



Twinkling The Ivories

November 2008

“All children are born with great potential.”

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The ESPS Impact

“...my heart brims over with a desire to help make all the children born upon this earth fine human beings, happy people, people of superior ability. My whole life and energies [are] devoted to this end. This is because of my discovery that every child, without exception, is born with this possibility.” - Shinichi Suzuki

Edmonton Suzuki Piano School (ESPS) is based upon the philosophy of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. Dr. Suzuki's approach to learning requires a strong parental commitment and involvement in the educational process. We believe that the stronger the communication and collaboration between all three elements of the Suzuki Triangle (student, teacher, and parent), the stronger the impact of the approach.

How, then, do we strengthen the impact of the Suzuki approach within ESPS?

- ESPS administers individual lessons with qualified and Suzuki trained teachers.
- ESPS provides monthly group lessons to provide pianists with a chance to build community, learn music theory, and perform with others, as well as a final group concert to highlight these group performances.
- ESPS supports performance opportunities at least twice per year at the University of Alberta's Convocation Hall.
- ESPS celebrates each student's success, by supporting a graduation concert when students finish a volume of the Suzuki repertoire.
- ESPS hosts a Fall Institute and a Spring Festival annually. Guest teachers and musicians are invited from outside of Edmonton to conduct master class sessions for students and parents.
- ESPS continues to expand and is currently one of the largest organizations championing Suzuki Piano in North America.

Thank you for being a valued part of our growing community of students, teachers and parents. We appreciate all of your volunteer help, dedicated practise, and participation in our enriching group lessons, institutes, and performances. It is making a difference in your children's lives.

Sincerely,

Karen Spencer, Co-President



Fall Institute - November 8 & 9th, 2008

Location: Suzuki Charter School, 7211 96A Ave

The Fall Institute is basically a Suzuki piano weekend that brings in guest teachers from out of town and offers special events to help motivate you and your child. This year, we are very pleased to welcome master teachers Marilyn Anderson, Theresa Ho and Susan Magnusson to the Institute.

Marilyn Andersen will be giving a workshop for parents on effective practising at 1:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday in the gym (see her biography).

Kids should come dressed for t-shirt painting – it's bound to be messy!

Parents should check with their teacher if they have any questions about scheduling for their master class or their enrichment activity.

You are also encouraged to watch other lessons during the weekend. Try to watch lessons from your child's level and the next most advanced book. You are welcome to observe as many lessons as you like, since all master classes are open and free to all master class students.

Overall, the Institute is a good time to connect with other Suzuki parents, make new friends, and hear some great playing.

Marilyn Andersen

Marilyn Andersen holds the B.M. degree from Wheaton College, Illinois (IL) and the M.M. degree from Indiana University. She has taught the Suzuki method for piano in the Wheaton College Suzuki Program (Now Community School of the Arts) since 1975 and maintains a large class there. She has had many students who have studied with her for 12 to 14 years and some have gone on to Conservatory study in their college years.

Ms. Andersen is also a registered Teacher Trainer of the Suzuki Method for piano and has done teaching training at several summer Institutes as well as teaching an ongoing teacher training class throughout the year.

Ms. Andersen has taught many contest winners and students who have won other musical awards including, Sonatina Festival, Paderewski medal in Piano Guild etc.

In 1986, Ms. Andersen travelled to Matsumoto, Japan to study under and observe the teaching of Dr. Haruko Kataoka and Dr. Shinichi Suzuki.

October 2008

Graduation

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

Volume 1

Niamh Beatty
Claire Bevan-Stewart
Hailey Lothamer
Leila Salazar
Nicholas Yamamoto

Volume 2

Noah Makar
Phillip Rodda

Volume 3

Devan Chow
Peter Filice
Jenna Koller
Erica Marr

Volume 4

Dorothy Hamilton
Ember Large

Volume 5

Andy Ko
Brianna Koller

Volume 6

Daniel Belland

Congratulations to the parents as well for supporting the students:

*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

Practice Binder Tip

Abbreviations to Make Note Taking a Little Easier

BAL	balance
CT	carry the thumb
CYE	carry your elbows
DSU	down stay up
FI	fingering
MDS	move don't stretch
MYF	move your fingertip
PP	point and play
QT	quiet thumb
RNL	repeated note legato
SW	soft wrist
WU	wrist up

If you have any bright ideas for making practices easier or more fun and interesting, please share them with us. Send them to Kim Green, ESPS Administrator, e-mail: administrator@edmontonsuzukipiano.ca