

## **From the Directors**



Happy New year! We hope everyone had a music-filled break! Did you go on vacation and bring your instrument? Share your music with friends and relatives? Please send us your stories to be printed in the next newsletter! This picture above shows violin student Jacob Henny leading violinist Koci Bodek, cellist Eva Bodek, and guitarist James Toomey-Wilson playing for the Covenant Gardens Senior Center in Stamford on Christmas Day. The second picture shows one of the residents enjoying the music at the age of 104 - what a blessing!



If you took a break over the holidays, you may find it challenging to return to the routine of practice and lessons, and your child may be resistant at first to returning to lessons. This is likely because they know they are unprepared. Think about how you feel after time off from the gym and facing your trainer for the first time! But your teachers know it can be tough to maintain habits over the holidays and will help you ease back into the routine. Some tips:

- increase rewards during practice and for the act of practicing, then phase them out as routine is established
- some practice is better than no practice - it's okay to let a few things go at first so as not to overwhelm either you or your child
- rotate a full practice between two days so that everything is covered without being too much
- if review is rusty, pick one song a day to revive and relearn; recognize that your child is relearning to a certain extent and needs extra help and patience
- don't be surprised if your child struggles with what was once easy - it will come back with repetition and praise

And, of course, plan to take as many lessons in the summer as possible! If it's tough to come back from two weeks imagine an entire season!

Please remember we have a new phone number! The number is **203.956.6708!**

Keep Twinkling!  
Becki & Jen

## **December Graduations**

Congratulations to violinist Emi Krishnamurthy for graduating from violin book 2, and Alex Birch from violin book 7A. Both students study with Mrs. Jen. Graduating from violin book 1 was Harry Green, and graduating from piano book 1 was Mariam Topchyan. Harry studies with Mr. Gary, and Mariam studies with Miss Claudia.

## **Winter Term Registration**

Thank you to our returning students for your registrations for winter term! From special mini- term classes to the March Celebration Concert to our student recitals, we have an exciting semester ahead of us. We are still accepting new students for Winter Term until January 30! If you have friends who have expressed an interest in joining you in your musical journey, this is the perfect time to put us in touch with them. We have

an Open House on Saturday, January 9 from 9:30AM-11:30AM during which they can take a tour of the school, have an orientation session, and observe the classes that are taking place at that time. Or they can schedule a personalized visit to the school so that we may address their individual questions more fully.

## **Piano Workshop**

The piano department is happy to announce the first Suzuki Piano Workshop at TESS! It will take place at our school on March 20-21, 2010 and it is open to all TESS students who can play hands together (so, beginners, practice hard and try to be ready to participate!!). It is our pleasure to have as guest teacher Christopher Liccardo, a very accomplished and internationally renowned musician from New York City; we will also have some fun group classes and more. Your teacher will have a registration form in your lesson this week!

## **Looking for Inspiration?**

Check out Ethan, a six-year-old boy performing on the Jay Leno show! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQC3L4OYIjg>. And, there is an age old show biz rule not to work with children or animals.... this is why <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwqWcn2gbTM!!>

## **Guitar Workshop**

The guitar department is excited to host the first Suzuki Guitar Workshop at TESS! It will take place at our school on February 27-28, 2010 and it is open to all TESS guitar students. It is our pleasure to present guitarist Adam Kossler as our guest artist. In addition to teaching masterclasses at the Colorado Suzuki Institute (Snow Mass, CO), the More Than Music workshop (Kingston, Ontario) and the Music in the Mountains workshop (Emory, VA), Mr. Kossler is a graduate of the Suzuki Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, where he was a violin student of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. To register, please see Mr. Michael!

