

DENISON SUZUKI REVIEW

by Nadine Moehlenkamp

There were a number of quizzical looks from guests and vendors at the Granville Farmers Market on September 27. Who were those good looking young folks with the red shirts and cellos sitting under the canopy? Then, those young cellists started to play and a crowd began to gather around to listen. Under the direction of Chris Moehlenkamp, the cellists thoroughly entertained onlookers with some favorite Suzuki tunes as well as an Irish country tune, "The Road to Lisdoonvarna". The flutists played next and Linda Habig led them in "Old MacDonald," complete with barnyard sounds. The violinists, led by Jim Van Reeth and Nadine Moehlenkamp, rounded out the program with fiddle tunes and Suzuki favorites. It was a beautiful fall day for listening to great music while doing a little local shopping.

Music at the Granville Farmers Market



October 2015

Practice Partner Training

October 10

9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Burton 301

Group Classes

October 3

Burton Hall Ensemble

Cello

Group Class Prep

Kirsh Piano

Violin

October 5

Herrick Hall Ensemble

October 10

Flute

October 17

Burton Hall Ensemble

Cello

Flute

Group Class Prep

Kirsh Piano

Violin

October 19

Burton Hall Ensemble

Herrick Hall Ensemble

October 31

Burton Hall Ensemble

Cello

Flute

Group Class Prep

Kirsh Piano

Violin

Program Recital

October 18

3 p.m.

Burke Recital Hall

"Knowledge is not skill. Knowledge plus ten thousand times is skill."

—S. Suzuki

Surfing the web: The Good Gardener: Five Ways to Nurture Your Young Musician from the website, "www.musicinpractice.com"

How are your gardening skills? If you can grow a plant, you can grow a young musician. The early stages of learning to play a musical instrument can be a magic period of growth for a young child. The transformation of a total beginner into a young musician is often compared to the development of a tiny seed into a beautiful flowering plant.

1. When the seed of desire to play an instrument is sown, it must be given every chance to germinate. We plant it in the best environment that we can find. Young musicians need comfortable, happy surroundings. Growth will be stronger if instruments are the right size, work well and produce a rich sound.
2. A seed will grow if it is kept warm and well watered. In fact, some of the best gardeners talk lovingly to their plants as they tend them. We offer the warmth of love and encouragement to our young musicians while providing nourishing daily listening and practice opportunities.
3. Some seeds require very special conditions to germinate. The most desirable plants are often the most difficult to grow. Some take forever to show signs of life. This can also be true when a young musician begins to learn an instrument. Some of the most capable players take a long time to get going.
4. If you have ever tried to germinate an Avocado Pear seed on a jar of water you will have some idea of the length of time that elapses before the seed slowly splits open and the first tiny root tip emerges. It needs extra warmth, water and fertile earth to develop into a healthy productive tree. There are also many things which have to become automatic before a young musician can successfully play an instrument.
5. A plant will only grow well if the roots are healthy. Before it develops into a beautiful tree, it may face many difficulties such as bad weather, pest attack or disease. A good gardener can nurture a plant through such difficulties. Similarly a young musician needs extra warmth, love and encouragement to get the basics right, overcome obstacles and develop into fine young adults.

You can help your young musician through these tough patches by celebrating hard work and moments of success along the way. Do this regularly, to help your child imprint these in the memory. Talk to him about his successes, encouraging him to use his senses. Help him to see what he saw, to hear what he heard, and to feel what he felt. If there are memories of taste and smell, use these too. When you do this regularly, you are creating a very powerful tool which will make the memories pop up easily when needed.

You will have helped your child to grow a magic garden full of happy memories, to draw from when times are tough, or when he needs a boost of self-confidence. As time goes on, your young musician will link you to each memory that you have helped imprint and remember you, with gratitude every time he steps into his magic garden.



www.musicinpractice.com was created and is written and edited by Sue Hunt, who teaches Suzuki viola in London, UK. She shares the art of practice at workshops on every continent except Antarctica. Ms. Hunt and Mrs. Kirsh met at the American Suzuki Institute years ago and are enjoying catching up. This article was reproduced with enthusiastic permission by Ms. Hunt.

Lighting a (Musical) Fire

by Linda Habig

The start of a new school year is a terrific time to ponder just what it is that inspires us and our students to excel on our instruments, building higher levels of talent, and playing ever more beautifully, competently and musically. Daniel Coyle, in his widely acclaimed book, "The Talent Code", delves into this question. His research and thinking provide insights about what creates extreme ability in an individual, with particular relevance to musical excellence. Coyle identifies three major elements that lead to the development of talent:

- Deep practice, at the edge of a student's ability level, with much repetition and analysis of challenges encountered along the way.
- An "ignition event", which creates the heat of motivation.
- Coaching (teaching) that creates steadily increasing levels of challenge.

