



Twinkling The Ivories

March 2010

Register for the Spring Festival

Mark your calendars – the Edmonton Suzuki Piano School annual Spring Festival is just around the corner – *Saturday, April 17, 2010!*

Our Spring Festival is both a performance and educational opportunity for students. The students are placed in small classes according to what piece they are playing, what book they are in, and their age. Each student prepares a piece and polishes it to their highest level and performs it in the class for a guest teacher to evaluate and make written comments. These comments typically include suggestions for further study, practice tips, and encouragement. It is non-competitive, meaning that the adjudicating teacher will evaluate and comment on the students' performances but will not give out any grades or placing (1st, 2nd etc.)

The festival is a wonderful opportunity to hear other students perform as well. Without a doubt students and parents learn much and are inspired and encouraged by hearing the performances and adjudications of the other students in their class. Also, teachers strongly encourage and urge students and parents to take in at least one additional class at the festival, if not the whole day!

This year we are most fortunate to have two adjudicators that some of us are already quite well acquainted with. Ms. Elsie Ng is a Suzuki teacher based in Calgary who most recently taught master classes at our 2007 Fall Institute. She will be coming back to Edmonton for our festival. It will be a real treat for us all to enjoy her company and expertise again. Mr. Joseph Fridman is a renowned teacher and performer who now lives in Edmonton and teaches at the Alberta Music Academy. We were inspired by him at our festival last year and we enthusiastically anticipate having him adjudicate again this year.

Teachers have copies of the registration forms, and they are also available on our website, www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca.

By Ruth Johnson

Board of Directors

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Other Volunteers:

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Shauna Bevan-Stewart

Contact ESPS:
Phone 780.488.0548
Fax 780.488.0538

ESPS GENERAL MEETING

8 PM, April 28, 2010

Suzuki Charter School (7211-96 A Avenue)
The Board of Directors is holding its next General Meeting open to all ESPS members on Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

For those of you who have questions about Edmonton Suzuki Piano School or who are interested in getting involved with our Board of Directors, please consider attending this important meeting.

We have positions vacant for members-at-large on our Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping to shape the future direction of ESPS, like to share ideas and are able to meet once a month, please contact Kim Green at 780.488.0548.

Congratulations To Daniel Belland, Book 7 Graduate

Seventeen-year old Daniel Belland is the latest ESPS student to complete the Suzuki repertoire. He presented his inspiring graduation recital Saturday, February 13 in Alberta College's Muttart Hall to an appreciative and very impressed audience of family and friends.

Daniel has developed and distinguished himself in several areas besides piano. He is also a very fine flautist and enjoys composing music. He also enjoys writing and theatre. Two years ago, he and two of his friends began a youth theatre company - Celsius Youth Theatre. They have completed three productions so far with casts of up to 25 people and Daniel has composed the music for these productions, as well as acting and directing.

Daniel is also an active outdoorsman. He enjoys hiking and camping. He has also been in the Scouting movement for about six years and is currently a Venturer.

He hasn't decided on a specific career plan yet but is confident that it will include music and theatre.

Help Wanted: Photos for the ESPS website and brochure

At a recent graduation and recital, we saw some pretty fancy, high-tech looking cameras. So this is a call to all you photography buffs (professional, amateur, or just happy-clicking folks!). If you have any photographs of recitals, graduations, group concerts, or just your child on the piano at home, and you wouldn't mind sharing them with ESPS, we would greatly appreciate them.

We are in need of updated photos for our website and any other promotional material, such as brochures. Please send your photos to Betty Lee at bllee01@shaw.ca. Or if you have a large file, please send an e-mail to make arrangements.

Great Practice Ideas from Great Suzuki Families

- Use dominoes for each correct repetition and at the end of a practice session, build a domino construction and knock it down.
- Put the name of the piano pieces on paper into a bag. Then, shake the bag and pick a paper. Whatever the song is, play it (along with the practice points) and then check it off the list. Continue to draw out the names of the pieces one by one. Have fun!

Check out more great ideas for fun practices from other ESPS families on our website: www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca.

UPCOMING ESPS EVENTS

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|-------------------|---|
| April 17, 2010 | Spring Festival |
| April 25, 2010 | Spring General Meeting (<i>all members are invited to attend</i>) |
| May 1, 2010 | Parent Class (<i>for parents of new students</i>) |
| May 16, 2010 | Groups Concert |
| June 6 & 20, 2010 | Spring Recitals (<i>teachers and dates to be announced</i>) |
| June 13, 2010 | Graduation |

March 2010 Graduations

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and well-deserved graduations:

Volume 1

Abigail Dodds

James Gray

Hannah Liu

Alexa Van Den Briel

Volume 2

Sam Brosseau-Carter

Nicholas Brubaker

Charisse Chan

Tatiana Marciniak

Nicholas Yamamoto

Volume 3

Luka Morita

Guo Chen

Volume 4

Colin Zhou

Volume 6

Alison McIntosh

*One cannot look at a small child and randomly choose what he does well and what he does poorly. I have repeated many times that more important than whether one is **talented** or not is a good environment in which a child will **become talented**.*

- Shinichi Suzuki