



Welcome to this latest edition of the ISA Journal. We're pleased to bring you articles and photos about Talent Education activities from around the globe.

In this issue:

- 2nd International Teacher Trainers Convention: Our cover feature brings you three impressions from Suzuki Teacher Trainers from different Regional Associations about their experience attending this exciting conference hosted by the ESA in Madrid, Spain this past October. Photos of delegate sessions and activities are included.
- Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Development Fund: Fund Director Haukur Hannesson describes its mission, and the current events receiving grants from the Fund.
- Regional Association News: Exciting articles and photos from all our Regional Associations.
- ARSA - Pictures of concerts, Suzuki camps and teacher-training from many member countries
- ESA - Important announcements about upcoming teacher and student conferences, and a report on the UK Suzuki 40th Anniversary concert.
- PPSA - A recount of Sydney Suzuki's Graduation Concert Series at the Opera House, together with information on the National Conference in April 2020.

- SAA - Four short articles describing the Cancun Suzuki Conference, the Parents as Partners video series, the new Canadian Newsletter, and the Excellence from the Start campaign.
- TERI - An exciting report about the TERI students' performances during the visit of Pope Francis to Japan - with links to the Pope's Instagram!

Remember to visit and like the ISA Facebook page for important announcements about Suzuki events across our Association and the latest developments in all the instrument areas:

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSuzukiAssociation>

And visit the ISA website at InternationalSuzuki.org for up-to-date news from each Instrument Committee, important announcements and events from Regional Associations, and read past editions of the ISA Journal beginning from 1983. More exciting archive materials will be arriving on the website during 2020. Stay tuned!

Allen Lieb Jr., ISA CEO



The ISA Board (left to right): Hiroko Driver-Lippman, Koji Toyoda, Simon Griffiths, Lan Ku Chen, Pasquale Razzano, Ryugo Hayano, Allen Lieb, Martin Rüttimann, Carey Beth Hockett, Pamela Brasch.

2nd International Suzuki Teacher Trainers Convention

In October, over 100 teacher trainers from 23 countries gathered in Madrid for a for a second International meeting of Suzuki Teacher Trainers, with the theme Globalisation & Teacher Training in the 21st Century.

The Convention was hosted by the ESA whose Chairman Martin Rüttimann was the chief visionary and programme designer. Administrative support was provided by Sue Wimpeney and ISA Board Member Carey Beth Hockett.

Attendees were strongly urged to write about their experiences at the meeting and share them. We are happy to be able to share a few of them in this issue.

Carey Beth Hockett, SAA



Convention Coordinators: Carey Beth Hockett, Martin Rüttimann, Sue Wimpeney

Report on the International Teacher Trainer Convention Madrid, 2019

Fumiyo KURAMOCHI, TERI teacher trainer

An encounter with a person is fatal moment which Dr. Suzuki always treasured.

Many years ago, in Matsumoto, when a private lesson was over, Dr. Suzuki said to me: “There are billions of people in this world, yet you and I are here together at this very moment. What an amazing encounter it is!”

How many wonderful moments similar to what I above-mentioned I had in this Convention! This opportunity owes the ESA and all teacher trainers gathered from all over the world.

Not only I learned about the different circumstances of each region, but also, could recognized anew that we share the common assignment how to make progress of this valuable movement. This experience will be my energy and enrich my Suzuki life.

I am convinced now that we will be able to realize, by the efforts of all regions, the training of good teacher trainers and then good teachers and consequently, the excellent children who Dr. Suzuki hoped for.

I hope to see all of you in the near future!



Convention delegates viewing newly restored Starr/Suzuki videotape from 1968.

