


STEP News

Suzuki Talent Education Program



**THE SUZUKI TALENT
EDUCATION PROGRAM
ST. JOHN'S, NL**

"Where love is deep, much can be accomplished!"
Shinichi Suzuki

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ge from the Chair

Greetings to all the STEP membership- students, teachers and families.

2007-2008 commemorates the 25th anniversary of our Suzuki Talent Education Program. To celebrate the occasion, we have enjoyed a number of events. In November, STEP alumni Mark Fewer returned to St. John's and performed in a benefit concert for our program. A fine time was had by all, at the December Santa Strings Cafe.

I'd like to welcome three new teachers to the STEP program. Julia Bowdring has been a STEP student for many years, and now is teaching our youngest fiddlers in the Emile Benoit class. We also have two newcomers to our program, Gordon Stockwell and Scott Chancey. It is a pleasure to include these talented teachers among our faculty.

The vision of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, that children can learn music in the same way they learn to speak; and that music can be a powerful force for good in the world, is epitomized in the senior students who have come together under Jennifer Johnson's leadership to form the Young Virtuosi ensemble.

If you are a new parent to the program, wondering how your child will ever master the bow hold or learn to make a %aouse house, +or how youd ever fit cello practice in among all the other demands of the day, we encourage you to get a copy of the Young Virtuosi DVD (\$5.00) and look at what your child's future can be. Our senior students have been invited to London, England to perform next year. They, and many of our teachers, started out as your child is doing now. Hard work, persistence, and practice (only on the days you eat) will pay off before you even realize it. We are all very excited about the growth and success of the Young Virtuosi ensemble class. These hard-working musicians filled a hall in Gander last fall, and are looking forward to performing in the UK in January, 2009.

Congratulations to Sandra Pope and Christopher Stephenson, on the birth of Miriam Stephenson. Sandra is a STEP cello teacher and our former artistic director.

It's hard to believe the 2007-2008 STEP season is almost at an end. Our new parents and students will soon have a chance to experience the highlight of every STEP season. That's the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute (ACSI). Summer camp, in other words - a fun week of music instruction that our children absolutely adore. That's because it embodies our formula for success. Instead of learning to play their instrument in isolation; our children play together, and ACSI is all about play. The children learn in a very playful atmosphere and it's a very pleasant place for parents to spend time, strengthening bonds with their children and learning more about the STEP community in St. John's. This year

deadline of May 10. Camp Director Sean
ek, during which all our students will grow as
musicians. Brochures and registration forms are available on the STEP website,
and at group classes.

Soon you will be hearing about an exciting initiative that we believe will help our
program grow in spirit and in capacity, providing even more opportunities for our
children to share their talents with wider audiences. But it will require an effort
from everyone. Read more in this current newsletter.

If the Board has one regret this season, it's that we have not been able to
generate more outreach events to make us a stronger musical community and
cultural force in this city. The Board's challenge, and it's ongoing, is to find ways
to channel the combined energy of our 80 families to create the community spirit
that's required to help this marvellous program reach its full potential.

And finally...it is time to look ahead to the fall. Several members of the
Board will finish their terms this year, and three new members are required. As
you know, STEP is run by a volunteer Board, and at least six members are
essential to maintain the program. Meanwhile, many thanks to our outgoing
Treasurer, Valerie Howe, for the incredible commitment she has made to our
program. Also, thanks to the ongoing efforts of our artistic director, Evelyn
Osbourne, and volunteer webmaster, Heather Patey. Please consider serving
during the upcoming year. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact
me or any Board member.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Budden
Chair, Suzuki Talent Education Program

Message from the Artistic Director

Happy New Year everyone! It's been an exciting year at STEP already
with so much more to come! In the fall we had a wonderful concert with alumnus
Mark Fewer and friends Bill Brennan and Jim Vivian. An inspiring mix of classical
and jazz works, a true display of how versatile the violin can be! Our students
were also featured. Many of you came, performed pieces as a group, and were
model STEP students in both excellent playing and behavior! Our senior students
were also lucky enough to work with Mark for a master class.

