

International Suzuki Journal

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Welcome to the new online ISA Journal

In 1983, the International Suzuki Association (ISA) was founded on the initiative of Dr. Suzuki. Meanwhile, there are currently more than 10,000 Suzuki teachers world-wide registered through their regional associations, which are:

- the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA)
- the European Suzuki Association (ESA)
- the Pan Pacific Suzuki Association (PPSA)
- the Asia Regional Suzuki Association (ARSA)
- the Talent Education Research Institute (TERI)

What had originally been a violin method for young children has been developed for more than 12 other instruments and disciplines. The foundation of Dr. Suzuki's philosophy has evolved into a teaching approach suitable for all ages, musical styles and formations (ensembles, orchestras, etc.)

Until 2002/2003, the ISA published an annual journal for its members. In those days, the journal was printed and mailed to every teacher member. After the ISA changed the membership structure, and teachers now are affiliated through their regional association, this publication stopped. The ISA now intends to publish an online journal twice a year with Suzuki news from around the world. Additionally, you will find all previous ISA journals published in the 80's and 90's online at the ISA website, and periodically we will re-publish articles Dr. Suzuki wrote for the journal.

We hope you enjoy reading the first edition of the ISA online journal and look forward to your constructive feedback.

Martin Rüttimann, ISA Chair
Allen Lieb Jr., ISA CEO



Clockwise beginning on the right: Prof. Ryugo Hayano, TERI Representative; Koji Toyoda, President (Ex-Officio); Pasquale Razzano, Member-at-Large; Simon Griffiths, PPSA Representative, Secretary; Pam Brasch, SAA Representative, Treasurer; Hiroko Driver Lippman, Member-at-Large; Carey Beth Hockett, Member-at-Large; Dr. Lan Ku Chen, ARSA Representative; Martin Rüttimann, ESA Representative, Chair; Allen Lieb, CEO

A Brief History of the Suzuki Method in Africa

reported by Karen-Michele Kimmett

South Africa:

SASA (South African Suzuki Association), one of two African member countries of the European Suzuki Association, will soon celebrate its 20th year Anniversary.

In 2001, Christophe Bossuat began official ESA teacher training with the first class including many former pupils of Alan & Nicolette Solomon, who themselves were instrumental

in bringing the Suzuki method to South Africa. Lee Marais, now an ESA Instructor,

generously hosted the initial courses in her home and more recently, has been the course organizer of the ESA violin training courses. The late John Ros, Musical Director of UNISA

(University of South Africa), championed the Suzuki Method, with SASA teachers Anne Naylor, Ansa Steenkamp, Madelaine Wikner, Maria Meyer, Betsie Meyer and current Chair Joanna Swart contributing time & leadership in developing the association and the Suzuki Method throughout South Africa.

From 2002 onwards, teacher-trainer Karen-Michele Kimmett joined the training team with courses taking place over the years in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Stellenbosch. Today trained Suzuki teachers can be found in Port Elizabeth, Durban, Grahamstown, Bloemfontein and Limpopo, among other centers.

Ruben Rivera directed the first ESA cello training course in South Africa, and currently cello teacher Nathalie Bentley has an active cello class of over twenty students in Pretoria. Other Suzuki instruments currently taught in South Africa include piano and recorder.



Teaching venues include private studios and Suzuki classes in the schools. Established programs in the townships include classes for orphans at Kingdom Life, Atteridgeville - led by Betsie Meyer - and the MUZUKIDZ program, Cape Town, founded & directed by Maria Botha, with both these Suzuki programs bringing the joy of music learning to hundreds of orphans and disadvantaged children.



Pictured in the photo : Axel Chamala - a former orphan himself obtained his ESA Level 2 and now teaching in the Atteridgeville orphanage - seen here with another young orphan.



Maria Botha, seen surrounded by an enthusiastic group of her Cape Town Muzukidz.

SASA has organized numerous concerts, graduation recitals and music camps over the decades with the annual highlight being the SASA National Concert, bringing students together from all over South Africa. This year the concert, under the direction of Lee Marais, will take place August 4th in Johannesburg at the Linder Auditorium. South African Suzuki students have participated with acclaim and honors mention in local and national music festivals, with several graduates going on to pursue post-varsity music studies in both South Africa and abroad.



