

International Suzuki Journal

Volume 21, Number 2

January 2025



Welcome to the 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:

- The Suzuki Method: The Life and Times of Dr. Shin'ichi Suzuki
- In Memoriam Mr. Yasuki Nakamura, NSW Honorary President, Australia
- Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore hosts Fantasy 2025
- Taiwan Talent Education Association Flute Ensemble plays in Macao
- Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia Hosts Grand Concert
- Suzuki Teachers' Convention Italy 2024
- European Suzuki Viola Gathering 2024
- A Letter from La Plata
- Ed Kreitman's Retirement Celebration
- TERI Updates from Ryugo Hyano

Happy New Year - traditional and Lunar - from the International Suzuki Association! And welcome to 2025. This issue of the *ISA Journal* features an excerpt from the first installment of Fumiyo Kuramochi's comprehensive new biography-in-progress of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. This is an exciting development and we applaud her undertaking this daunting task. To view the complete first chapter in the ISA Online Archive, use the link posted in this *Journal*. You will find this first chapter a fascinating exploration of Dr. Suzuki's family roots in Japan that nurtured his development of the Talent Education movement.

As testament to the influence of this idea and its growth around the world, we also bring you news from the Regions in this issue: examples of the continued enjoyment through musical expression and the evidence of human potential for teachers, students and families achieved through the Suzuki Method. Many thanks to our contributing Regional Associations for this *Journal*, and to our editor Aaron Van Heyningen.

Allen Lieb
CEO/ISA

Visit the ISA website at [InternationalSuzuki.org](https://www.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 dating from 1983.

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>

Visit and join the ISA Facebook [SUZUKI™ Teachers](#) page for postings, discussions, and questions from Suzuki teachers around the globe.



ISA Announces a New Biography about Dr. Suzuki

The Suzuki Method: Life and Times of Dr. Shin'ichi Suzuki

Fumiyo Kuramochi
Translated by Lili Selden

The ISA is proud to present the first installment from this new biography of Dr. Suzuki by his former student and noted Suzuki pedagogue, Fumiyo Kuramochi. In her capacity as Head of the Textbook Committee for TERI, she has undertaken this important and daunting task of chronicling not only Dr. Suzuki's work to establish the Talent Education movement, but also an in-depth look at his family and their roots in Japanese society that fostered Dr. Suzuki's reflections and motivated his pursuit of this idea that has affected so many lives around the world now for generations, and continues to greatly influence not only instrumental pedagogy, but educational philosophy in general.

This initial posting includes the complete Table of Contents for everyone to see what is coming in this publication. ISA will continue to post further installments as they become available. We anticipate the next chapter to be online by the end of 2025.

Begin your reading of this first installment with the *Preface*, to gain a personal insight of this author to her subject.

The global Suzuki family owes an immense debt of gratitude to Kuramochi-sensei for her diligence, determination and dedication to this project. We look forward to her bringing us more to read on the life and times of Dr. Suzuki, offering us not just perspective of him as an historical figure, but insight into the complete person.



Here is an excerpt from Chapter 1:

Chapter 1

Dr. Suzuki's Parents

Shinichi Suzuki was born in Higashi-Monzenchō, Nagoya, on October 17, 1898. He was the third son of Masakichi, who would later run the world's largest violin factory, and Ryō.

Dr. Suzuki's birth came thirty years after the Meiji Restoration, a tumultuous reformation in Japan that ushered in the formation of a centralized state and a capitalist economy. The Restoration marked the end of the Edo shogunate's feudal order, a system under which Japan enjoyed domestic stability for approximately 260 years through its isolationist policies. It was also an era, known as Civilization and Enlightenment, when Western culture flooded into Japan.

*In his autobiography, *The Path I've Taken*, Dr. Suzuki wrote about his father Masakichi's approach to life as follows:*

"Through my father's way of life, which was thoroughly grounded in the principle of sincerity, I learned a great deal about life and how humans should conduct themselves. Today, I respect my father most for the exemplary way of thinking he embodied in the two instances I mentioned earlier, and for living by his cherished principle."¹

Masakichi's approach to life undeniably had a major impact on Dr. Suzuki's character and how he conducted himself. Moreover, it is not a stretch to say that Masakichi was a man who was enthralled, his entire life, by an instrument called the violin. In order to understand Dr. Suzuki, then, we must inevitably learn about his father Masakichi's aspirations and the life he led.