We had another master class for our senior violinists with Nancy Dahn in
preparation for the Kiwanis Music Festival. Not to be left out our cello students
benefited from a master class last spring from another inspiring STEP alumni and
professional cellist Raphael Hoekman.

General have had several great opportunities to
master classes. Our Young Virtuosi group in
particular had a wonderful concert in Gander this fall and played to a packed
house!

We have an exciting new project happening with local composer Jennifer
O'Neil. We commissioned a brand new piece that she wrote just for us! We
worked together so that everyone will be able to play! You will all be learning
your parts in group classes this term. In the spring we will have a world premiere!
You will all, as STEP students, have the opportunity to play music never heard
before! This is music written by a real live composer, whom you will get to meet and
talk with.

Several of our groups . . . orchestras and fiddle groups- and many of our
students took part in the Kiwanis Music Festival. Read on for news.

Remember when you play music from your heart you will always win.

Have a great term!
Musically yours
Evelyn Osborne

Fundraising begins for the STEP student travel fund

It is exciting when our students perform for the delight of audiences other than
parents! The Board of STEP have decided to begin fundraising efforts toward a
STEP student travel fund. This fund will subsidize travel to allow our students,
from all levels, to perform in schools, communities, and abroad to showcase their
talent and gain valuable performance experience. Our fundraising efforts will be
focused on our signature event, **The STEP Auction**, tentatively scheduled for the
Fall 2008.

We need **every** STEP parent to begin **now** to find items for the auction. Use your
network to find art, travel, unique experiences, and other items for the auction.
Here are some ideas

Prints and paintings

Cash to be used for framing

Discounts for services (anything goes, think Wills, Massages, even Divorce
Settlements!)

Musical or theatrical experiences

Weekend getaways

Ski or Kayaking experiences

Air travel

Memorabilia

Furniture

Dinner prepared and served by a local celebrity, politician, or sports team!

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...e a night of entertainment and laughs hosted by
auctioneer extraordinaire, wayne Bartlett. The fund will be a legacy for the
Suzuki children to give them the best music education we can!

HI From Mark Fewer!

"I enjoy teaching classes everywhere I go, and to see what sort of creative things teachers are doing inside their programs. Sometimes, to be honest, there's a great LACK of creativity. Not so with what I saw at STEP. The idea of having students support each other while playing their concert pieces in class isn't entirely new, but it was smartly done on Saturday afternoon, and brought the kids I saw into a very positive space to participate. I think that's the most essential thing about a learning environment - that children feel safe and happy to participate. Bravo to everyone....." mf



UPCOMING EVENTS

STEP Fiddlers play in the Shallaway Concert, 2pm Sunday March 16th Cochrane St. United Church

Solo concert in April has been changed to May 4th

STEP Play-in June 7

Solo concert June 15

ACSI Camp June 30- July 4th (see below)

North Atlantic Fiddle Convention August 3-8 <http://www.mun.ca/nafco2008>

CAMP UPDATE

The Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute 2008

Once again, the Suzuki Talent Education Program will sponsor the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute from June 30th to July 4th at St. Paul's Junior High on Newfoundland Drive. This year we're pleased to welcome back Suzuki violin and viola teacher Catherine Whelan from Portland Oregon. Those of you who attended ACSI last year will remember Catherine as that wonderful teacher who brought us the Hawaiian Etude and copious amounts of good teaching! For our senior students we're pleased to welcome cellist Heather Tuach and STEP alumni violinist Jennie Press.

Corner Brook cellist Heather Tuach, who recently received her DMA from New York's Stony Brook University, brings years of solo and chamber music performance experience to ACSI and is very excited to take this opportunity to work with STEP's senior level cello students.

St. John's native Jennie Press began her studies in St. John's with STEP and has since gone on to complete a B. Mus. and an M. Mus., play with numerous orchestras and win countless awards. She is presently the second assistant concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and is very happy to be returning to St. John's to work with our senior violin students at ACSI.