Looking ahead, the South African Suzuki Association aspires to offer training in additional Suzuki instruments and to provide quality Suzuki education for every child, while continuing to search for innovative ways to overcome the real challenges imposed by distance, diverse demographics and a volatile economy. The support of the ESA and the ESDT (European Suzuki Development Trust), as well as donations from around the Suzuki globe, have also contributed to the development of the first Country Member of the ESA, SASA. It is our hope that SASA will continue to be a hub for Suzuki training and Suzuki activities on the African continent.

Zimbabwe:

The Suzuki Method has been active in Zimbabwe for close to twenty years. The first teacher, Ivy Decker-Jones, was inspired and taught by the late Michele Higa George, who came to Harare twice for intensive training sessions with Ivy and her students. The word spread, with Ivy's work inspiring other teachers, and gradually the Suzuki Method could be found in private studios, in Saturday morning classes for orphans and in the local schools.



In 2015, Helen Brunner led an inspiring week long workshop working with both teachers and students in various settings. A year later, thanks to the enthusiastic organizational skills of cellist and violinist Amy Macy, a group of teachers attended a three-day introductory session. This led to the first ever ESA Level One training course, taught by Karen-Michele Kimmitt, with twelve participants on the course - including one from Zambia who traveled twelve long hours on a dusty bus to get there.



Despite the challenging political and economic conditions, a dedicated team of parents under the leadership of Mara Gallante did much to fundraise and support these first Suzuki courses for teachers. In addition, financial contributions from the ESTDT (European Suzuki Development Trust) fund, the ESA 'Give a Child a Teacher' fundraiser, and generous donors from Canada and France helped in supporting these courses.

Training was offered again in 2017 for both Level 1 and Level 2 Violin teachers with the growing numbers of children in afternoon classes attesting to the increasing number of Suzuki students in Zimbabwe. The same year, Ruben Rivera also offered introductory cello training classes & lessons for Suzuki cello students. There are plans to resume violin teacher training in late 2019/2020.



In 2016, The ZIMSA (Zimbabwe Suzuki Association) was formally created, thereby making Zimbabwe the second African member country of the ESA.

Today more than four hundred children are studying the Suzuki Method in Harare, Bulawayo and neighboring towns, with the annual ZIM Suzuki concert bringing Suzuki students together. That these Suzuki activities flourish under ever increasingly challenging conditions is a testament to the resiliency of the Zimbabwean Suzuki teachers and parents.

Since the December 2017 change of political leadership, the hoped for improvements, be it in the lifting of crushing embargoes or conversion to a stable currency to interact with the world at large, have not yet taken place. Currently inflation is running extremely high with the shortages making for kilometers-long lines for petrol, and frequent food shortages with empty store shelves the norm. The embargo also means that there is a chronic lack of good instruments, shoulder rests, strings and music.

Nonetheless, within the Zimbabwe Suzuki teachers and families there is a deep desire to have more children and families benefit from a Suzuki music education given by trained Suzuki teachers. Dr. Suzuki believed that we can transform children's lives and offer hope for a better future through quality music education.

Suzuki teachers in Zimbabwe, despite their serious challenges are building that better future of a caring & listening community one note, one child at a time.

Videos Online with Dr. Suzuki's Teaching

by Wilfreid Van Gorp

It is now so long ago that we could see Dr Suzuki teaching in person. Most of us as Suzuki teachers never had the chance to meet him. In 1982, Dr Suzuki came to Belgium. I was so happy as a 19 year old boy - in-between being a student and a grown up - that I could attend both workshops for children and teachers. As for many of us Suzuki teachers at that meeting, that moment changed my life. Four months before starting the university (with other studies in my mind), I decided that becoming a Suzuki violin teacher was more my dream - inspired by that marvelous international convention where Dr Suzuki was teaching. Being a Suzuki child (since 1971) was for many years unforgettable for me, as we had a wonderful teacher, as well as being together with lots of friends every week. During those pioneering years of the Suzuki Method in Europe, we could meet several times a year with a great team of teachers, all taught by Dr Suzuki himself in Matsumoto. They were only a group of 9, but a great team. They shared their wonderful and fantastic ideas together. Teachers from America also came to teach us. They were all exciting, motivating and inspiring.