## **Violin Workshop**

Katie Lansdale will be giving a workshop for students book five and up on Saturday, April 24! Only nine students may participate and slots will be given on a first come, first-served basis. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the Hartt Music School at the University of Hartford. A long-time member of the Lion's Gate Trio, she has been lauded as both chamber musician and soloist. Winner of Grand Prizes at the Fischhoff and Yellow Springs national chamber competitions, she has performed as soloist with orchestras including the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Austin Mozart Festival Orchestra, the New York Repertory Orchestra, and Cleveland Chamber Symphony and the NY Spectrum Orchestra. Lansdale has performed in South and Central America, as well as Europe, and on numerous North American recital series, including the Caramoor Series, the Phillips Collection, and Lincoln Center's Rose Room. In New York, where she founded the acclaimed new music group, the Locrian Chamber Players, Lansdale's chamber concerts have been extensive, ranging from Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center with Yo-Yo Ma to Merkin Hall with Sequitur. Of late she has been lauded for performances of solo Bach, having performed the complete cycle over a dozen times in North and South America. As violin clinician and violin professor, Katie Lansdale has taught at summer festivals across the eastern seaboard, including Tanglewood/BUTI, Aria International (Canada), Silver Bay (CT), Garth Newell (VA), Florida Arts. In demand for courses and lecture-demos on solo Bach works, she has made such presentations at the national conferences for American String Teachers and Suzuki Association of the Americas; Carnegie-Mellon University (PA); Longy School and Boston University (MA); University of Oklahoma; Catholic University (MD); and Cordoba String Course (Argentina), among others. She holds degrees from Yale University, Cleveland Institute of Music (Master of Music), and Manhattan School (DMA, prize for outstanding dissertation). She has taught undergraduate and graduate violin students for ten years, and her students now hold a variety of posts as college violin professors, performers and early childhood educators. **She will be giving an intimate performance for all of our families, included with registration for participating students, \$5 per person for TESS families, and \$10 per person for non-TESS individuals.** Please see your private teacher for a registration and recommendation forms.

## Improv Workshop

On Saturday, January 31, regular group classes after 10:00am are cancelled for this fun and innovative opportunity! This workshop serves as the first introduction to alternative music styles and improvisation for all of our students who have graduated from Twinkles. TESS faculty guitarist **Malcolm Karlan** will be working with the guitarists and violinist **Karolyn Bethke** with the violinists. Pianists will enjoy the return of **Tom Kohl**, [www.tomkohl.org](http://www.tomkohl.org). Tom has performed, recorded, and taught throughout the Northeast since 1982. He is a nurturing instructor, gifted at giving students the toolbox for the personal expression that comes through improvisation. **Chris Coogan** ([www.cooganmusic.com](http://www.cooganmusic.com)), who will work with older and more advanced pianists, is a local celebrity best known for his Good News Gospel Choir and freelance jazz music throughout Fairfield County. **Mike Block**, a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble and a faculty member of the Mark O'Connor camps, will be working with the cellists as well as the Electric Violin Class. Drummers Damon Grant and Gerald Myles will be working with all of the students. **Damon Grant**, [www.damongrant.org](http://www.damongrant.org), performs original and traditional jazz compositions on vibraphone, marimba and a variety of other percussion instruments with Afro-Caribbean flair in his own group, The Damon Grant Project. He and his group have been recognized for their work in *Modern Drummer* and *Latin Beat* Magazines. Most recently Damon was in *People* magazine twice with the Funk/Rock group, The Bomb Squad. **Gerald Myles** is the founder, director, and premier drummer of NetDrummers.com. Born and raised outside of New York City, he is the third generation of professional drummers. By the age of 15, Gerald began winning numerous regional and national awards for his playing abilities. His training includes attending the prestigious Hartt School of Music and University Of Massachusetts as a Jazz Performance major. He was named the United States' best up and coming "Blues, Pop, and Rock" drummer and "Studio Jazz Orchestra" drummer by the world renowned DownBeat Magazine at age 21. The students will use percussion instruments to work on rhythmic concepts in this fun and engaging class. **Your child's schedule was on your winter confirmation card.** If you are unable to attend this mandatory event, please let us know!

## NSO Prodigy Concert



Young artist Andrew Armstrong joins the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra for the Piano Concerto No. 1 by Brahms on Saturday, January 30 at 8:00pm! He used to travel with his teacher to Suzuki Institutes as she taught during the summer and befriended Becki's younger sister Sarah along the way! TESS faculty Justin Elkins and Becki Christopherson perform in the symphony - see them for ticket information!