Madrid, 2nd International Suzuki Teacher Trainers Convention

October 11 – 13, 2019 By: Linda Fiore, SAA

If anyone has any illusions about the power of music, love, and a vision for making the world a better place for and through future generations of students, those would be shattered by the life and work of Dr. Suzuki. A humble, diminutive man with a huge heart and dressed in a too-large grey suit, the force of his personality and the strength of his beliefs were able to draw 110 international teacher-trainers to Madrid last weekend for the 2nd International Conference. Similarly, he drew trainees into his studio with the words: "Come, come - I have a new idea." The reality is that he always had a new idea, was ever learning and evolving. Beyond all else, this was his gift to us all: never rest on past accomplishments, always grow as a teacher. The work is never done. If the soul were nurtured, musical understanding would pave the way to acquiring technique. In the same way, we were drawn into the spirit of this conference by Martin Ruttimann and his team whose vision, hard work and superb organization built a framework for the ebb and flow of ideas between teachers from around the world. One participant described the assembled personalities as "large and in charge". In any other setting, this would have been fertile ground for disagreement and conflict. In this setting, it was a congenial, powerful meeting of minds.

The title: Globalization and Teacher Training in the 21st Century. After Martin Ruttimann's humorous welcome and thoughts of "exchange" and "agree to disagree" and "network on a common ground" were released to the gathering, Alan Lieb presented an update of progress made to the International Suzuki Association (ISA) of communication in Journal and Websites, avenues to keeping exchanges and ideas flowing. To give us a common ground, all five of the Suzuki Teacher Trainer Systems throughout the world, SAA, TERI, ESA, PPSA, and ARSA presented their guidelines for their existing teacher training syllabi, but also of thoughts for future developments. One of the most interesting developing ideas for me was Hauker Hannesson's concept of 'Continuous Assessments' a program being evaluated through ESA. I thought that the idea could trickle into other systems to give trainers more follow-through with their teacher trainees in life-long learning. Three break out sessions of over 15 teachers in 7 groups brought interesting, and sometimes conflicting ideas and discussions about the various Systems of training. However, with the 'agree to disagree' challenge and an understanding that all of our training Associations have their own geographic, cultural and language specialties, much was discussed to find more of a middle ground in our thinking. The big picture of our individual geographical systems may remain basically the same, but it is hoped that the exchange of component ideas can mutually benefit all systems.

The tapestry of ideas: There were many instrument specific sessions and philosophy presentations as well, all bringing us back to our common goal of 'Embracing the Philosophy' and adding quality and productivity in our training courses. SECE made strides in further development, revisions and round table discussions were paramount in viola, piano, guitar, recorder and flute and we learned about the growing excitement in the recently developed trumpet training. One of many of the exciting hours was Fumiyo Kuramochi from Dr. Suzuki's Institute describing the "History and Philosophy of Tone Production" and another was Linda Case following through with "Artistry of the Bowarm", which brought our minds to the musical aspect of the instrument. Both these sessions reminded me that the

tone taps the essence of the being, and must be constantly reinforced for the character of teacher and child. Exciting panels were given with new and reinforced ideas of assessment, mentoring, observation and goals for our teacher trainees at various levels. One particularly poignant presentation titled “Then and Now” described the teacher training process as it has evolved from earliest days when there was no precedent to draw upon and how difficult it was to actually have to invent it. Threads of the past coming into the present, woven together with enriching histories of growth.

The puzzle pieces that we gathered at the International Teacher Trainers Convention helped make the bigger picture take shape. I think we ‘caught’ the essence of Dr.Suzuki’s dream of coming together and sharing, renewing, looking to the future of teaching and nurturing children through our work with all teachers. Here’s to continuing along the pathway of awareness.



A Convention with Fellowship, Learning and Love

Sven Sjögren, ESA

Arriving from a cold and rainy Sweden to the mind-blowing late summer weather in Madrid with 27 degrees centigrades, was delightful. The 2nd International Suzuki Teacher Trainers Convention was held at Hotel Silken Puerta Madrid October 11th-13th. It was a success. The first convention of this kind was held in Boston in 2009.