In addition to Catherine, Jennie and Heather, the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute is very pleased to have our very talented local teachers on our faculty this year as well as other local musicians to help us out with Orff, theory, chamber music, fiddle, orchestra and some of the Suzuki classes. The institute is

families both old and new. If anyone has friends with a stringed instrument with STEP please pick up a brochure for them and pass it on as there are programs available for them too! There is even a program for newborns and toddlers up to 3 years old to start them off with music. For more information pick up your ACSI brochure and application available online at www.nfld.com/~step and will also be distributed during upcoming group classes. If you have any questions about ACSI please contact Sean Conway, ACSI director at seanjconway@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for our upcoming music camp

Organizing and delivering the only Suzuki music camp in Atlantic Canada requires a lot of volunteers. We really need members to step forward to help if we are to successfully deliver this activity. Please get involved. We need people to help at the coffee house, clean up, help in the lunch canteen, to list just a few.

Welcome to our new STEP teachers

Julia Bowdring is a grade 12 student at Gonzaga High School, where she is involved in many music activities such as the Gonzaga Chamber Choir and the Gonzaga Traditional Band. She has played the violin since she was eight years old, and discovered her love for traditional music at the age of eleven. She is in the STEP Fiddlers, the Celtic Fiddlers, and has recently started a traditional band with her two close friends. Julia plays for many events around St. John's such as St. Patrick's Day and Canada Day celebrations, The Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival, conferences, weddings, and benefit concerts. She is the concert mistress of the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Julia has sung in choirs with award-winning conductors such as Susan Quinn and Susan Knight. She has completed Suzuki Level 8 Violin, and recently completed Book 1 Teacher Training with Helen Brunner.

Julia also plays the piano, and has won many awards at the St. John's Kiwanis Music Festival. She has recently completed her Grade 10 Royal Conservatory exam with honors. She hopes to pursue a career in music at university.

Scott Chancey began his musical studies on the violin at the age of 4 in Sudbury, Ontario. It was during his high school years in Ottawa that he discovered his love of the viola particularly in chamber music. Scott worked on his Bachelor in Performance at the University of Ottawa on violin and viola with professors Calvin Sieb and Neil Gripp. He was violist of the Volta String Quartet (1990-2001) which traveled the world from Guatemala to Eastern Europe.

Scott's love of music does not limit itself to the classical world. He has been involved in a few musicals with the Zucchini Grotto Theatre Company in Ottawa

...re Perfect, Now Change" in the summer of
...cepted at the Henry Mancini Institute in July
2000 for a one month program focusing on jazz, improvisation and film music.

Gordon Stockwell is a teacher, performer, and student in St. John's. He plays first violin with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and various other small ensembles. In 2006 he graduated from Cambrian College with a performance diploma and is currently completing his Bachelor's Degree in music performance under Dr. Nancy Dahn. In 2007 Gordon made his solo debut with the Sudbury Symphony playing Prokofiev's 2nd violin concerto. He is new to the Suzuki program having recently obtained his teaching certificate under the tutelage of Helen Brunner and looks forward to working with the Suzuki students and teachers.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The nomination and election of officers of the Suzuki Talent Education Program (STEP) Board of Directors for the up-coming year 2008-2009 will be held during Camp, tentatively on on Friday, July 4, 2004, from 11:30 to 12:15 at St. Paul's School. Agenda items will include reports of the Artistic Director, the Board Chair and the Treasurer. All parents and teachers are strongly encouraged to participate.

STEP Receives NLAC Grant in Support of 25th Anniversary Celebrations

In December the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) approved STEP's application for funding associated with our 25th anniversary year (September 2007 to August 2008). STEP received \$4,942 that will be used to support three initiatives. Artistic Director, Evelyn Osborne submitted the successful application. Thanks Evelyn.

The first initiative supported by the funding was the Mark Fewer (with Bill Brennan and Jim Vivian) concert and master classes held in November 2007. It brought local and national coverage to our program and gave our students access to these fabulous musicians, not to mention a wonderful evening of entertainment for all who attended.