Dr. Suzuki's Father, Masakichi (1859–1944)



(Collection of the Talent Education Research Institute)

Go to the ISA website to read the complete text. [The Life and Times of Dr. Suzuki](#)



A former student of Dr. Suzuki, Ms. Kuramochi has dedicated countless hours to researching and organizing Dr. Suzuki's numerous writings on his philosophy of tone production. She is the TERA representative to the ISA Violin Committee and the Chair of the TERA Textbook Research Committee. She was a member of the the very first Japanese 10 Children Tour Group in 1964 that brought Suzuki Method to the United States and Canada.

In Memoriam Mr. Yasuki Nakamura, NSW Suzuki Honorary President, Australia

A message from Takao Mizushima, President of Suzuki Music, Sydney, Australia.

I am sad to inform you all of the following news. NSW Suzuki Honorary President, Mr. Yasuki Nakamura, passed away on the evening of 17 September. As many of our members may know, Mr. Nakamura is well known both at home and abroad for having trained many students and produced many excellent violinists in the Suzuki Method from Sydney.

Former NSW Suzuki President, late Mr Harold Brissenden, pleaded with Dr Suzuki to send a Suzuki teacher from Japan to train violin teachers in Sydney. As a result, in 1978, Mr Nakamura moved to Sydney with his wife Yoshiko and his three then-young children Masaki, Hikari and Airena. He worked tirelessly as a leading figure in the Suzuki Method, achieving amazing results.


Prior to his less active time in recent years, he expanded and strengthened the Suzuki Association with Mr. and Mrs. Brissenden, and the result is evident in the many students and teachers of the Suzuki Method he trained.

His achievements are known and recognised not only within the Association, but also among many music organisations in Australia.

We are very saddened to lose Mr Nakamura, whom we revere, as I believe that without his achievements, the current Suzuki Association in Sydney would not exist.

We remember this with all of you and strongly hope that the development of our Suzuki Method movement, which Mr Nakamura devoted his life to, will be carried on to the next generation and continue to grow and develop. As the NSW Suzuki Association shall plan an event to formally celebrate his achievements, we are sending our condolences to the Nakamura family, Mrs. Yoshiko Nakamura, and his children Masaki, Hikari, and Airena.

A Digital Memorial Board has been set up which will become a keepsake for the Nakamura family. Anyone can add a photo, memory, or message of condolence. Please add your message by clicking this link: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/4CsC2xTB>




It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved husband, father and ojiiichan

YASUKI NAKAMURA AM
28TH APRIL 1942 - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The funeral service will be held at 1:30pm on the 26th September 2024 at Forest Baptist Church, 617 Warringah Road, Frenchs Forest

There will be a live feed of the service
<https://youtube.com/live/-oUnWprPHwk?feature=share>



STEAS Funtasy 2024

Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore was thrilled to hold their annual STEAS camp at Voices of Singapore. This year, Clinician Teacher Masaki Nakamura returned to inspire our violin students, while we welcomed first time Clinicians Teacher Zohara Rotem (Australia) and Hwang Sunkyung (South Korea), for our Piano and Cello students. Teacher Zohara and Teacher Sunkyung held unique and wonderful programs for parents, students, and teachers alike to learn from and have fun in.



Taiwan Talent Education Flute Ensemble Visits Macau

TTEA Suzuki Flute ensemble group was invited to attend the friendship Youth Music and Art Carnival in Macau. This was the first time Suzuki Flute group was invited and performed in Macau, China. Teachers and students were inspired each other by characteristic music performed by teenage students from Beijing, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan in the cultural event.



Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia Hosts Grand Concert

On November 17, 2024, the Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia (SMAI) held its first major gathering of Suzuki association members in the greater Jakarta area since 2019. Over 200 students graced the stage at the Jakarta Intercultural school including violin, cello, guitar groups as well as piano students and two orchestras.