To be a teacher trainer is a task that requires a lot of responsibility. Therefore all opportunities for further education are of major importance. We were around 110 trainers from all over the world in Madrid and the instruments represented were early childhood education, flute, guitar, harp, piano, recorder, trumpet, viola, violin and cello. The structure was less emphasized on a few main speakers, but rather on groups and panels. We also were divided in smaller groups for discussions. Most of the participants appeared to like this and we all seemed open for contributing as much as possible. Way in advance three main subjects for discussion were mailed out to all participants: 1/ "Goals for Book 1 Training / Examinations and Assessment", 2/ "Suzuki in Universities / Mentoring Teacher Trainers" and 3/ "Reciprocity procedures / Challenges Suzuki teachers are facing". Lists of discussion groups were mailed out, so everyone could see who was going to be in their group. Also specific subjects were addressed in panels, like "Suzuki TT Systems" where the training in SAA, TERI, ESA, PPSA and ARSA were compared, "Suzuki TT in Diverse Environments" and "Suzuki TT – Then and Now". Even "TT and Technology" was covered. So, it was quite a comprehensive coverage of subjects – all very interesting and useful for teacher trainers.

It is now more than 20 years since Dr. Suzuki past away and the number of teacher trainers that never met him is increasing every year. It is a duty for all of us that were lucky enough to have studied with Suzuki and/or met him on some of the numerous workshops and conferences around the world, to share our experiences with our younger colleagues. To be aware of this man's greatness and creativity is a substantial help to become a more qualified teacher trainer. The magnitude of the Suzuki approach is the combination of his methodology and his philosophy. For me personally I use to think of the methodology as the bricks and the philosophy as the plaster. This construction creates a very strong building – superior to most other known ways of teaching music. Although we always emphasize that we want to create harmonious human beings, we so often get outstanding musicians. It might look like a paradox. But modern brain research shows, that children brought up playing music the way we do gives tools for life. Also. What a bonus! It gives enormous possibilities to live a great life full of ability, empathy, love and admiration of music. This is the kind of people the world needs to not only survive, but also to build a safer and better place to be in. Those and other ideas formed a basic structure in Madrid at our different sessions. An additional value at meetings like this is the many different instruments represented. There is so much to learn from teachers of different instruments than our own. We get ideas possible to transform into our own teaching and also we find that there are so many subjects of joy as well as problem solving to share with each other. The general atmosphere in Madrid was that we all wanted to help each other – to give of what we have and collect ways of thinking. The fact that the group of people were coming from so very many places on earth, made the whole thing

extremely interesting and enriching. Dr. Suzuki would have loved this event, as it truly made the bonds between Suzuki teacher trainers stronger and more vibrant.

A heartfelt THANK YOU Martin Rüttimann and Sue Wimpeney and everybody else that made this convention possible. As participants we felt enriched and full of new ideas when we returned to our respective home countries. Our always humorous president Martin joked about the fact that it was 10 years ago when the last TT conference was held and with that kind of regularity it would be a great number of years until ESA was arranging it again. We all felt that we really need another convention of this kind much, much sooner . . .



Session presenters on Suzuki history pictured left to right: Christophe Bossuat, Joanne Martin, Sven Sjogren, Judy Bossuat-Gallic, Tanya Carey, Akira Nakajima

Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Development Fund

In 1996 Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki set up a fund aimed at supporting Suzuki teacher training. As the ISA Journal reported in 1996: “The first priority will be those teachers in areas of the world who are establishing new programs and those young teachers needing assistance in getting started”.

The International Suzuki Association (ISA) is the custodian of the fund. As requested by Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki the fund is an independent trust and a board of trustees make decisions regarding the use of funds. The current trustees are Dr. Haukur F. Hannesson, Chair, Paul Landefeld and Yasuki Nakamura.

The Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Development Fund has through the years given grants to projects related to Suzuki teacher training, most recently a substantial grant to the Philippines Suzuki Association for a teacher training program for violin, cello and guitar to be started in 2020.

The main focus of the fund is to support projects that are in need of financial support and have no access to funding from other sources.

Queries regarding the Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Development Fund should be addressed to the ISA office.