Having performed over 35 concertos, Armstrong has impressed his international audiences with a large repertoire ranging from Bach to Babbit and beyond. Before beginning his career as a concert pianist, Armstrong received over 25 national and international First Prizes. In 1996, he was named Gilmore Young Artist. At the 1993 Van Cliburn Competition, where he was the youngest pianist entered, he received the Jury Discretionary Award. The New York Times wrote, "Armstrong may have been the most talented player in the competition....He's a real musician. We'll hear more from him." As the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported, Van Cliburn himself, "in a rare showing of enthusiasm for an individual competitor," called Mr. Armstrong "Fabulous! Fabulous!" Andrew Armstrong's debut CD, featuring Rachmaninov's Second Piano Sonata and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, was released in 2004 to critical acclaim.

## Institute News

Preliminary listings for 2010 Suzuki Institutes are listed at [www.suzukiassociation.org](http://www.suzukiassociation.org)! Your private teacher can advise you regarding the best camp for your child – a “must-do” activity for every Suzuki family! Advanced and older students who are outgrowing Suzuki Institutes should check out the Summer Camp binder by the school copier for a national overview of music camps. They are rated by smiley faces with one being “probably not worth it” to six being “pre-professional only.” Your teacher can help you find a camp close to your summer destinations. Or, attend our Parent Camp Night on Monday, January 25 at 8:00PM to get answers!

## 10 Commandments for Suzuki Parents

Try these for more joyful practices at home:

Thou shalt offer loving encouragement to thy child.

Thou shalt find something good in every attempt.

Thou shalt not compare thy child with another child.

Thou shalt communicate successes, failures, and frustrations with teachers.

Thou shalt not visit with other parents during children's lessons.

Thou shalt be content with each step forward (or backward).

Thou shalt be understanding when a child wishes to watch rather than participate.

Thou shalt trust the teacher's plan for your child's musical progress.

Thou shalt approach daily practice sessions with enthusiasm

Thou shalt LOVE listening to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star!

## Weather Closings

Just a reminder - we try to stay open in all kinds of weather! Because roads are typically cleared by the time lessons begin, please check your email or the school's recorded message at 203.956.6708 to find out if we are open. Individual teachers who travel farther may find it necessary to cancel even if the school stays open and will contact their students individually. All private lessons cancelled due to inclement weather will be made up according to our standard make-up policy. Unfortunately, group classes cannot be made up.

## 2010 TESS Calendar

Sat. Jan. 9	Open House for Prospective Students
Sat. Jan. 16	Graduation Recitals
Mon. Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Day, Open
Sat. Jan. 23	Last Day Fall Term
Mon. Jan. 25	First Day Winter/Spring Term First Day Talent-Ed Kids, age 2, Mondays 3:00-3:30 for 8 weeks Parent Camp Night, 8:00pm
Tues. Jan. 26	First Day Talent-Ed Kids, ages 3-5, Tuesdays, 4:00-4:30 for 8 weeks
Sat. Jan. 30	Improv Workshop, all classes cancelled after 10:00am, all Twinkle graduates attend the Improv Workshop. Guitar 10:00 class combined with the 9:30 class that day. First Day Talent-Ed Kids, ages 3-5, Saturdays, 9-9:30 for 8 weeks
Sat. Feb. 13	Graduation Recitals
Sat. Feb. 27	Advanced/AYA Celebration Concert Rehearsal, Mandatory, 2:00pm-4:00pm Guitar Workshop with Adam Kossler
Sun. Feb. 28	Guitar Concert Series Concert, Adam Kossler, 4:00pm
Sun. March 7	5th Anniversary Celebration Concert, Student Arrival 1:15pm, Press Pictures 1:30pm, Concert 2:00-3:30pm, Reception 3:30-4:15pm
March 13	Graduation Recitals, April Nominations Due
March 15	Summer Registration Begins
March 20-21	Piano Department Workshop with Christopher Liccardo
April 3	Summer Registration Due
April 12	Closed, Spring Break
April 24	Graduation Recitals Violin Workshop with Katie Lansdale Concert with Katie Lansdale, 2:15pm at TESS, Open to all TESS families and guests
May 1 & 2	Student Recitals