



TESSI Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2008

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

QUICK CALENDAR:

5/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 10 of 11 for the 2007-2008 school year
\$10 late fee as of 5/23*

6/8/08 -- Recitals

*12:00pm – Wiggles N' Tunes®
1:30pm and 3:00pm
-- Carbondale Civic Center
See the kitchen bulletin board at TESSI for time assignments and refreshment signups about 2 weeks prior to recital date

6/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 11 of 11 for the 2007-2008 school year
\$10 late fee as of 6/23*

6/15/08 - Registration Due

Signed registration forms for the 2008-2009 school year are due by this date.

7/15/08 -- Prepayment Due*

*Tuition Prepayment for the 2008-2009 school year due (\$100 / \$110 violins)
\$10 late fee as of 7/23*

*Please feel free to make this payment along with the June 15th payment if you will be traveling around in July.

8/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 1 of 11 for the 2008-2009 school year
\$10 late fee as of 8/23*

In This Issue

Some Year-End Matters

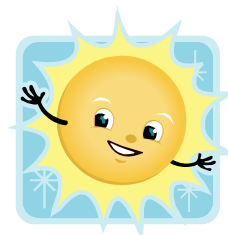
On the Road: SAA Bi-Annual Conference

On Tour: Summer Music Festival (with guitars!)

Viva Violins! – A Concert Report

1/2 Price Wiggles for TESSI Families in 2008-2009 !!!

The Flood of 2008 (well, ours at least)



Some Year-End Matters

As we approach the end of our 40-week school calendar, and all of us are busy with many activities and events, a quick “heads-up!” is in order regarding dates and other things to keep in mind.

Since our school session is longer this year, lessons will continue into the month of June. **Please check with your teacher(s) regarding the ending dates for lessons in their individual studios.** They are likely to differ with each teacher due to their various individual scheduling issues that came up over the course of the school year.

Don't forget about the June 8th recital. We know there will be a lot of great music, and we hope for a great turnout. If you will not be able to attend, please let your teacher know right away so recital planning can take place efficiently.

The final tuition payment for the 2007-2008 school year is due on June 15th, as are **signed registration forms for 2008-2009.** If you are going to be leaving town, please get the final payments and new registration forms in early, or have arrangements in place to mail in payments on time.

Speaking of being out of town, on vacation, or otherwise having to miss a lesson(s): **Plan ahead and try to swap lesson times with another family to (hopefully) avoid missing any lessons.** Remember that your teachers cannot accommodate schedule changes for your extra-curricular activities throughout the school year. Asking them to do so contradicts the TESSI make-up policy. Your teacher is only responsible for making up their own absences from scheduled lessons. If you do currently not have contact information for other TESSI families for lesson-swap purposes, your teacher will gladly supply you with it.

OK – now with the mundane (but important!) stuff out of the way, we can get on to the rest of the newsletter. Thanks for reading!



WELCOME

To new TESSI instrumental students and their families

Buffy Ellsworth, *violin* and
Nick Schlesinger, *guitar*

CONGRATULATIONS !



Daniel Cohen, Class of 2008

Eagle Ridge Christian Academy
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

*Go forth and prosper, Daniel.
We'll miss you around here !!*



NFMC Junior Festival Gold Cup Recitalists

Srinivas Panchamukhi:
1st Solo Cup, piano

Michael Stucky
1st Solo Cup, piano

Joseph Steinbock
1st Piano Concerto Cup

On The Road: The SAA Bi-Annual Conference

The Suzuki Association of the Americas' bi-annual Conference will take place in Minneapolis Minnesota from May 21st to May 26th. It is a huge event drawing Suzuki educators and students together from all over the world for seminars, meetings, master classes, concerts, roundtable discussions, and much more.



All of TESSI's faculty have attended this conference at one time or another (or many times!). This year, Joyce Nelson will be attending the conference, and she has a few words to share with us:

I am going to Minneapolis for the SAA conference over the Memorial Day weekend, an event I am eagerly looking forward to.

It is a wonderful opportunity to exchange insights, stimulate new ideas, refocus and refine research in this wonderful world of Suzuki Talent Education.

As a former "Kenkyusei" (research student) of Dr. Suzuki, the SAA Conference enables me to discuss Dr. Suzuki's research points with my peers and teachers from Japan, Canada and the U.S.

The schedule is hectic, the issues are substantial, the energy extraordinarily stimulating. I expect to be sharing my experiences with my TESSI colleagues, students, and parents over the upcoming months, so stay tuned for further developments. – Joyce Nelson

On Tour: Southern Illinois Music Festival

If you haven't heard of the Southern Illinois Music Festival before now, let us tell you that it is quite an undertaking. This year the festival will feature fifty-one performances across the region, including six concerts at Shryock Auditorium. Many of the



concerts are free and some are tailored especially for children. (*Klassics for Kids for example, as well as others*) Featured musicians hail from across the USA and abroad. To find out more about the Festival, visit the official web site at: www.sifest.com. Performance schedules, ticket information, and much more can be viewed there.

