

Heart Strings SoundPost

HeartStrings Studio ♥ River Falls Academy, Suite 212 ♥ 439 West Maple Street ♥ River Falls, WI 54022 ♥ (715)425-0170
www.heartstringsviolinstudio.com September 2011



Dates to Remember

Group Classes begin! Sept. 19
Fall Fling Ice Cream Social & Play In at Hoffman Park Sat. Sept. 24, 3-5pm
Suzuki Parent Seminar Sun. Oct. 30, 1-4pm
HeartStrings Group Concert Nov. 20, 1:00 pm

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Did You Know?

By the HeartStrings Parent Association

Did you know that part of your participation in the HeartStrings Studio includes automatic admittance to the HeartStrings Parent Association (HPA)?

The HPA lead by volunteer parents interested in actively supporting the studio's efforts. This year the board is comprised of: Kathy Metcalf (president), Angie Schmenk (vice-president), Jacky Rolf (treasurer), Jessie Yerima (secretary), Amber Tubre' (community outreach), as well as the studio instructors.

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Developing a Beautiful Spirit –

By Kathy Metcalf, Heartstrings Parent

Fall...back from vacations...back to school...back to routines...back to practicing violin...

At our house, as the fun of summer ends, fall marks the beginning of many new and exciting opportunities to learn and grow. Our crisp notebooks, unopened texts, and freshly sharpened pencils, beckon us to higher learning. We eagerly jump at the new routine, ravenously devouring a renewed schedule marked with carpools and lessons.

One of our favorites is the resumption of music lessons and group classes at HeartStrings. We often begin excited to tackle new music, see old friends, and greet favorite teachers. We begin zealously refreshing our past music, and learning new songs.

After about two weeks, however, we realize our routine is exhausting. We crave the uncomplicated summer freedom. It is at this point, I am reminded of the wisdom of Shinichi Suzuki: "It is necessary to be concerned about the importance of educating a really beautiful human spirit." Our music education (as well as schooling) is about more than simply acquiring knowledge or reaching a pre-determined goal. It is about developing a whole, beautiful person with passion for life and all it holds in our world.

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Teacher Training News

Brian Barnes: ECC (Every Child Can) with Kathy Wood at MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis.

Kathleen Lamb: ECC with Patricia D'Erocle in Madison, and Book 1 with Edward Kreitman at Stevens Point.

Wendy Tangen-Foster: Book 6 with Alice Joy Lewis at Stevens Point, and Teaching the Fundamentals – Overview books 1 to 6 – with Ronda Cole in Nashville TN.



Notes on Tuition Payments

All of you have received at least one email from Anna Zalusky, who is HeartStrings' Bookkeeper again this year. She will be taking a more active role this year in keeping our accounts in order. One thing you may have already noticed is that you will receive a statement at the beginning of each month in your mail-file on the green table in 212. When you pay your tuition you can attach this to your check and place it in the HeartStrings folder. This will help keep all of our accounts up to date and hopefully minimize confusion. You may continue to mail your payment if that is easier for you.

Many of our families have chosen to make automatic payments through their bank. This works well for us, and you don't have to remember to bring your checkbook.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of this, please feel free to contact Anna directly.

SAW (Suzuki Association of Wisconsin) Retreat

We will be having our 6th annual retreat for students on January 20-22, 2012 in Madison. The brochures will be emailed soon. The early bird deadline is November 1. This year Ann Montzka Smelser, violinist, and Linc Smelser, cellist, will be our headliner clinicians. Other faculty will include teachers from across Wisconsin will volunteer one to two hours of teaching. Students receive at least four classes and can perform in the Capitol rotunda on Sunday.

You can download brochures from the SAW website and read about all the classes at www.suzukiassociationofwisconsin.com

As of this printing, the website has not been updated, but will be soon. This is a very affordable opportunity for families, especially if you register by the early bird deadline.



Adult Group Guitar Lessons with Brian Barnes

For any adult who would like to learn the guitar in a fun and low-stress way. Classes will cover basic guitar technique, chords, simple melodies, a discussion of styles.

Class meets Mondays from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Classes start October 3rd, run for 8 sessions. Student must provide own guitar. Price to be determined by number of adults interested.

Contact Brian Barnes at info@brianbarnesmusic.com with any questions.

It is about sharing that beauty with those around us. It is simply about growing step-by-step – not leaping from stone to stone, and frantically trying to cross some great abyss.