Then the Suzuki Method in Europe started also to grow as in the United States. After Dr Suzuki died in 1998, many beautiful stories were told. Memories from the first generation Suzuki teachers inspired the new ones. Sometimes we could see videos made by the teachers themselves when Dr. Suzuki was teaching. Their speeches were good to listen as well. I still dream that everyone who has these videos at home will put them somewhere on the internet, or that we all have a common website where we can find inspiring memories from this great man. It is the best to look at it when we are together during Teacher Training sessions or at institutes. Hearing stories, looking at videos where Dr Suzuki is teaching, is the best training you can find for yourself. It makes you think and it makes you talk about why, how, and what is important to teach your students. It would be wonderful to see how Dr. Suzuki taught us to develop as a teacher. He developed all the time; I'm sure about that. After more than 30 years of teaching, I have developed a lot myself. And still I want to learn, to have new ideas, or old ideas in a new jacket.

Some time ago I discovered that we can find more information about Suzuki's teaching. I found some videos online and we looked at them together in our Teacher Training program in Belgium. Our teachers understood more about balancing the bow than before, about Tonalization, about posture and listening. We all should look at them and feel that it helps us to teach better again. And please, let us share what we know and what we can share with each other.

Here is a list of the videos I found:

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No.1 1 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-YvKE69IPk>

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No.1 2 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfynQzmTb9c>

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No.2 1 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBFiaY0zaGs>

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No5 training in tonalization

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q64eY5Po7PU>

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No. 5 lessons in tonalization 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygQXB2gLvYk>

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No. 5 lessons in tonalization 5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r39LAKK_Yuo

Suzuki Method VIDEO GUIDANCE No. 5 lessons in tonalization 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ke5AZid6_wU

In Memoriam Shinichi Suzuki | Live in Concert 1976

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAQ_kVDfkJo

Dr.Shinichi Suzuki My Report 1 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJMcJBR7Vpo&t=8s>

Dr.Shinichi Suzuki My Report 2 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsVPjEDhpM4>

Dr.Shinichi Suzuki My Report 3 of 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMshg48ercQ>



Wilfried Van Gorp is a Suzuki Violin teacher and ESA Teacher Trainer living in Wilsele, Belgium.

ESVG 2019 – European Suzuki Viola Gathering

February 15-17 2019



From February 15-17, 2019, the second European Suzuki Viola Gathering, SVG 2019, 2019 took place at the Casa E. San José, a beautiful well-equipped conference centre in El Escorial, situated some 35 kilometers northwest of Madrid.

Like its predecessor, SVG 2017, held in Watford UK in February 2017, SVG 2019 was oriented towards non-competitive community building, exploring ways of developing the viola in our individual studios, and providing greater visibility to the viola within the ESA community.

A four-person committee assumed responsibility for the initial details of SVG 2019, consisting of Juan Drown and Joanne Martin (joint musical directors) Peter King (Administrator and Organizer) and Mona Kodama. The committee was augmented by Celia Bornemann Arquero, who played an invaluable role as local organizer, and by Kike Salvatierra from the La Federación Española del Método Suzuki (FEMS), who single-handedly acted as webmaster.

SVG 2019 was attended by close to 300 participants, which showed a healthy increase compared to the 237 participants at SVG 2017. The participants included 110 viola students and a similar number of parents, about 60 Suzuki Teachers and 20 observers from 15 ESA counties as well as from Canada, USA, Hong Kong and Japan.

We were particularly pleased by the attendance of two participants from Japan, Yoshitsugu Soda, previous director of the TERI viola group, and Mr. Shin, the editor of the TERI newsletter and an adult Suzuki viola student.