Haukur F. Hannesson, Chair of the Trustees

Asia Region Suzuki Association: A Photo Essay of Concerts



Korea Suzuki Association Grand Concert



Philippine Suzuki Association Star Strings with Home Ilao



Fujian Music Talent Education Association (China) Annual Concert



FMTEA Piano Teacher Training with Kasia Borowiak



Taipei Winter Suzuki School



Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore Violin Teacher Training with Dr. Chen



Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia 10th Anniversary Concert

40th Anniversary of SUZUKI™ in the UK

The 40th anniversary of the SUZUKI™ Method in the UK called for a celebration, and what better way to celebrate than to showcase some of the best SUZUKI™ playing and teaching in the country? After months of preparation and planning, the British Suzuki Institute presented three celebration concerts in London on 17 March 2019.

The iconic Purcell Room at the Southbank Centre provided the ideal venue for the event. Having re-opened in 2018 after a three-year renovation process, the Purcell Room offered stunning acoustics and a central location just a few minutes' walk from the London Eye.



Suzuki pupils from all across the UK submitted recorded auditions for the chance to participate in the concerts. In all, over 300 videos were sent from both individuals and groups. These auditions were viewed by a panel of 18 jury members, who selected the finalists.



With so many wonderful performers to showcase, it was decided to group the performers into three concerts, each timetabled to include two hours of music. There were soloists on violin, viola, cello, flute, piano, and recorder, and mixed ensembles of all descriptions.



The quality of the performances was outstanding, but what really stood out was the pride that each pupil took in his or her performance. Not only were they self-confident and poised, but they were enjoying themselves and playing with real feeling. There were many standout performances, including the Little Venice SUZUKI™ Group, who performed a thrilling rendition of Orange Blossom Special, and the Bayswater SUZUKI™ Group, whose various ensembles played with stunning cohesion.



Many thanks to the dozens of dedicated SUZUKI™ teachers who made the concerts possible, as well as to Grant Mead, Director of Piano, who masterminded the event on behalf of the British Suzuki Institute.

Photographer Bill Hiskett

The First European Recorder Teachers' Convention

by Nancy Daly, *ESA Recorder Teacher Trainer*



From the 12th – 14th April 2019 we held the first European Suzuki Teachers' Convention for the recorder. Teachers from across the UK and Europe gathered in the delightfully rural Surrey Hills and were accommodated in a terrace of cottages in the secluded Broadmoor valley where I live. The days were spent in the Victorian village hall in nearby Abinger Common, listening, discussing, and playing together.

There were several reasons I decided to create this event. The European teachers have never had an opportunity to spend time together as a group, and so this in itself was reason enough - but I had some very specific aims in addition to this.

The development of the recorder as a SUZUKI instrument in Europe started in 2000 following its inception in the USA by Kathy White in the 1970s. It has been a long road – almost twenty years – and whilst in some ways it has steadily gone from strength to strength, it has yet to reach a point where I would say it is firmly established.

For that to be the case, the responsibility for its continued development would need to fall on a sizeable group of teachers rather than being overly-dependent on my leadership. So I was looking for initiatives from the group of teachers to expand and further establish the presence of SUZUKITM recorder across Europe. You could say it was an exercise in 'succession planning' on my part, to protect the fruits of twenty years and secure an ongoing legacy. Alongside the 'hard work' that this could involve, I wanted to create an opportunity for us to share our love of the recorder and of the SUZUKI Method.

To introduce the weekend, I gave an extensive illustrated talk which started with the timeline of developments and achievements of the last two decades. The talk then looked at the growth of the Teacher Training Programme, explained the thinking behind the Convention, outlined the ways in which I promote the SUZUKI Method and the training, and suggested ways in which we might develop as a group to accelerate awareness and support for the SUZUKI Method.

This introduction was followed by several breakout sessions to look at questions arising from the presentation. Subjects ranged from how to develop SUZUKI recorder in the teachers' own countries as well as get a foothold in new countries, to ways of working together as a group and strategies for attracting more teacher trainees. These discussions produced a raft of creative ideas that were collected together for later assessment.