In his book, “Helping Parents Practice,” Edmund Sprunger encourages parents to aid in developing Suzuki’s beautiful human spirit by “Shoot(ing) One Arrow at a Time:”

As I have watched parents practice over the years, I notice that one of the primary ways they create nasty practices for themselves and their children is by attempting to shoot several arrows at once. “Johnny, good job getting the bow straight. Play it again and make sure that you also keep the speed even and remember to keep your pinkie round and to let the bow float of the string when the piece is over. And don’t be so timid!”

Overload. Just as a bow can only hold one arrow at a time, you’ll find that practices will be most productive if you remember that your child can only hold one thing to work on at any time.

Keep in mind that kids really do want to do a good job. When we give children too much to do we unknowingly and unintentionally sabotage them. We need to do the opposite. (pg. 65)

As the routines of fall begin to infiltrate our lives, we maybe need to be reminded to take time not let our routines and practicing control us, but rather we control them. The end goal of developing that beautiful spirit means embracing the new opportunities with the students, and keeping it simple by shooting one arrow at a time.

Suzuki Association of Minnesota 2011 Parent Seminar

TOPIC: Challenging Child Behaviors: Helping All Children Be Successful

Sunday, October 30th, 2011
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

FERGUSON HALL, U of M
2106 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, MN
55455

Workshop Fee: \$40.00
Register Online and SAVE \$5.00!
Visit www.SAMWokshop.eventbrite.com to register online!

Welcome

We have three new students/families to welcome to our studio:

Kieran Hillyer-McVey and his coach/mom Giselle Hillyer

Eva Peterson from Chippewa Falls and her mom/former coach Laurie Petersen

Michael Putzier is Elsa's brother. His mom/coach is Shelly.

We are also very happy to welcome Kathleen Lamb as our newest violin instructor! Kathleen studied with Joan many years ago. She recently completed a performance degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Kathleen will also be teaching a few days a week in Rochester Minnesota.



Study List for Sept. - Nov.

Book 7 and 8

TBD

Book 6

La Folia

Book 5

German Dance

Vivaldi G minor, 3rd mvt.

Book 4

Seitz Concerto No. 2, 3rd mvt.

Vivaldi Concerto in A minor, 3rd mvt.

Book 3

Minuet 3

Gavotte in G minor

Becker Gavotte

Book 2

Long, Long Ago

Handel Bourree

Waltz

Lully Gavotte

Beethoven Minuet

Book 1 ALL



Did You Know, Cont'd from pg. 1

The mission of the association is defined as:

...a charitable corporation organized to support, develop and enhance the educational mission of HeartStrings, a Suzuki music education studio, teaching students to play music using the Suzuki approach.

Specific objectives of the parent board in order of importance are:

- Support teacher development by allocating financial resources to broaden skills
- Provide for some of the costs involved with a quality music program in the community, e.g. renting recital spaces, developing a scholarship fund, paying for accompanists, as needed
- Offer opportunities for students to play in the community, as well as hear quality concerts close to home

The HPA strives to meet these goals through an annual fundraiser, as well as programming provided through board planning. As the year progresses, we will communicate a variety of opportunities for the students and their families including, “play-ins” (students coming together to simply play songs from their repertoire in a relaxed environment), community outreach at local nursing homes, and fundraising to support teacher education.

The first event of the year is a “play-in” and ice cream social for all students and their families on Saturday, September 24, from 3-5pm, at Hoffmann Park in River Falls. The venue will provide the musicians a chance to simply have fun playing their songs from their Suzuki books. Ice cream for all will sweeten the experience and inspire everyone as they get back into the routine of practicing/lessons. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

As the year progresses please keep a look-out for more opportunities! They will be communicated via email, the classroom bulletin board, and newsletter updates. Feel free to talk with any of the board members about questions you may have, or ideas for supporting our amazing HeartStrings Studio.

“Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance, they get a beautiful heart.” – Shinichi Suzuki

Group Classes

Pre-Twinkle – suggested time Thursdays at 5:30 in room 112. (This class is not meeting yet.)
Kathleen 715.425-7645 ext. 2214

Book One – Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 (but this may change) Wendy 715.425-7645 ext. 2112

Book Two/Three – Thursdays 5:45 to 6:45
Joan 715.425.0170

Book Four to Eight - Mondays 6:30 to 7:45
Joan 715.425.0170

Please be sure to contact your teacher if you will be absent from a group class. Your instructor will let you know the best way to reach them.

The work we do in groups is vital to our teaching philosophy at HeartStrings. We build our students by working and playing together. Each class adds on to what was covered the week before. When someone is absent, they are missed not only by the teacher, but also by their classmates.