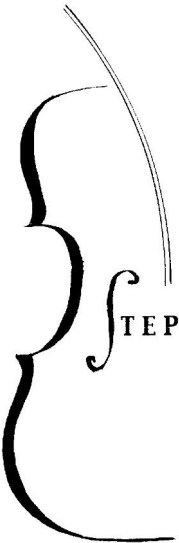


STEP News

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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Message from the Chair

My adventures on the STEP Board began four years ago when I volunteered to be secretary. I brought my laptop to monthly meetings and absorbed what I could as I furiously typed in notes. I'm still on a learning curve when it comes to running our program. Alistair Bath was Chair of the Board at that time, and cellist Sandra Pope was Artistic Director. That year we tried to fulfill Sandra's wish list. It included a permanent office. At that time all of STEP's possessions were stored in various basements. We needed a room of our own. Sandra also wished for an operating manual, as most professionally-run organizations possess. Without a manual, our institutional memory (we're 26-years-old this year) has to be reinvented every time the Board changes hands and new volunteers arrive. It took several years, but now we do have an office at the Arts and Culture Centre and an operating manual. Sandra also wished the cello part of our program be invigorated. Sandra, I promise a cello recruitment initiative this year!

So far this season we've not had much time for visioning and setting long-term goals. Frankly, it's been a bit of crisis management. With the rising cost of fuel, our facility rental costs have risen dramatically. If you see me walking on egg shells around the Arts and Culture center, it's because the free use of their fourth floor has been such a god-send. We'd be thousands of dollars in the red without those rehearsal rooms for our orchestras. Keep your fingers crossed and smile at every A&C employee you see.

The Auction was a great success and I'm grateful to everyone who took part. It didn't raise the amount of money I'd hoped for, so perhaps my hopes were too high. I was looking for a nest egg that would enable us to grow a bit, and remove the burden from our volunteers and from our poorly-compensated Artistic Director, Evelyn Osbourne.

My wish list for this year? Well, we've got a fantastic board. Thanks to those who've come forward to help. Next, I'd love to hire a part-time administrator. I'd also like us to run the program without going into deficit.

One of my most fervent wishes is coming true. Our senior students, who've worked so hard to get where they are today, should be off to London soon, to play their hearts out. Bon voyage.

Marie Wadden

Note from the Board: There are a few very special people who worked hard on the auction. Thank you to Colette Phillips and Krista Vokey-Sing (organizers extraordinaire), Catherine Leung, Jennifer Johnson and Marie Hamilton and family (gathered a record 28 auction items!!).

om the Artistic Director

Welcome back to all STEP families and teachers. We are off to a great start this year! We have had a big influx of over a dozen new STEP families starting violin and cello! We have also launched our first Early Childhood Class which is full of 13 little students ranging from 2 months to 2.5 years old. With over two dozen new families STEP has a strong base on which to continue to grow. Please take the time to welcome our newest families to our community. I find it so inspiring to see the joy that children of all ages from infants to our senior students feel through the music they make together, from nursery rhymes to complicated concertos.

STEP had our first big fundraiser and we can start planning for next year! A big thank you to everyone who worked to make it a big success! What fun it was to watch and participate in the excitement of bidding on amazing items which will help the whole of the STEP community. The money raised will help to send our senior students in the Young Virtuosi to London, England. We will also be planning more community concerts and performance opportunities for all of our students. I look forward to this event continuing, in future years, to help STEP truly reach out and bring music to the wider community.

I would like to welcome our new student assistants. Maria Bath (ECE), Olga Trela (Twinkling Stars), Alixana Ransom (Dvorak cello) and Jane Cuff (Comet Tails pre-twinkle violin) are all volunteering to be teachers assistants for these classes. I am confident that this will be a rewarding experience for them and the students involved.

We have another new program this year about which the faculty is very excited! Scott Chancey has taken on our music reading program. Suzuki students already have great ears (keep listening to your cds!) and this will give them a well rounded experience of music and prepare them to join and enjoy orchestras, chamber ensembles and quartets. We expect to make this a required and permanent part of our program starting next year!

Finally our STEP fiddlers have the honour of playing for an Oliver Schroer tribute at the upcoming Canadian Folk Music Awards held at the Arts and Culture Centre in November. For more on the beloved fiddle-classical fusion compositions and the man himself please see <http://www.oliverschroer.com/>. I hope everyone is feeling as inspired to listen and play great music as I am this year. Let us know your musical activities! Concerts you play (formal or informal), fantastic practice ideas you have or a special musical moment.

Musically yours,
Evelyn Osborne
Artistic Director, Suzuki Talent Education Program

ate for the Christmas Concert. It is now on
St. Mark's Church, Logy Bay Road.

PARENTS! What sort of workshops would be helpful to you? Reading music for parents, practice tips, practicing with your child or viewing an opportunity to view the inspiring video *Nurtured by Love*. Please let us know! As you are the cornerstone of the Suzuki triangle let us know what you need! Email me directly at evelyn_osborne@yahoo.com or through step@nfld.com. Please put parent workshops as the subject line. Thanks! Look forward to your suggestions.

Christmas Concert

December 13 is quickly approaching! This year's concert/play-in will be held at St. Mark's Church, Logy Bay Rd. Children should be tuned up at 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start. Following the concert, there will be a potluck. Families with last names beginning with **A to M** should bring a dessert (cookies, muffins etc.) and those beginning with **N to Z** should bring a main dish (sandwiches, casseroles, finger food, etc).

Expect a visit from someone special!

CAMP UPDATE

Message from Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute Director, Sean Conway

Hello STEP students and families. While planning for the 2009 Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute, which will run from June 29th - July 3rd, I wanted to take a moment to comment on this past Institute.