CBC Radio 2's "Canada Live" program broadcast the concert February 17 and there will be another broadcast on March 9 during Musicraft, on CBC Radio 1 at 4:35 pm.

supported by the grant are a new composition by Jennifer O'Neill, and a gala concert to unveil it. The five-minute piece contains five to eight string parts (violin, viola, cello) with piano accompaniment. It takes into consideration the range of skills from three-year-old beginners to teenage semi-professional and professional faculty. The STEP students have begun learning this work, which will be premiered in a gala concert in May 2008, at Memorial University's D. F. Cook Recital Hall that will include other selections from our repertoire. The precise date of the concert will be announced. Many thanks to Jennifer O'Neill for this wonderful composition and to our teachers for working with the children to learn the music.



Impressive row of cakes celebrating the 25th anniversary of STEP

STEP proudly supports R.E.A.L. Program

STEP is proud to be a partner with the City of St. John's "The R.E.A.L. (Recreation Experiences and Leisure) Program". The mandate of this program is to provide recreation and leisure opportunities to children and youth who, due to financial circumstances, are unable to participate in registered activities. REAL does this through the provision of program and financial assistance. Thanks to our partnership with REAL, we are able to make our group classes and teacher instruction accessible to some students whose parents are currently experiencing financial challenges. We thank the families who have helped make this possible, particularly Antonia Francis's parents, Janet Russell and Merle Francis, who have made the provision of scholarships a personal priority. If you feel in need of similar financial assistance, or think you'd like to help out with a fundraiser, please contact real@stjohns.ca 576-2574.

's performance top notch at Kiwani Music Festival

Congratulations to Anna Stylianides, this year's winner of the Steve Woodcock string prize for excellence at the Kiwanis Festival.

The Steve Woodcock string prize for excellence is sponsored by the Suzuki Talent Education Program (STEP) in memory of the well loved St. John's musician and luthier Steve Woodcock who died in 2005.

Congratulations to the STEP Orchestras!

Recently the **STEP Senior Orchestra**, directed by Sean Conway, performed in the Kiwanis Music Festival and was awarded a grade of 84% in their class; Community String Orchestra, Senior Level. They were the only ensemble to compete in this class but would have given any competitors a run for their money with an exciting rendition of Hans Zimmer's *Zooster's Breakout* from the movie *Madagascar* and a sparkling performance of Karl Jenkins' *Palladio*, otherwise known as the music from the De Beers diamond commercials. The adjudicator, Jamie Arrowsmith, gave the group a great review and some very helpful tips to make their future performances even more spectacular. See them on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gooj0Vm4-Ig>

The STEP Senior Orchestra consists of seventeen students from several of the local junior high and high schools as well as STEP students Danielle Bittner, Hannah Boone, Jane Cuff, Sean Ploughman and Olga Trela.

The **STEP junior strings ensemble** conducted by Scott Chancey has been working hard since September, 2007. The small string ensemble just performed at the Kiwanis last week and finished first in their category with a mark of 85. They received high praise from the adjudicator for their big sound and great energy. They performed French Folk Song and March in D by Handel. The ensemble is made up mostly of Suzuki students but open to any young string players who are interested in getting some early orchestral training. Their repertoire ranges from classical music to film music such as Harry Potter, Madagascar and Looney Tunes. Here is a link to their performance at the Kiwanis: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gBUBynWiXA>

Also of note, the **STEP fiddlers** and the **Emile Benoit class**, conducted by Christina Smith, both performed in Kiwanis and each received a mark of 85.

Many of our senior STEP students reached the Rosebowl play-off : Danielle Greene, Anna Stylianides, Coco Leung, Dominic Greene and Julia Bowdring. Julia was runner-up to go to the Rosebowl itself, and both Dominic and Coco

Coco Leung (on piano) came away with the
you! STEP is very proud of all of you!

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from any level in the Suzuki repertoire (violin, viola, or cello) students must meet the following requirements:

1. *be recommended by his/her teacher;*
2. *know all the material in the graduating level as well as all prior levels;*
3. *participate in a S.T.E.P. group class or chamber ensemble and be a member of S.T.E.P.;*
4. *produce a recording of recommended pieces by the deadline set by S.T.E.P.*

Any exceptions to the above rules must be presented to the teachers involved and the Artistic Director for approval.