ESVG 2019 included: Suzuki repertoire group classes, classes introducing parents to the viola, viola for violinists classes, viola ensembles, teacher-led seminars for teachers/observers, teacher discussion session, parent-teacher discussion session, Saturday evening viola and chamber recital by a former Suzuki viola student accompanied by his friends and family members, workshops and demonstrations by a bow-maker, a booth for the sale of music and other items by a local music dealer, who also kindly provided a number of electronic keyboards for use during the event.

Conclusion

ESVG 2019 was, in all respects, a great success. We were delighted – albeit at sometimes somewhat overwhelmed -- with the large number of registrants, which allowed us to offer a vibrant and varied set of classes and other events in which all attendees could participate. We heard many expressions of delight and enjoyment over the weekend. It is already apparent that there is great demand for future ESGVs, and preliminary plans for the ESGV 2021 are underway.

Peter King, Administrator ESGV

Students of Dr. Suzuki Visit the New York School for Strings

by Allen Lieb

On Monday evening, October 15, while attending the annual ISA Board meeting held this year in New York City, three members of the International Suzuki Association Board - Koji Toyoda, Hiroko Driver-Lippman and Ryugo Hayano - met with Teacher Training Seminar teachers and faculty at the School for Strings in Manhattan. A room full of teachers enjoyed hearing from each of the guest speakers who shared their personal experiences with Dr. Suzuki. It was inspiring for the teachers in training who can never experience Dr. Suzuki in person to meet Prof. Toyoda, whom they have read about in *Nurtured by Love*. (His talk was translated by Ms. Driver-Lippman.) Attendees were able to



feel both his humility and his humor. Mr. Hayano, currently a physicist and President of the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, was a member of the first Japanese tour group that came to America in 1964. He spoke about how his early violin training with Dr. Suzuki shaped his entire life. Ms. Driver-Lipmann told stories of her early violin studies in Japan: coming to Dr. Suzuki's lessons with her mother, and then later to TERI as a teacher-trainee. It was a wonderful evening and very inspiring to see the teachers waiting in line to snap photos and to have their copies of *Nurtured by Love* autographed by Prof. Toyoda.

Marina Obukovsky, SFS Piano Department Head and Teacher-Trainer wrote this message: Meeting these people in real life who are important figures from our "bible", *Nurtured by Love*, they are living proof of the success of Suzuki Method. Hearing their stories of studying with Suzuki-sensei, was just beyond the words. I was struck by the kindness, openness and modesty of these people who've made such impressive careers but stayed so grounded and humble. Truly, "Beautiful music- Beautiful heart."

Alfred Publishing News

Pam Phillips Retires from Alfred Publishing

On October 19, 2018, Pam Phillips, Suzuki Editor and Strategist at Alfred Music retired after over 10 years of service, working tirelessly to ensure the exceptional quality of all Suzuki products, including the oversight of production relating to all core materials and new instrument categories. The International Suzuki Association would like to personally thank Pam for her passion and dedication towards the Suzuki community and send our best wishes for a very happy retirement.

The ISA Board passed the following motion during its annual meeting on October 16, 2018 in New York City:

Motion #8 - ISA Board would like to thank Pam Phillips, from Alfred Publishing, for all her work and support over many years. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

The Board arranged a gift of one of Dr. Suzuki's shikishis to be presented to Pam Phillips on behalf of the ISA and its members world-wide. This was done with the assistance of TERI, its President, Dr. Ryugo Hayano, Professor Koji Toyoda and Hiroko Suzuki.



Pam Phillips, retired Suzuki Editor for Alfred Publishing

ISA Welcomes Danae Witter, New Suzuki Editor

The ISA would also like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome **Alfred's new Suzuki Editor and Strategist, Danae Witter**. Danae received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Violin Performance from the University of Southern California in 2011, and since has worked both in the industry and as a teacher and performer. Danae can be reached at her new email address: suzukieditor@alfred.com.



Danae Witter, new Suzuki Editor for Alfred Publishing

Product News from Alfred Publishing

Danae Witter, Suzuki Editor at Alfred Music

April 2019

Works in Progress!