After a light lunch, the recorders came out, and the afternoon was spent previewing pieces for this year's Summer School and for the Albert Hall concert in 2020. The afternoon ended with a chance for the teachers to sit back and be entertained by 'Eklektic' – the banner under which my husband Robin and I perform a suitably eclectic mix of music for electric recorder and guitar. The evening was spent enjoying delicious food and good company in the quaint Abinger Hatch pub adjacent to the hall, returning to all cram into my tiny cottage living room for a late-night drink!

We began Sunday morning by reviewing and ranking all the ideas collected the day before. Contacts were collected for countries where SUZUKI recorder does not yet have a presence, and useful internet resources were noted.

As it was bright and breezy and the Surrey Hills is such a rural treasure, we then set out for a bracing circular walk through the woods around Abinger Common, returning to hot coffee, followed by my summary of all the work done together and the way ahead.

The afternoon was given over to the exciting young recorder quartet Palisander, who first led a workshop on extended techniques for the recorder - which may well have given cause for a raised eyebrow or two amongst passing locals - and then gave a breath-taking and stunningly creative concert of music spanning four centuries under the title 'Recorder Revolution', which was open to the public.



The weekend was immensely satisfying, and although it has highlighted a mountain of things that need to be done, I am quietly confident that it has opened a new chapter in the development of SUZUKI recorder in Europe.



Suzuki Music – Sydney Australia

Every year the Sydney Suzuki Talent Education Association of Australia (NSW) Ltd. Hosts a **Graduation Concert series** at the prestigious Sydney Opera House. The series consists of One grand concert for all Violin, Cello, viola, flute, guitar, recorder, organ and Double Bass students in the main Concert Hall, and 3 days of Piano solo recitals in the intimate Utzon Room.

In November 2019 we hosted our 41st Annual Graduation concert series with over 830 students performing in the main concert, and nearly 600 Piano students performing in the Recitals.

These graduation concerts are the premier event on our Suzuki Calendar each year. They are a celebration of achievement for every student who has successfully recorded a graduation level, proudly supported by parents and teachers who have been involved in nurturing these children's ability.

These Graduation concerts are proof of the success of Dr. Suzuki's teaching method, and they drive us all to improve, grow and nurture our local community of Suzuki Teachers and families.

We congratulate each one of our 1694 graduating students who have worked hard with their teachers all year to achieve wonderful results.

After another sold out concert series this year, we farewell the Opera House Concert Hall which will close for renovations for at least the next two years.





Photos: Studiohagan – Sydney Australia



Upcoming Major Event for Sydney 2020

National Conference – Sydney - April 2020

16-17 April 2020 Professional Development Program

18-20 April 2020 Student Program

Bookings open now: <https://www.suzukimusicnsw.com.au/events/sydney-suzuki-festival-2019-students-programs-2/>

Join us for a fully immersive Suzuki experience with tutorials, play ins, orchestral work, enrichment, concerts and more. Flyer with more information available on website above.

International Guest Tutors:

Violin: Brian Lewis (USA)

Cello: Avi Friedlander (USA)

Piano: Merlin Thompson (Canada)

First Suzuki Convention of the Americas

By Leslie Mizrahi, President, Asociación Mexicana del Método Suzuki

(condensed from *American Suzuki Journal*, Vol. 47, #4)

"I saw tears in the eyes of one dear colleague, as he listened to the orchestra and saw the relationships that have been built between countries. The music spoke...and it left a powerful, lasting impression on us all."

"It was an unprecedented event where both my children and I enjoyed being part of this union between countries for a common good: Music education for children and youths".

From May 1st through 5th, in the beautiful city of Cancun, Mexico, great examples of all the Suzuki disciplines available in our continent were showcased. This Convention represented the opportunity to be part of something much bigger than our own self, school, city or country. It was knowing that we are not alone and that, being together, our voice grows, our heart rejoices and youth blooms; we all speak the same language, which makes us part of the same family, of the same community, where we all have the same dream of a world in peace and harmony, which is possible through music.