REMEMBER: the deadline for graduation applications and recordings is the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute.

Studio Notes from Evelyn Osborne

Bonnie has just started her lessons and is learning rest position. She already knows her violin hand from her bow hand! Way to go!

Scott's focus during lessons has dramatically improved, he is working hard on Lightly Row.

Aine is practicing more! Keep up the great work! She already knows the %un+of Twinkle!

Leslie has a great clear tone and is learning half position

Colin is knows his note names really well!

Ella is popping her balloon elbow! Pop! pop! pop!

! Keep working on those C-naturals!

Monny understands her bowings and is learning to Minuet!

Zoe is excited about Etude!

Emma has a great ear!

Eleanor is perpetually in motion ☺

Jean has a wonderful ear

STEP teachers 2007-2008

Evelyn Osborne	evelyn_osborne@yahoo.com
Julia Bowdring	726-1060 juliabowdring@hotmail.com
Nancy Case-Oates	895-0423 case-oates@nf.sympatico.ca
Scott Chancey	739-9527 scottchancey@rogers.com
Sean Conway	seanjconway@gmail.com
Jennifer Johnson	579-1160 jinnjohn@yahoo.ca
Heather Kao	743-1879 heatherkao@hotmail.com
Matthew March	mjmarch@nl.rogers.com
Sandra Pope	579-3495 sandrap@physics.mun.ca
Gordon Stockwell	743-5499 gordstockwell@gmail.com
Christina Smith	754-1330 csmith@nfld.com

As a non-profit organization, we are governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually. The roster for 2007-08 is as follows:

- Jennifer Budden, Chair
- Evelyn Osborne, Artistic Director
- Ann Marie Carew, Secretary
- Valerie Howe, Treasurer
- Marie Wadden, Member-at-Large
- Katie Lawton, Member-at-Large
- Michelle Ploughman, Member-at-Large

VIOLINS - For Sale

Size	Brand	Description	Price	Name	Contact
1/2	Suzuki (1968)	with case, bow and shoulder rest. Lovely sound, purchased from Woodcock's.	\$200	Michelle Ploughman	437-1110
Full	2004 Grottana	Roumanian-made full- sized violin (paid \$?), M. Henry bow (paid \$695), hard case with humidifier and hygrometer (paid \$300)	\$1000	Ed Mackey	368-3699
1/16	Suzuki (1976)	Comes with case and bow	\$175	Roxanne Howse	579-6328 or 697- 3205, roxannehowse@ esdnl.ca
1/8	Stentor	Comes with case and bow	\$175	Roxanne Howse	579-6328 or 697- 3205, roxannehowse@ esdnl.ca
1/4		Comes with case, bow, shoulder rest. In very good condition.	\$150	Elizabeth Drover (elizabed@engr .mun.ca)	753-2322 or 693- 0262
3/4		Comes with case, bow, shoulder rest. In very good condition.	\$150	Elizabeth Drover (elizabed@engr .mun.ca)	753-2322 or 693- 0262
1/8	Stentor	Student 1 Violin kit: violin, case, bow. Bow tip needs work but violin and case are in great shape.	\$175	Diane Hollett	747-8321
1/8 (not 1/ 10)	Cremona		\$100	Nancy Shouse	753-6504
4/4		Never used	\$300	Anne Ryan	753-0401
1/2	Suzuki	with bow, case, and Kun shoulder rest	\$300	Karen Fitzgerald	745-3748
3/4	Strunal	Bought new several years ago, selling at cost, excellent sound	\$500	Nancy Shouse	753-6504

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Cellos - For Sale

Size	Brand	Description	Price	Name	Contact
1/2	Suzuki	with new strings comes with case and bow	\$650	Elizabeth Macdonald	phone 739-6677 or email srm@nl.rogers.com
1/2	European	comes with case and bow	\$800	Elizabeth Macdonald	phone 739-6677 or email srm@nl.rogers.com

Miscellaneous - For Sale

Size	Item	Description	Price	Name	Contact
	Latex strad pad	New--greatly reduces chin irritation	\$20	Catherine Leung	579-5098