There has been a flurry of activity surrounding new and revised Suzuki materials. I am not able to provide release dates, but below are some of the items in progress:

- The Trumpet Committee continues to work on Volume 1. This will be the first brass instrument series for the Suzuki Method.
- The Voice Committee is finishing the final revisions to Volume 1.
- The Guitar Committee is currently revising Volume 1. This revised edition will include new photos and a new recording.
- The Bass Committee is adding a new book to their series! Look forward to Volume 6 in the coming months.
- Plans continue to develop for the re-recording of the violin volumes. Stay tuned for more information.
- The Violin Committee has been working on **consistency corrections** for Volumes 4-6. Most of these involve the text and do not change the music. The corrections will be phased in as the books reprint.

Asia Region Suzuki Association (ARSA) in 2018 at a Glance

Asia is a fast growing and dynamic region. Currently there are five full member countries including Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand with China under the administrative support of Taiwan. Thailand Association for Talent Education (TATE) is ARSA's newest member approved by the ARSA board of directors in the Annual General Meeting July 2018 in Manila.

Throughout the region member countries actively hosted teacher training in piano, cello, guitar and SECE with trainers from living in ARSA region as well as approved trainers from outside of ARSA. Also evident was an increase of teacher participation in the ARSA examination system for violin and piano.

Besides teacher training programs, graduation concerts, ARSA examinations, workshops for enhancing violinist's technique (SAVE by Lan Ku Chen) , ARSA countries reported Suzuki gatherings and events that brought their Suzuki communities together.

The highlight of 2018 was the 7th Asia Region Suzuki Conference held on July 1-5, 2018 at the Treston International College at Bonifacio Global City with its theme: 'Art to Heart: Nurturing Children's Hearts Through Music.' Over 600 teachers, children and parents from the countries of Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines gathered to make music and learn from each other.



Young Artists Concert Participants with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philippine Suzuki Association (PSA) also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Greenhills Music Studio, where the Suzuki Method began in the Philippines with a concert, "GMS Gold" held in Brother Donato Center for Performing Arts in La Salle Greenhills.

In Indonesia, an archipelago of over 18,000 islands, the Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia (**SMAI**) has been active for 10 years with members on the islands of Java (Jakarta, Bogor, Probolinggo and Surabaya), Bali (Denpasar), Sumatra (Medan), and Sulawesi (Manado). SMAI's mission is to reach out to all levels of society. In August 2018 SMAI opened its first two 'B# school programs' bringing free Suzuki Method lessons to underprivileged children and providing scholarships for teachers to train.



1st Batch of Be Sharp Suzuki Students

Suzuki Talent Education Association of Singapore (STEAS) held a number of interesting events including Perpetuo Musica a marathon concert, concerts at Jurong Community Hospital, the National Museum and Violin Funtasy a workshop with Nakamura and Masaki for violin students and their first Graduation Concert.



STEAS's 1st Graduation Concert

TATE reported that there were many student concerts and solo recitals throughout the year arranged by the only 2 schools in Thailand that offer Suzuki programs taught by certified Suzuki teachers: Aum-Aree music school and Albyrd Violin Studio. Both schools offer SECE, Suzuki Violin, Suzuki Cello, and Suzuki Piano.



SECE Concert in Thailand

Taiwan Talent Education Association (**TTEA**) held a very successful 2018 Taipei Suzuki Winter School with faculty and participants from Taiwan, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan, Belgium, Canada, and USA. Also, the Taiwan/China group jointly participated in two international Suzuki events in 2018: The 7th Asia Suzuki Conference in Manila and The 2018 Matsumoto Summer School.

In China, the **TTEA** and Fujian Music Talent Education Association (**FMTEA**) established a full range of Suzuki activities including teacher training, annual/graduation concert, teacher workshops, ARSA teacher examination and international Suzuki activities. Most noteworthy is the establishment of the first Suzuki Method official website in China: <https://www.suzukihq.com>.