The beautiful vision of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki of building a better place, a world of peace and respect, was lived every day in every classroom and every hallway, by all of the participants that came from 27 countries. This event gathered more than 1,000 teachers, students and families, full of motivation and enthusiasm.

The preparation for this convention began three years in advance. It went through the crafting and compilation of musical arrangements and the audition applications, the selection of the faculty, and the definition of activities. Through it all, it was wonderful to have an international group of teachers-evaluators, to whom we are deeply thankful for their collaboration.

Especially important was the creation of a magazine-program that worked as a guide to all the activities and schedules but also offered information about the history of the Suzuki Method in each of the participating countries as well as articles written by our faculty members, to read and re-read at home. For your reading pleasure you can download it here: www.suzukimexico.org/1ra-convencion-suzuki-americas/

Deciding on the greatest highlights throughout the Convention is an impossible task. We would have to choose between

Keynotes imparted by Alejandro Escuer, Sean Peter Hagon, and Yumi Kendall

Outstanding 29 teacher's sessions, which gave everyone new tools and ideas

Choir rehearsals for more than 220 children

The concerts and special events were also brilliant

Inaugural event with folkloric Mexican dances accompanied by Mariachi

Master Concert by maestros Shari Mason (violin), Yumi Kendall (cello) Santiago Piñeirúa (piano), playing music by Brahms and Piazzola

Powerful closing of the Convention with more than 220 children singing together in different languages, from memory. Many parents and teachers were moved to tears, a truly overwhelming moment

Magnificent Mexican Fiesta! A lovely moment of harmony and leisure for more than 800 attendees, with entertainment provided by two prominent Mexican schools whose students played and sang to everybody's delight

The Convention was an unforgettable experience that will stay forever inside of us. It touched and changed our lives, because each and every one of us gave much more than what we thought possible, we beheld the strength of our character and learnt that we can always achieve more. What started as the dream of a group of teachers came true through work and passion, and it became the experience of a wonderful, large group of students who, thanks to this, will be able to keep on dreaming

We truly made history together!

You can revive or share these magical moments at this link:

www.suzukimexico.org/1ra-convencion-suzuki-americas

Canadian SAA members have a Canadian e-Newsletter L'Infolettre Suzuki canadienne est née!

By Gail Lange, Canadian Newsletter Committee, Ontario, Canada, 2019

For some years Canadians Suzuki teacher have sought an opportunity to get together for a meal or a meeting at SAA Conferences and retreats. As their numbers increased from year to year, Canadians become more vocal with regard to the necessity of outreach: how to export or transfer the enthusiasm engendered by Conferences and Retreats to fellow Canadians who live in remote areas or who work in isolation from other Suzuki teachers. It is recognized that many Canadian Suzuki teachers will *never* be able to attend a Conference or Retreat; the logistics of travelling to Minneapolis, for example, are prohibitive, not to mention the cost of the Conference and the hotel.

Canada is a huge country: almost 10 million sq. mi. Each of our ten provinces and three territories have considerable autonomy; regional differences exist so unity is an ideal—often a hot topic! And, Canada is bilingual, although English does dominate.

At one of the Canadian get-togethers a couple of years ago, a teacher proposed that we do a e-newsletter where every article would be available in English *and* French. This started a “buzz.”

A small committee including teachers from three provinces was struck to set the wheels in motion. The committee has been supplemented by a representative from each province and one of our territories. Preceding the publication of two issues per year, SAA, in the name of the provincial/territorial representative, sends a note to all Canadian SAA members to submit articles, announcements and pictures. As articles are sent in, they are edited and translated before being forwarded to the SAA Webmaster, who prepares and distributes the e-Newsletter.

After two issues, it is evident the “buzz” is reaching all corners of the Canadian Suzuki community. As we prepare for the third issue, articles are appearing from teachers and parent and from new communities. It is sometimes necessary to reach for the atlas to find a town in a faraway province!

