



TESSI Newsletter

MARCH / APRIL 2008

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

QUICK CALENDAR:

Week of March 10th

Spring Break – see your teacher for their schedule

3/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 8 of 11

4/13/08 -- Recitals

*** Violins only, time TBA ***

4/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 9 of 11

5/4/08 – Gold Cup Recital

Time/Location TBA

5/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 10 of 11

6/8/08 -- Recitals

12:00pm Wiggles N' Tunes®

1:30pm and 3:00pm - Suzuki

-- Carbondale Civic Center

6/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 11 of 11

7/15/08 – Fall Registration

**Pre-Payments, Forms, and
Accompanying Fees for the
2008-2009 School Year Due**



WELCOME !!

To new TESSI instrumental students and their families

*Weston Barr, Lucas Clough,
both on guitar – yay!!*

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- Summer Institute Season
- Festivals and Competitions
- Recital Schedule Changes
- Sidebar - ISMTA Honors Recital



Summer Institute Season!!

With summer slowly creeping onto the horizon, all across the country (*the continent actually*) preparations are being made for a vast assortment of institutes, music camps and workshops focusing on just about every conceivable flavor of instrumental, vocal and ensemble performance training. We would like to tell you a little about our favorite flavor – *Suzuki* institutes.

Normally, we strongly discourage “music vacations”, but what we really mean by that is we discourage taking vacations (extended breaks) from music study. Attending a Suzuki summer institute is like taking a vacation for music, and that is something we *highly* recommend.

Of course, we’re a bit biased, because we teachers have attended quite a lot of institutes, both as parents of young musicians and to further our training as Suzuki Method instructors. So we asked some of our families that have gone to one to share some thoughts with us...

“The girls were in music classes for five hours a day. Each class was unique enough to keep the children involved and happy. It is great to be immersed in music for a week.” – Susan Bausch, piano mom

And from piano student Dara Weaver-Holmes...

“From age 5 to 13, I attended the St. Louis Suzuki Piano Camp. The camps were held in the summer and lasted for one week. Camp only lasted for half a day, and then my Mom and I would tour around St. Louis, sometimes with other campers. We had many classes in the camp – theory, hand bells, and classes with the Master Teacher. My favorite classes were the theory classes. The teacher always made them fun. She made a song up out of everything we did in theory. We learned how to divide beats, and she would make up a song about it and have the class dancing to different beats. On the last day of camps there was a recital. We all played whatever song we had been practicing with the Master Teacher that week.”

As teachers, it is difficult to avoid sounding as though we are selling something, but there is something very special about people from all over the country making music together. Alyce Ward has this to say:

“Since 1983 the training I’ve had at institutes in Canada, Chicago, Kansas, Ohio and Japan has been invaluable to me as a teacher. As a parent I’ve

I.S.M.T.A. HONORS RECITAL

Alyce Ward is a member of the local chapter of the Illinois State Music Teachers Association. (I.S.M.T.A.)

Each year the chapter holds an Honors Recital recognizing students that have worked especially hard all year.

Participating teachers select from one to several students to perform at the recital.

This year's recital took place on March 2nd at the Old Baptist Foundation recital hall on the SIUC campus.

The TESSI students selected this year were:

Anthony Stoecker

Dara Weaver-Holmes

Matthew Wilson

Ear-witnesses at the recital reported that they each played very, very well.

Congratulations to them!

TESSI

705 West Main Ste. B1
Carbondale, IL 62901

Phone

618-457-6300

E-mail

info@tessimusic.org

On the Web

www.tessimusic.org

Send Us Your News!!

newsletter@tessimusic.org

been to Chicago, Colorado and St. Louis. Institutes are as much a social outlet as a musical outlet. Lots of fun!"

Please consider attending an institute this year – you won't regret it!

Festivals and Competitions

This time of year is busy with various music festivals and competitions, such as the recent *NFMC Junior Festival* and *Heartland Christian Conference Competition*, and the *Solo and Ensemble Contest* which is scheduled to take place in mid-March. See below for this year's achievements by TESSI students at the first two events.

National Federation of Music Clubs – Junior Festival (Feb. 23-24)

All of the TESSI piano and guitar students who participated in this year's festival received Superior ratings – the 8th consecutive year for Alyce Ward's students, and the 5th for David Stoecker's students. *Way to go everyone!!* The following students will receive Gold Cups this year:

Srinivas Panchamukhi - 1st cup in Piano Solo

Michael Stucky – 1st cup in Piano Solo

Joseph Steinbock – 1st cup in Piano Concerto



All students receiving a cup are invited to play at the Gold Cup Recital, which will take place the first Sunday of May. Stay tuned!!

On the other end of things, Joyce Nelson and Alyce Ward served as judges, and David Stoecker was moderator for guitar and piano sessions.

Heartland Christian Conference Competition (Jan. 30th)

Jasmine Noble – 1st Place Piano Solo, 4th-6th grade division

Jasmine Noble (& Kaylee Reagan) – 1st Place Piano Duet, 4th-6th div.

Jasmine (and partners) – 1st Place Vocal Quartet (*Follow the Son*)

Wow! – Great job Jasmine!

CCHS Talent Contest (Feb. 29th)

Matthew Wilson (and Brandi Lenox) took First Place and a cash prize for their performance of "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keyes. You may recall Matthew's solo performance of this song at the December 2007 recital. *See? Practice does pay!*



Recital Changes

We need to call to your attention the following changes to the recital schedule for spring and summer. **The April 13th recital will feature violin students only.** All violin families should be sure to coordinate with Mrs. Nelson in advance regarding your child's participation. Program information is needed no later than two weeks prior to the recital to allow sufficient time for preparing and printing the programs.

The June recital date has been moved up a week to June 8th. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.