We were very pleased to have Catherine Whelan and her daughter join us from Portland, Oregon again this year and particularly thrilled to have violinist, and STEP alumni, Jenny Press and cellist, Heather Tuach come to work with our senior students. It's a real treat to have musicians and teachers of different backgrounds come to share their ideas, old and new, with our students!

I was very excited to see a high level of playing from the Institute's orchestras and chamber groups at the final concert. I know that a lot of hard work went into the preparation of their pieces and the results of that hard work were well worth it! There were also rave reviews from parents and teachers alike about the solo concert performances which highlighted our students' best pieces.

Many thanks to all the students, families and faculty that took part in ACSI 2008 and helped make it a great success. Special thanks must be given to our team of volunteers that worked behind the scenes throughout the week to make sure that every detail was perfect. Our volunteers run the Coffee and Snack

Games and Prizes, and so many other things all but no matter how big or small the job they are an integral and important part of the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute.

I'd like to take a moment here to offer a brief explanation of the Atlantic Canada Suzuki Institute for the benefit of our many new families this year. ACSI is the only Suzuki Summer Institute in all of Atlantic Canada. This Suzuki Association approved Institute is a week long program of daily group classes, lessons, choir, ORFF, theory, fiddle, Chamber Music and Orchestra open to any violin, viola and cello student studying the Suzuki method. We have local faculty as well as visiting faculty from other Suzuki programs join of for a week of hard work and a lot of fun which ends in a series of final concerts that showcase the fine efforts of the week. The days are a mixture of classes and activities that provide just the right balance of education and recreation and result in a lot of smiles! We're happy to say that each year over 80% of our students and families attend and we're always happy to see new faces!

Keep your eyes open for information and announcements regarding ACSI 2009. Applications and complete details will be available early in 2009. We hope to see you there.

For more information, or if you'd like to volunteer with ACSI 2009 please contact ACSI Director, Sean Conway at seanconway@gmail.com.



Hanging out with friends. Camp 2008



Ready for the show! Camp 2008



The gang in charge of the BBQ. Camp 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

STEP Christmas Play-in December 13

Young Virtuosi Concert December 20

Young Virtuosi off to England January 2009

Solo concert February 15, 2009

Idlers perform at the Canadian Folk Music Awards



Getting ready for the big show!



The Step Fiddlers not only learned new pieces from students of famous fiddler Oliver Schroer, they performed on stage with the likes of Murray McLaughlin and Figgy Duff. Thank you to Emilyn Stam and Ann Lindsay. Good job gang!

Students who performed at the concert on October 26

Cello Book 2 - Liam Rice and Daniel Browne

Twinkle . Eli Antle

Book 1 . Gossec Gavotte - Ben Delaney, Sophia Stylianides, Conrad Trela,
Rashmi Elangage,

Book 2 . Boccherini Minuet - Sophia Stylianides, Emily Howe, Jean Patey,
Leslie Amminson,

Book 3 . Bach Bouree - Antonia Francis, Sarah Harris, Adele Forward, Naomi
Brown

Book 4 . Bach Double . Joshua Bath, Clara Steeves, Jacquelyn Redmond

Book 5 . Veracini Sonata - Maria Bath

Level 6 . La Folia - Valerie Hewson, Theo Stylianides

Level 7 . Handel Sonata in D major - Valerie Hewson and Theo Stylianides

Ask your teacher about solo concerts. Every child should have the opportunity at least once a year! Think ahead about next year's graduation concert. Start making your graduation tape EARLY as your child masters his or her latest piece. Remember to check the website for graduation requirements!

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

On Wednesday, November 5, four of our students entertained guests at a very special luncheon at City Hall. Antonia Francis, Naomi Brown, Olga and Conrad Trela performed violin pieces from books one and two, while guests filed into the E.B. Foran room. STEP was recognized at the luncheon for its involvement with the REAL program. We were given a beautiful clock that will be on display at the next group class. REAL provides funding to children who otherwise might not be able to participate in sports or cultural activities. STEP is one of 86 partner organizations that contribute 20% of the costs of having children enrolled in their

to REAL, telephone 576-8684. The website is: s/recreation/real/index.jsp.

Many thanks to parent, Janet Russell for initiating STEP's inclusion in the REAL program. It made our children at City Hall proud that day to be part of something so worthwhile.



Naomi, Conrad, Antonia and Olga perform at City Hall to celebrate the REAL program (pictured here with Deputy Mayor Ron Ellsworth)

Instrument Rentals

We do have violins, violas and cellos available for rent at a rate of 25\$ per month. Beginning in January 2009, families with violas (as with other instruments) will be invoiced for rentals. Please contact Evelyn if you have any questions.

Notes and Things

Check out our website <http://nflid.com/~step/index.htm> for instruments wanted and for sale in our classifieds section.

Read Christina Smith's letter [Our Suzuki Program-Our Best Kept Secret](#)

STEP teachers 2008-2009

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Jennifer Johnson	579-1160 jinnjohn@yahoo.ca
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Matthew March	mjmarch@nl.rogers.com
Sandra Pope	579-3495 sandrap@physics.mun.ca
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Christina Smith	754-1330 csmith@nfld.com

STEP Board

As a non-profit organization, we are governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually. The roster for 2008-09 is as follows:

- Marie Wadden, Chair
- Evelyn Osborne, Artistic Director
- Jon Waterhouse, Secretary
- Anna Trela, Treasurer
- Terri Green, Member-at-Large
- Katie Lawton, Member-at-Large
- Michelle Ploughman, Member-at-Large (Newsletter)
- Percy Delaney, Member-at-Large

Minutes of board meetings are available on our website.