In future issues the e-Newsletter will serve as a vehicle to initiate new ventures for Canadians. For example, Ontario Suzuki teachers, who participate in the Suzuki Association of Ontario (SAO), an SAA Chapter Affiliate, would be happy to see other provinces embrace the challenge of forming new Chapter Affiliates. These could be the stepping stone for more regional conferences. We feel we are beginning to succeed with our original goals, to reach more individual teachers who live in remote parts of our huge country and to help them feel more a part of the SAA AND ISA.

Let's promote Suzuki piano!

For the past 10 years Suzuki piano teachers have reluctantly recognized that Suzuki piano is not as well known as Suzuki violin! However, teachers are convinced that the mother tongue approach IS the way to go.

The music market is inundated with many 'methods' books. All have colourful and strategically designed books of music for students at all levels and of all ages. During the 20th century, it seemed that beginning the young student with a colourful book containing a collection of pieces to learn to read was the standard way to proceed. Taking piano lessons had become a "traditional" activity for young children.

Against this background, we realize that Suzuki piano sets out a totally different focus: a child can begin at a very young age, learning initially by ear. There is an emphasis on creating beautiful tone on the instrument from the beginning. This approach requires teachers who understand how to work with these young students who can begin as early as age four. Moreover, parental participation is part of the program. The challenge is, how to inform the world of our singular features?

From the outset, Suzuki piano teachers recognize the superiority of the Suzuki approach and are happy to promote the value and the advantages of the Suzuki approach. Out of this recognition, some Suzuki trainers proposed creating a promotional video. They had a message and had identified the audience they wanted to reach: young pianists in music faculties pursuing music studies who would see the value of Suzuki teaching as a possible career. Secondly, a video could attract parents of pre-schoolers.

Teachers determined that we could best attract our audience if the video showed all aspects of our program accompanied throughout by the performances of excellent students. Therefore, teachers were invited to submit videos of students performing and students having lessons, both individual and group. Scenes of teachers working together were also included because collegiality is a feature of our approach. The spoken text of the video which accompanies the music is a summary of a compilation of many interviews with teachers, trainers and parents consulted and interviewed in the spring of 2017.

The piano video committee soon realized the enormity of the project; the quality of the videos, the photos submitted, protecting privacy of students and families, only to name a few.

Now in just ten minutes' time, viewers can experience the amazing scope and depth of Suzuki piano: *Excellence from the Start!*

To view *Excellence from the Start; the Suzuki piano student's journey*, we invite you to take a look: <https://suzukiassociation.org/media/excellence-from-start-suzuki-piano-students/>

Parents as Partners Online

By Christine Goodner, PPO Coordinator

January 2020 will mark the 9th year of the Suzuki Association of the America's video resource Parents as Partners Online. The online video series started in 2012 as a way to help support Suzuki parents and teachers as they work together with their Suzuki students at home or in lessons.

Each January, those who register for this program receive a weekly email with five to six short videos to watch, ranging in topics from practice tips, strategies to work with different age groups, and specific advice for Suzuki parents. The videos are created by teachers and parents from our SAA community. They allow for a wide range of perspectives and experiences to be shared on all topics related to Suzuki teaching and parenting.

Some examples of topics include:

- 5 Steps to Greatness: Making Independent Practice Effective
- Triple the Twinkles: Practice with Multiple Children
- Building Community through Mentorship
- Orchestra and the Suzuki Student

The content of each video in the series can be watched, read through provided transcripts, or listened to with the audio-only, podcast feature. The variety of ways to interact with the Parents as Partners information helps provide many ways to take in the information and make it user-friendly to teachers and parents who are fitting the program into their already busy schedule.

Parents as Partners benefits both teachers and parents alike with new ideas and perspectives. Teachers often share how the resource prompts studio-wide discussions with parents, the ability to share new ideas with families they work with, and new perspectives that the teacher can share throughout the year.