Aside from the fact that the festival provides so many opportunities to hear a wide variety of great music, part of **this year's festival is especially relevant to TESSI guitar students as two of the concerts include a concerto for guitar quartet with orchestra:** (*continued next page*)



Alyce Ward has been nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award for the Egyptian Chapter of the Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMTA) for the 2008-2009 school year.

NOTATION QUIZ:

Do you know what the meanings of the following musical symbols are?

ppp



DC.



On Tour: Southern Illinois Music Festival *(continued)*

Aux Rythmes des Quartiers Latins by Patrick Roux will be performed by the **Southern Illinois Guitar Quartet** with the Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra (SISO) in Cairo on June 12th, and again at **Shryock Auditorium on June 13th**. The quartet consists of Christopher Allen, Joseph Palermo, Matthew Blessing, and **TESSI's own David Stoecker**. All the members are graduates from the SIUC guitar program, with the exception of Blessing who still studies in the program. David Stoecker offers up some insights on the piece and the performers:

I'm excited (and maybe just a little nervous) about the concerts with SISO. Roux's piece, which translates to "The Rhythms of the Latin Quarter" is very much a "New Tango" styled piece a la Astor Piazzolla – both lively and sentimental, dark and dramatic, even chaotic at points, with a fiery ending. Very challenging for the guitarists, as my tired fingers are proving out!

I'm also excited to be a part of this quartet. I first met Chris Allen while I was still in school, when he was just getting started in the guitar program at SIUC. We've wanted to play together for years. Both he and Joe Palermo have been judges for my students during the Junior Festival. I met Matt Blessing last Fall when he was the guest conductor at the 10-Piano Ensemble Concert. They're great guys and musicians. – D. Stoecker

Viva Violins! – A Concert Report

For many TESSI violinists, the violins-only April 13th recital was a new, unique performance experience and boy were we ready!

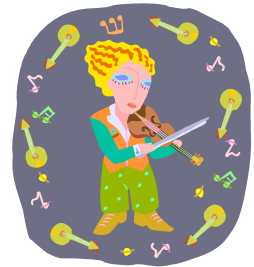
We had two Thursday rehearsals in the concert hall which really helped understand the science of sound (acoustics).

We played a five book range of solo and ensemble repertory and the less experienced students are now aspiring to play advancing pieces and sound like Book 5 students. We are more confident and adventurous.

We had a standing-room only, enthusiastic audience which resulted in scrambling to bring in extra seating, more tables, and we even had to share programs.

Everybody pitched in to help. The reception was excellent with lots of congratulations to the performers and opportunities for connecting with family and friends. Heartfelt thanks to those whose efforts contributed to the success of Viva Violins:

The Bach Double players who successfully juggled busy schedules in order to practice, our two accompanists Mary Palmer and Hannah Chvatal who had a lot of preparation to do and Patty Cohen who accompanied her son Daniel.





TESSI Families

1/2 Price Wiggles!!

Details:

Pay only \$80.00* (*regular price \$160 for 16 weeks*).

This is a flat-rate and enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Classes meet on weekday mornings.

*This offer does not include class enrollments through John A. Logan College which are already at a reduced rate.

GO CATCH A SHOW!

Keep your eyes and ears open for the many live performances (musical or otherwise) going on in the region during the 2008 summer season.

See, Hear, Enjoy!

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Viva Violins! – A Concert Report (*continued*)

Mary Rohrer who bravely volunteered to see to the refreshment table, all those who helped clean up, and the ever helpful Civic Center staff.

This was the first time since TESSI opened its doors that we have held a single-instrument recital. TESSI faculty has discussed doing more of these in the future to allow students of each instrument to perform a broader range of repertoire and with more ensemble possibilities. *Stay tuned! – J. Nelson*

Wiggles N' Tunes® Offer for TESSI Families

Beginning this Fall, we will start offering **Wiggles N' Tunes® at 1/2 off** the full tuition rate for immediate family members of TESSI students. Yes, you heard us right!

See the sidebar on this page for details.

- Contact Teacher Alyce with any questions about this offer.

*** 2008-2009 Wiggles Brochures will be available by June 15th ***

Flooding Issues

"How High's the Water, Mama?" – Johnny Cash

Well, what can we say except it was high enough, for long enough and was inconvenient enough to last for a long, long time...but not forever.

The patience and adaptability of all our TESSI parents, students, teachers and property owner Jim Renshaw were sorely tested over a protracted period of time as a result of the extreme amounts of rain Mother Nature bestowed upon us in one fell swoop a short while back from this writing.

And of course, it happened during two weeks of concentrated preparation for TESSI's first single-instrument recital -- *Viva Violins!*

Now that the TESSI facilities have long since been dried out, cleaned out, shaken out and generally returned to normal, we teachers must thank all of you for your part in insuring that classes, rehearsals and the concert continued in spite of weather conditions, challenges and inconveniences.

Please accept our grateful thanks for your encouraging support, and graciousness under rather extraordinary circumstances.

- *Joyce Nelson, Alyce Ward, David Stoecker*

p.s. Feel free to check out the new and improved violin studio!



Have a great summer! – next newsletter in September.