



TESSI Newsletter

MAY 2007

MAY 2007

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

QUICK CALENDAR:

5/15/07 -- Registration

Signed forms for 2007 summer lessons are due

5/15/07 -- Tuition Due

This is the final payment for the regular 2006-2007 school year (35-week contracts)
\$10 late fee as of 5/23

5/20/07 -- Recitals

12:00pm - Wiggles N' Tunes
1:30pm – Piano & Guitars
3:00pm – Violins, Piano, Guitar
-- Carbondale Civic Center
*See the kitchen bulletin board at TESSI for time assignments and refreshment signups

6/15/07 -- Tuition Due

Payment for summer 2007 lesson contracts is due
\$10 late fee as of 6/23

6/15/07 -- Registration

Signed forms for 2007-2008 40-week school year are due
*Forms will be handed out around June 1st

7/15/07 -- Tuition Due

\$100 pre-payments due for the 2007-2008 40-week school year
\$10 late fee as of 7/23

8/15/07 -- Tuition Due

Payment #1 for 2007-2008
\$10 late fee as of 8/23
*please make a note of this if you will not have a lesson before 8/23
Remember the new fee schedule!

In This Issue

- Summertime (*momentum*)
- Reminders (*of course*)
- 2007-2008 General Info
- Summer Institutes
- Sidebar snippets (*read 'em!*)

Summertime!

Summer vacation is almost here!



Students and parents are no doubt ready for a well-deserved break, and absence of homework!

Music teachers value our summer breaks much the same as everyone else – we take some time to relax, travel to visit family and friends; we also read through new music scores, work on our own playing skills, and begin to organize schedules and materials for the next school year.

However, we cannot think about the upcoming year without considering all of the energy and time that *each of us* – students, parents and teachers alike have invested over the last year in order to see musical progress occur.

Maintaining **forward momentum** is a big reason why we teach during part of the summer. Technical ability atrophies without regular exercise, and the mental aspect of music making suffers equally or more so. It is, in almost every case disheartening and discouraging to all involved to spend weeks or even months getting back to where one left off when lessons stopped for the summer.

(Momentum...cont.)

If anything is for sure, it's that one cannot make up lost time – and that cramming doesn't work with musical performances. (*Editor's note: I've seen a couple students get away with it, but they were just lucky! – DS*)

As Dr. Suzuki said – **“practice only on the days that you eat!”**

Summer Reminders

Please read carefully the items in the **Quick Calendar** at the left.

The due dates for forms and payments – for both Summer 2007 lessons and the 2007-2008 school year - are listed there for your convenience.

If you will be traveling this summer, please be sure to make arrangements to get your TESSI forms and payments in on time.

If you have any questions regarding paperwork, payments or scheduling – please consult with your teacher as soon as possible.

Heat and Humidity

Guitar and violin students are reminded to avoid leaving instruments in a hot car for any length of time. High temperatures can cause damage in a short amount of time. Humidity also has a big impact on tuning, so check and correct on a daily basis.



2007-2008 General Info

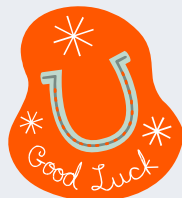
Our **40-week school calendar officially begins the week of August 20th**. See your teacher about specific start dates.

Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

Rebecca Contreras, violin
Marion High School.

Jorge Lightfoot, guitar
Carbondale High School.

Benjamin Mendez, piano
Carbondale High School.
(Piano student since 1994 !!)



and Thank You!

And to Peter, Kimberly, Abby, Chris and Samuel Gregory, who will be moving to the Northwest at the end of the summer - Thanks for all the support and encouragement you have shown since the beginnings of TESSI, and for putting 110% into your musical adventure with us! **And our kudos to Abby** who will again be attending the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp this year.

We will miss everyone who will be parting ways with us this year, and we wish you the best! Keep in touch!

GO CATCH A SHOW!

Keep your eyes and ears open for the many live performances going on in the area during the summer, such as at **McLeod Theater** and the **Southern Illinois Music Festival**. Enjoy!

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

Summer Institutes – Notes and Quotes – by D. Stoecker

All over the country (and world!), something special is taking place this summer – a Suzuki Institute. “Music Camp”, if you will. Students ranging from 3-year olds just beginning an instrument to older students who play at a very high level, parents learning strategies to help their children practice better at home, and in many cases – teachers working to improve their teaching skills, and doing in-depth study of the repertoire with SAA certified teacher-trainers.

So how does one describe the summer institute experience?

“A variety of experiences all compacted into one full week”
– Doris Weaver, parent

Well said, Doris! There are numerous aspects to an Institute, and many benefits, some of which are not related to music. Let’s take a look at some things that TESSI participants of

summer institutes have said about their experiences, and what was valuable..

“I like that the children have a chance to be independent even though we are still there”
– Susan Bausch, parent

“Helps me to understand music a little more”
– Dara Weaver-Holmes, student

“I like the fact that you make friends”
– Hannah Bausch, student

“I meet more friends every time I go”
– Anthony Stoecker, student

Good stuff, and as three of the four comments illustrate – the students just plain have a great time meeting new friends, spending time together and stretching their wings – much like any summer camp. So it’s not all about the music, though there are more than enough musical activities to fill an entire week. A typical institute will include many level and age-appropriate daily musical activities for each participant, as well as fun extra-curricular events:

Lesson -- Small Group Class - Large Group Class -- Enrichment Classes (*such as art, theater and more*) – Orchestra – Composition - Theory/Musicianship – Daily Recitals – Guest Performers (*i.e. professional concert artists*) – Final Concert

The above list will vary from one institute to another, but most of the above will be found at any institute, large or small. Of course, there are music camps other than Suzuki taking place – students who play other instruments (*brass, winds, percussion etc.*) have options for those instruments as well.

Abby’s words (*at right*) help to underscore the personal-growth benefits of summer music camp.

“Every year when I come back from Interlochen, I come back as a different person – both musically and in who I am”
– Abby Gregory, student

“The benefits of an Institute show up long after it is over”
– Alyce Ward, teacher & parent

A dual-perspective from Alyce Ward – *so true!*

My Visit to the Ann Arbor Suzuki Guitar Institute – 2006

Last summer, I had the pleasure of being invited to teach at AASGI in conjunction with the teacher-training course I was enrolled in.

As such, I have now had the summer institute experience from all sides – parent, teacher, and “student” (*trainee*). Working directly with kids from other schools gave me some insight into what the real student experience must be like – making friends, watching how other kids handle themselves in class, how they practice, learning what their teachers are like...*and seeing their enthusiasm!*

I hope you all will consider attending an institute this summer – the motivating effect is amazing!

Look for institute info posted at TESSI, much more at www.suzukiassociation.org, and talk to your teacher. *We’d love to help you!!*



I had great fun teaching Conor and Holden in lessons at the Ann Arbor Suzuki Guitar Institute last year. And their posture? Awesome!