Parents, as well, are able to gain new insights from fellow parents on the same journey as they are as well as from teachers from all over the region. It's like attending a mini-workshop right in your own home each week.

Strengthening the teacher-parent relationship as we strive to help our students be successful and play with excellence is an essential piece of the Suzuki triangle, and this program helps foster that each year. It allows teachers and parents to talk about both challenges and solutions and to implement ideas that will help students be successful. We can't wait to see how the program develops as we take it into the future.

TERI Report - December 2019

~ The Pope Visits Japan after a 38 Year Interval: TERI Children Play in a Dedicated Performance ~

We would like to express our wish for a peaceful world through music...

On November 25, under the baton of Pro. Koji Toyoda, the honorary president of TERI, a total of 24 TERI teachers and students performed three pieces for Pope Francis, during the first papal visit to Japan in 38 years, at the “Meeting with the Victims of Triple Disaster” held in Bellsalle Hanzomon in Tokyo. The Pope looked deeply moved by children’s violin performance and he stood still listening to them for some time.

Considering Pope Francis’ longtime strong desire to visit the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the meeting was arranged in Tokyo due to his tight schedule by inviting representative victims from the disaster area. The TERI members performed the “Air” by J.S Bach in the pre-event, and welcomed the Pope with his native Argentinian tango “Camenito” together with a female chorus.

Very emotional speeches were given by three of the victims, followed by a heartfelt speech by the Pope. At the end of the meeting, the Pope was sent off with the song “Flowers Will Bloom [Hana wa Saku]” sung by all participants to the accompaniment of the TERI member strings. The noble sound filled the hall with a warm and peaceful atmosphere. As the TERI children performed this piece in the passage to the exit, the Pope paused in front of the children and listened to their gentle tone intently. A rosary of memory was handed over by the Pope to each of the children. Some of them could not stop weeping for a while.

The Suzuki Method founder, the late Dr. Suzuki, began an educational movement through music in 1946, shortly after the tragedy of World War II, with a strong wish that “We will never build personality which cause war again. We must start the training of our children at their earliest stage to give them high standards of sensitivity to realize this declaration.”

Pope Francis’ appeal to the people in Japan was “Wish for Peace”. This corresponds exactly to Dr. Suzuki’s fundamental idea when he established TERI. After the announcement of the Pope’s Japan visit, TERI members worked diligently over half a year on how to realize this chance to directly transfer our message to Pope Francis. The Pope’s visit to Japan gave us a good opportunity to remember Dr. Suzuki’s wish “To raise a person of high sensitivity through music”. It was a very good day for the children. We can believe that “Wish for Peace” was surely and deeply inherited by the children with pure hearts.

The video of “Meeting with the Victims of Triple Disaster” is available at the following URL;

<https://youtu.be/JoCNVJfRDgU>

At the beginning of the video, you can see a rehearsal of “Flowers Will Bloom [Hana wa Saku]” held before the Pope’s entry. From 16’ the performance of the “Air” to wait for the entry of the Pope. From 28’ the performance for welcoming Pope. From 1hour and 41” the performance of “Flowers Will Bloom]Hana wa Saku]” to send off the Pope. From 1hour and 2’ the the Pope listening to the children’s performance (the same scene with the photo on his Instagram).

Pope Francis Official Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/franciscus?igshid=1plbiikiw6dzp>

Pope Francis's official Instagram shows the photos of the interaction scene by the Pope and Suzuki children together. At the following Instagram URL, you can see the Pope listening to children’s performance with the music of “Flowers Will Bloom [Hana wa Saku] in the background.

https://www.instagram.com/p/B5SwKMzI8xf/?utm_source=ig_web_button_native_share

Original text: Naoki Sakaki, Chair of the Public Information Committee of TERI

English translation: Takeshi Kurokochi, Yumi Goubara



Koji Toyoda conducting TERI members in their performance for Pope Francis



TERI students performing with teacher orchestra and parent chorus