National Suzuki Teachers' Convention Italy 2024

Ann Stupay



The Italian Suzuki Institute organised the first National Suzuki Teacher's Conference in Rimini, Italy from 31 October - 2 November 2024.

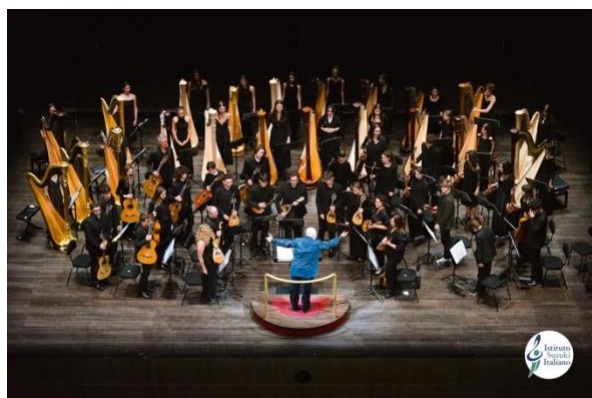
The concerts and conferences were part of the 75th edition of the Sagra Musicale Malatestiana - one of the most prestigious music events in Italy.

The event, which saw the participation of 75 Teachers, 10 Italian Teacher Trainers and 5 external experts took place in the Teatro degli Atti, in the Rimini Conservatory and in the beautiful Teatro Galli.

The conference opened with a musical welcome by the young musicians of the CEMI SUZUKI School of Rimini and greetings by ISI president Alessandro Andriani and the ISI Board.

The conferences, which proceeded in the following days, included presentations by Italian Suzuki Teachers with topics such as teaching children with handicap, the relationship between emotion and learning, the SUZUKI Method and Baroque music and many others.

Also included were presentations by well-known experts in the fields of psychology, improvisation and Feldenkrais. There was also time set aside for instrument specific round tables lead by the Teacher Trainers to allow for the exchange ideas and experience.



The three evening concerts which took place in the historic Teatro Galli were part of a project that involved the more advanced Suzuki students who had auditioned to participate with in the National Suzuki Orchestras. - the strings and Flutes (joined for the occasion by additional wind players from the Modena Conservatory), the plucked instruments (Harps, Guitars and Mandolins) and Pianists in multi-hand Piano formations as well as the Suzuki Accordion ensemble.

The orchestras rehearsed with professional conductors in Rimini and astounded the audience with their joy, musicality and capability.

The final day saw a presentation of new instruments, with experimentation in Suzuki Saxophone, bells and percussion instruments as well as emerging Suzuki Voice and Recorder programs.

The event was much appreciated by all participants and plans to repeat an event for Suzuki Teachers in the future were given an enthusiastic thumbs up!



European Suzuki Viola Gathering 2024

Laura Keuzenkamp

15 – 17 November 2024

De Beukenhof, The Netherlands

In the beautiful old monastery 'De Beukenhof' in The Netherlands about 50 children with their families and 25 Teachers gathered together for a weekend filled with playing the instrument that binds them all together: the Viola! All weekend long you could hear in every corner of the monastery the warm, touching, lively and vibrant sound of our favourite instrument.



The Viola Gathering is a special event where Violists from all over Europe, Canada and the United States come together to share their love for this beautiful instrument. For both the children and Teachers this Viola Gathering is very unique, no other Suzuki workshop has such a big share of Violist participation. This event is known for its contribution to the Viola community; it's the place where Viola families and Viola Teachers can meet each other in big groups and share their love, knowledge, skill, motivation and ideas.

During the weekend one could really feel that the philosophy was present in all corners of the building; parents, students, Teachers and even the staff of the venue were all working together to make an ideal little world and everyone contributed to making others grow in their own way. It's our goal to make the Suzuki Viola community grow and give students, parents and Teachers the opportunity to share and feel the love that they and others carry out for this beautiful instrument.

Every day was filled with group lessons, orchestra rehearsals and other activities where Suzuki Viola Teachers voluntarily shared all they know about the Viola with the children and parents, and with each other. It's very unique to have big groups of Violists together to teach, to play together with and to listen to; this develops our Viola sound to a higher level (or deeper level if you wish). Even for non-reading students an orchestra lesson was provided, where they could get a taste of playing together in multiple voices instead of playing in unison like they mostly had done before.