Matsumoto Summer School, TTEA and FMTEA Group, August 2018

2018 News Update from the European Suzuki Association

Diana Shair, Assistant Editor, ESA

2018 was an eventful year for the European Suzuki Association. From the biennial ESA European Teachers' Convention in Iceland to the Baltic Suzuki Pianists' Workshop in Switzerland, the year was packed with events that brought teachers and students together from all across Europe for learning, growing, and music-making. Here is a selection of the year's highlights:

In April 2018, the **ESA European Teachers' Convention** was held in Reykjavík, Iceland. This was an inspiring three-day event that included a wide range of session topics, such as the Icelandic music school system and a talk by ESA Chairman Martin Rüttimann about the challenges of teaching the Suzuki Method in a changing world. Inspiring ideas for group teaching for beginners and advanced students were led by teachers from Belgium, France, the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, and Iceland. A few common themes surfaced during the convention: several presentations discussed the importance of the child's point of view; another hot topic was the challenge of reconciling Suzuki's core values with our contemporary lives.



ESA European Teachers' Convention Concert, April 6, 2018

In May, the **40th anniversary of the Suzuki Method in France** was celebrated with a concert at the l'Amphithéâtre in Lyon. Christophe Bossuat and Judy Bossuat-Gallic first brought the Suzuki Method from Japan to Lyon in 1978, and it was decided to celebrate the anniversary in the city where it all began. Over 550 students and their teachers from all over France worked for over a year to prepare for the concert. Three rehearsals in three different parts of France were organized to accommodate the large number of participants. It was a true family event, with many families in Lyon hosting students who had travelled far and wide to take part. The repertoire was eclectic, with folk songs, traditional Suzuki pieces, and modern music all on the program.



40th Anniversary of the Suzuki Method in France

May was also the month that the **Baltic Suzuki Piano One-Day Workshop** concept went “on the road” to the Swiss Suzuki Workshop in Emmetten, Switzerland. Since 2014, Suzuki piano teachers in the Baltic region have hosted an annual one-day piano workshop on Dr. Suzuki’s birthday. These workshops grew out of the desire to give piano students the opportunity to play music in groups and to meet other students in an intercultural setting. It was decided to extend this event to other European piano teachers, and the participation by students and teachers from Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Russia and Estonia made this workshop a great success.



*Group Lesson Teaching Exchange
Emmetten, Switzerland May 11-13, 2018*

In August, the European Suzuki Guitar Convention celebrated **25 years of Elio Galvagno’s Suzuki Guitar School, Chitarrissima**, in Saluzzo, Italy. Students, teachers, and professional musicians from New York City, Italy, and many other European countries took part. A highlight of the event was a premiere performance of the musical fable *The Bull Ferdinand* by composer Mychal Gendron, which featured voice narrator and an orchestra of guitars. The theme of the event was personal expression in music; Galvagno wanted to promote the core Suzuki value that “it is the expression part of musical talent that we all possess and we can all be expressive: everyone, starting from the tenderest age, can therefore not only play, but express themselves musically!”



Chitarrissima Guitar Orchestra

To read more about past and upcoming ESA events, check out the latest ESA Teachers' Newsletter [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE PPSA

The Pan Pacific Suzuki Association is made up of the following bodies:

New Zealand Suzuki Institute

Suzuki Talent Education Association of Australia (Western Australia)

Suzuki Music, South Australia

Suzuki Music, Victoria

Suzuki Talent Education Association of Australia (New South Wales)

Suzuki Music, Queensland

News of specific events during 2018 has been received from some Associations in the PPSA.

STEAA (WA)

March 10 – Suzuki Early Childhood Education Sunrise Concert (performers aged 3-6)

March 17 - Annual General Meeting and teachers' Professional Development

April – Senior String Masterclass

April 5 – SECE Professional Development workshop

April 26-29 – Cello workshop with guest tutor Takao Mizushima

September 2 – Violin and Cello Graduations

October 3-7 – Violin workshop with guest tutor Koens Rens

October 21 – Piano, Flute and Guitar Graduations

NEW ZEALAND SUZUKI INSTITUTE

In May 2018 the Auckland Branch held their annual concert in the iconic Auckland Town Hall. 320 children participated in the concert, performing to a large audience on violin, cello, flute, guitar and piano.