I am particularly intrigued by the "ignition event". Coyle describes this as an event in a student's life that creates the vision of the ideal musician that the student could become, motivating them to be a life-long musician. The event is usually a student's reaction to an external influence, person, or event, such as hearing a highly competent performance, attending an event such as a Suzuki Institute, or hearing and observing family members or friends play with a high level of expertise. Coyle reiterates that developing a high level of talent requires massive amounts of deep practice, and it's the ignition event that fuels the motivation for practice.

In weighing Coyle's research and conclusions, I think that young students may not yet have experienced a lightning-bolt type of ignition event, but that there are strong motivational events in their background. With this thought in mind, I asked several students and colleagues about what might have been an "ignition event", or other powerful motivation in their musical life; following are some insightful excerpts.

Penny Hunter (eighth grade flutist): Playing for a very appreciative grandfather, learning whole songs, and performing for family.

Jim Van Reeth (Denison Suzuki Program Director/Violin Faculty): In high school, while playing in the Ohio All-State Orchestra, hearing an elite ensemble play Vivaldi's "Four Seasons", and instantly knowing his goal was to play at that high level of excellence.

Emma Savage (sixth grade flutist): Learning her first complete song, playing it for family, and making them all happy.

Maryfrances Kirsh (Denison Suzuki Piano Faculty): In third grade, wanting to grow up to be her music teacher, Mary Archer.

Meabh Powell (eleventh grade flutist): Learning and then performing upbeat, cheerful, fast songs, such as "Allegretto from Carnival of Venice".

Beth Morris (adult professional flutist): Discovering in high school, from her band director, Nelson Amos, that playing beautiful music was really fun.

Ching-chu Hu (Denison University Music Faculty and Composer): At age 5, was asked by piano teacher to compose a melody, which he did, and loved it. Composed simple melodies after that, and performed happily for family birthdays and events.

Jessi Piso (now a music major at Ohio University): Discovering in sixth grade that the band was excellent and gave performances that the audience loved, but that to be a part of this excellence she needed to practice regularly and seriously.

Susan Larson (Denison Suzuki Violin Faculty): In sixth grade, wanting more than anything to be in the marching band - but the school required students to play a string instrument in orchestra to also play in marching band.

Eric Miller (now a freshman at Olin College): Growing up hearing his Mom play flute, and especially a song he loved about yellow ducklings. Later, hearing older classmates play beautifully.

And what about me? When I was growing up in suburban Philadelphia, my parents took us several times every summer to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra play in their outdoor venue, the Robin Hood Dell. I vividly remember warm outdoor nights in a wooded setting, with gorgeous music floating on the humid summer air, and thinking that I wanted to play a musical instrument to achieve just a tiny piece of what I was hearing.

Parents, as you help your children start this new school year, take a moment to think about how you can expose your musical student to a fire of a different kind - an ignition event that will light up their talent development.



ETHEL Visits the Flute and Herrick Hall Ensembles

by Davis Hoam

Last Monday, the Suzuki flutes and advanced strings worked with the Ethel String Quartet, which is composed of two violinists, a cellist, and a violist, and is in residency at Denison. Dr. Ching-chu Hu composed a piece for the Suzuki students and Ethel called *Stars*, which is a compilation of twelve songs that have something to do with stars. *Stars* includes an Irish tune, some movie scores, and Disney's "When You Wish Upon a Star," to name a few. A few people were not familiar with several songs, mostly because this was the first time they had seen the music, but it didn't sound too bad. Lincoln Hoam, a flutist said, "Star Wars sounded great." *Stars* will be played at the Granville Walking Tour. We hope you enjoy picking out your favorite bits and pieces when *Stars* debuts.

Group Class Antics

Right: Kirsh piano group class, Bottom Right: flute group, and Bottom Left: Maria Dow at violin group



Denison University Suzuki Program

Our Mission...

...to create a positive musical learning partnership among faculty, students, and their parents/practice partners by following the philosophical principles and educational methods developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki so that children can grow into loving and respectful individuals who will have a positive effect on their world.

For more information about our program, please contact:

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Dave Kung, Former Suzuki Kid, to Give Talk at Denison

GORDON LECTURE FOR THE
MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
DENISON UNIVERSITY

Harmonious Equations: A Mathematical Exploration of Music



Dave Kung
Monday, Oct. 12
7:30 p.m.
Burton Morgan
Lecture Hall

Examine the musical
experience from a
mathematical perspective.

Calculus, and the related field of differential equations, shows us how our ears hear differences between two instruments-what musicians call timbre-even when they play the same note at the same loudness. Abstract algebra gives modern language to the structures beneath the surface of Bach's magnificent canons and fugues.

Dave Kung fell in love with both mathematics and music at a very early age. He completed three degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, none in music, before joining the faculty at St. Mary's College of Maryland. As Professor of Mathematics, he still enjoys playing violin with students and in the local community orchestra. He was chosen to give the 2010 MAA Undergraduate Lecture in Mathematics at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, the largest mathematics conference in the world. He has authored a variety of articles on topics in harmonic analysis and mathematics education, and is the recipient of numerous awards.

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