Next to that, the Viola Gathering is a great event to learn about all the possibilities of the Viola playing different styles of music, from Classical to Popular, from Baroque to Modern, from intensely slow to ecstatically fast...

There were also three roundtable sessions scheduled, from which the third one was new and quite unique: one for parents, one for Teachers and one for children. The one for parents and teachers was to meet and discuss different kind of topics such as practice, dealing with multi-level groups, developing programs and philosophy. For the children we found a small group of teenagers who were willing to play games with the younger children in order to bond and to get to know each other a bit better. This last version of a roundtable was very new for us, but from what I heard, the children insist on having another one at the next Viola Gathering!



This 4th Viola Gathering in The Netherlands was a special one, co-founders from the very beginning, Joanne Martin and Peter King, announced their retirement from the organization and were extensively thanked during the final concert with presents and speeches.

In the future we will continue to organize other Viola Gatherings in different European countries and we hope the Suzuki Viola community will get bigger and stronger than ever.

A Letter from La Plata: Celebrating Over Twenty Years of a Free Suzuki Program in Argentina

Manuela Iparraguirre



For more than twenty years, we have had the opportunity to sustain a Suzuki program in guitar and piano financed by the government of our province, Buenos Aires. This program takes place at the Conservatory Gilardo Gilardi in the city of La Plata, Argentina. Here, we give low-income students as young as age four the amazing opportunity to study through the Suzuki Method without having to pay anything.

We provide the same possibilities to all children and families, in a country with a poverty rate above fifty percent. Our program starts with a group of meetings with the parents in which they learn about the Suzuki Method and the first steps with the instrument. At the same time they are having these meetings, they observe some lessons, and then the students start their classes. They have two lessons per week: a group lesson and an individual lesson. We also organize classes with Suzuki Method students of other teachers and institutions.

This project was started around twenty-five years ago by the pioneers Diana Chagalj (guitar), who was my teacher, Graciela Vides (piano), and Adriana Bianchi (piano). Now, it continues through the teachers Cecilia Cáceres (piano), Rosalía Capponi (piano) and myself (guitar). For me, continuing with this project that my teacher started is an incredible honor and a way to give back what they gave me.



Sustaining this project that my teacher started is very important for me, and I try to give the students the same opportunities that I had. This program was such a large motivator in my life and helped me to sustain my learning process. This year, we organized an amazing Suzuki Guitar Festival with the participation of more than one hundred students, families, and teachers from different parts of our country and Peru. Also, the students of the project had master classes and a lot of concerts. Nowadays, we are planning to make some recordings too.

We are working hard to expand this program in the future. When we have one or two new vacancies, we have around twenty families on our waiting list to draw from to be part of the project. Of course, the extension of this project is not only in our hands, it depends on government and bureaucratic things, but we want to continue building it.

It is one of the two public and free Suzuki programs that we have in our country, the other one based at the University of Córdoba, in the province of Córdoba, Argentina.

We want to give more children this amazing opportunity that can change their future. We believe deeply in providing students with the opportunity to receive a quality musical education that gives them knowledge not only about music, but also about life. In our lessons, we not only learn how to play guitar, but we also learn about working together and values such as solidarity, responsibility, perseverance, tolerance, resilience, and compromise, among others.



Manuela Iparraguirre began her guitar studies through the Suzuki Method at the age of eight. In addition to her Guitar Teacher Degree, she has a Postgraduate Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Specialization in Inclusive Education. She has completed several Suzuki Method courses and serves on the committee for the 2025 SAA Leadership Summit. As a guitar player, she gave concerts in the main theaters of Argentina, such as Usina del Arte, Centro Cultural Kirchner, Teatro Argentino, Coliseo Podestá, Radio Nacional Argentina, among others. She has been providing classes through this methodology since 2016, and since 2021 she has been the director of the Suzuki Guitar project at the Conservatory of Music Gilardo Gilardi. Also, she gives lessons at EstíMusical Music Institute and online to students from all around the world.