Hawkes Bay Branch hosted a Winter Workshop (June 2018) in Tauranga. 60 violin and cello participants from all over the country and tutors from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

The Hamilton Branch 2019 Matamata summer camp was very successful with good numbers in violin, cello and piano.

Wellington Branch October 2018 Workshop had 189 students, including 10 guitarists – the first time in many years that Wellington Branch has hosted guitar teaching. Summer Camp 2019 there were 194 violin, piano and cello students.

30th South Island Summer Camp January 2019 - 74 violin, viola, cello, piano and guitar students in total attended the camp.

SUZUKI MUSIC, VICTORIA

February 25 – All-instrument and Piano Professional Development

March 19 – Annual General Meeting

March 25 – Piano and Organ student solo concerts

April 29 – Piano Playathon, raising money for charity

Flute and Recorder student solo concerts

May 6 – Piano Graduations

June 3 – Cello, Flute and Voice Graduations

July 9-14 – Suzuki Australian National Conference in Melbourne.

Included: many invited tutors from overseas and within the PPSA student classes for all instruments and all levels

- 2 days of Teacher Professional Development
- Daily singing sessions for teachers, parents and students, led by educator Michael Griffin
- Auditioned Gala Concert of top level solos, and auditioned Ensemble Concert
- Grand Final Concert with all participants involved

August 26 – Piano Graduations

August 31 – Recorded Graduations were submitted – all instruments except piano

September 9 – Student solo concerts, all instruments

Guitar Twinkle Workshop

October 6 – All-instrument and Piano Professional Development

October 14 – Piano Graduation Celebration Concerts

October 21 – Stringalong workshop

Guitar Book 1-3 workshop

October 28 – Student solo concerts, all instruments

November 11 – Flute and Recorder student solo concerts



SAA News from the 2018 Conference: Celebrating our Collaborating Community

By Kamini LaRusso and Carlynn Savot



Photo by T. Dunne

The 18th Biennial Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference, “A Collaborating Community,” presented teachers, parents, students, and members of our Suzuki community the opportunity to explore the boundless possibilities available to us when we work together. Many thanks are in order for creating a rich conference weekend: the conference planning team, session presenters, student participants, along with their parents and home teachers, and conference volunteers. Thank you to Westminster Presbyterian Church for being so welcoming, and to the wonderful PSAV and Hilton staff for helping things to run smoothly. We are especially grateful to the SAA office staff and to Pam Brasch for their tireless work preparing and realizing the vision of the conference. The words (and music!) of the weekend’s keynote speakers and guest clinicians encourage us to reflect on our work and its impact, both nurturing within and reaching outside our Suzuki community.

“Building Bridges to Save Our World” by Dr. Kay Collier McLaughlin

Dr. Collier McLaughlin’s keynote on Thursday evening kicked the weekend off with a call to action. Music can be a common starting point for meaningful interactions between people, especially when we have little else in common. It can leave space for conversations to develop and create the possibility of transformational relationships.

The Montrose Trio in Concert

Orchestra Hall provided a beautiful venue for the Montrose Trio’s Friday evening performance, which demonstrated the result of a musical collaboration at exceptional levels of musical awareness, sensitivity, and skill.

“Early Experiences Elevate Everything” by Dr. Dipesh Navsaria

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Navsaria discussed the reasons why early childhood development, particularly in the first 18 months, is crucial to long-term learning ability. Noting that the child’s environment can have an even greater impact on development outcomes than economic factors, he highlighted the importance of parent education in creating a nurturing environment from birth.

“The Power of Connections” by Koen Rens

Hailing from Belgium and designated a teacher trainer by the European Suzuki Association, Koen Rens brought a global perspective to the work of the SAA. In his Sunday evening keynote, he spoke about how his love of learning was developed at home and in lessons as a child and how it informs his work as a teacher. His passion for guiding students to create music that’s alive was on full display as he led the Violin Performing Ensemble in their culminating performance following a weekend of rehearsals. A common thread throughout the weekend was the reminder of how critical our work as a Suzuki community is at this moment in time. Gathering for the conference helps build our vision and the practical tools needed to develop noble hearts in children, who will be responsible for our bright future, supported by our collaborating community.