Edward Kreitman's Retirement Celebration

By Tanya Carey

Sunday, May 26, 2024 was a beautiful day for Western Springs School of Talent Education, Naperville Suzuki School, to gather at Orchestra Hall in downtown Chicago to celebrate 44 years of growth under the leadership of its founder and director, Edward Kreitman, and to wish him well into his retirement. Friends and colleagues came from all over the United States and England to attend.

The three-hour program was in two parts. The first part featured the alumni presentations, with performing groups from WSSTE led by Kirsten Marshall, guest conductor, and teachers Sally Gross, Alex Revoal, Emily Connolly, and Patrick Connolly. Over 100 alumni returned to play in an orchestra with alum soloist Benjamin Beilman. Benjamin is one of the youngest artists to be appointed to the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. Thomas Wermuth, Founding Director of the Chicago Consort, and Melissa Zindel, the collaborative pianist, joined the fete as they had in the foundational years.

The second part of the program was an end-of-the-year showcase led by the fifteen faculty members of the WSSTE staff. It started with the violin Pre-Twinkle and Twinkle, followed by the cellists, the viola ensemble, and finishing with the violins playing in classic Suzuki-style play down fashion from Rameau Gavotte down to Twinkle—over 280 performers! The celebration continued with a reception in the Ballroom. Ed has left the school in good hands. The new co-directors, Emily and Patrick Connolly, both grew up in the WSSTE program from about age four, and were in both of WSSTE's legacy performing ensembles, Allegro and Consort, soloing on many tours of Germany, Prague, Spain, Peru, Puerto Rico, and more. Following their passions, Emily and Patrick continued on to earn undergraduate degrees in violin performance: Emily at the University of Michigan, and Patrick at the University of Texas.



For graduate school, Emily followed her fascination with Suzuki to the Cleveland Institute of Music where she earned a double major in Suzuki pedagogy and violin performance. Patrick went to the trusty legacy, Almita Vamos, to receive a masters in violin performance as well. All with the love of WSSTE in mind, Emily and Patrick finished their schooling in order to return back to their beloved WSSTE as future Directors. Over the last six years, Ed has prepared Emily and Patrick to take over the school as seamlessly as possible.

Bravo Ed! Job well done, and best wishes in your new adventures in Atlanta. There is more to do!



Tanya Carey has known Ed Kreitman from his violin beginnings as a clarinet major at Western Illinois University where he became entranced with the potential of Dr. Suzuki's message on the growth of children. He was trained there in Suzuki Pedagogy and violin by Doris Preucil and Almita and Rolland Vamos. [Tanya adds:] *He did well in the cello class also!*

Recent Developments at The Talent

Education Research Institute (TERI)

By Ryugo Hayano, Chairman of the Board of TERI

The Talent Education Research Institute (TERI) has recently undergone major organizational changes and celebrated significant milestones. These developments reflect our unwavering commitment to upholding and advancing the educational philosophy of Dr Suzuki.

Organizational changes

Traditionally, the President of TERI has had the dual responsibility of legally representing the organization and upholding Suzuki's educational philosophy. However, this combination proved challenging and led to a strategic amendment to our Articles of Association in August 2023. This amendment facilitates the separation of the roles of Chairman (legal representative) and President (philosophical leader) when necessary.

From August 2024, I, Ryugo Hayano, will assume the role of Chairman of the Board, while Seizo Azuma, a professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts and TERI's representative on the ISA Piano Committee, will assume the role of President. This new organizational structure ensures focused leadership in both legal and educational areas.



80th Anniversary TERI Grand Concert

We are pleased to announce the 80th Anniversary TERI Grand Concert to be held on 27 March 2026 at the newly constructed TOYOTA ARENA TOKYO. Yoshi Terada, a TERI cello teacher trainer, will head the organizing committee. This grand concert will serve as a momentous celebration of our heritage and a testament to our future aspirations. It will unite the global Suzuki community in a solemn tribute to our shared commitment to music education.



These developments herald a new era for TERI, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a global community inspired by Dr Suzuki's visionary principles. We look forward to continuing our journey with renewed vigor and collaborative spirit.