54th Grand Concert in Tokyo after long interval commemorated the 120th anniversary of Dr. Suzuki's birth



～ Very memorable Concert! ～

On April 4th 2018, TERI held the 54th Grand Concert, which commemorated the 120th anniversary of Dr. Suzuki's birth, at Kokugikan Sumo Stadium in Ryogoku, Tokyo. It is already nine years since the last Grand Concert took place because we could not help suddenly suspending the last Grand Concert in 2011 because of the Great East Japan Earthquake. It was clear sunny weather and about 2,000 students from all over Japan and overseas (Taiwan, Korea, Cyprus, and Singapore) enjoyed the great concert together with their families.

We had the great honor of receiving the visit of Majesty the Emperor, Her Majesty the Empress, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado Hisako. They enjoyed the second half of the program and after hearing the last program, 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star Variations' gave warm applause to all the students. Their Imperial Majesties Emperor and Empress have attended our Grand Concert many times even from the period when they were the Crown Prince and Princess. It was very impressive that they leaned over their seats (Special seats for the Imperial family to watch the grand sumo tournament) to hear Suzuki Children's performance.

The concert was well organized with diversified programs to show the potential and future growth of Suzuki Method.

First half program consisted of many new challenges.

- Piano Course students' performance on 2 grand pianos and 20 electronic pianos.
- Flute Course students' performance with wonderful clear sound rang throughout Kokugikan.
- Cello Course students' exquisite ensemble of famous Klengel "Hymnus", and played 3 pieces from Cello Books.
- Mendelssohn Violin Concerto 3rd movement by Violin Course students (Conductor: Koji Toyoda) with sharp and impressive performance responding to the baton of
- Prof. Toyoda.
- Guest performance of the Soma Children's Orchestra and the Otsuchi Children's Orchestra of El Sistema Japan. Mozart "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" 1st movement and
- JS Bach "Air on G String" (Conductor: Takayuki Nakatani: a first year high school student) in memory of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and El Sistema founder Dr. Abreu, who passed away just before the Grand Concert.

Soma and Otsuchi experienced a big damage through the catastrophe of the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami. So it was a very historical and symbolic event to share their performance in our Grand Concert. The children of the Suzuki Method must have received the great passion and courage from them to move forward to build a bright future.

Finally, the joint Orchestra by 300 children of El Sistema Japan and the Suzuki Method performed Beethoven Symphony No. 7 4th movement (Conductor: Keiji Kanamori). It was really a very big orchestra, for example 122 violins only from 1st violin section, but they all perfectly concentrated on giving a performance with full of energy.

Second half after the intermission started in complete contrast to the exciting first half.

- One young cellist appeared on the dark stage with spotlight surrounded by the huge breathless audience.
- Cello solo performance by Dai Miyata, great top cellist in young generation. He performed Bruch "Kol Nidrei" (Piano: Sakiko Ishikawa) on the dark stage with spotlight.
- The performance was full of 'Pray' and 'Joy of Life' and it was a big honor and proud to know that he started Cello lesson with Suzuki Method and he often comes back to important Suzuki events to enjoy the communication with Cello sound.
- Violin Course students including senior ex-Suzuki students played 4 pieces from the
- Suzuki Violin Texts. During their performances it seemed that Kokugikan was sounding as an big instrument.
- Newly arranged Medley (Amaryllis, French Folk Song, Andantino, Allegro) for the
- Grand Concert performed by students in All-Courses. Performing with wind instruments should be a valuable experience for string instrument children.
- Finale was Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Variations as usual. There were many children who joined in the performance for the first time.

The Grand Concert experience at Kokugikan became a precious lifetime memory for all the relevant people, children who performed in the concert, the former Suzuki students, their families and friends, and the teachers. Dr. Shinichi Suzuki in Heaven must be appreciating to all of them and watching over with smile the lines of cheerful children going back home.