



# Twinkling The Ivories

September 2009

## Let the Music Begin!

Welcome back to another exciting year with the Edmonton Suzuki Piano School. Over the last 32 years, we have continued to grow and evolve. Whether you are a new parent, a student looking for an interesting challenge or an experienced and treasured teacher, there is something for you all at ESPS this fall. Grab a pen and jot these dates down on your calendars:

1. **Let us INSPIRE you with Dr. Robert Duke** "Intelligent Music Teaching" Workshops on Saturday, September 19, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m. at Suzuki Charter School. Special teacher workshops are scheduled for Friday.
2. **Let us INFORM you about ESPS** at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. at Suzuki Charter School, following the Dr. Robert Duke Workshops. Why not consider joining our group of dedicated and enthusiastic board members? We have a lot of exciting plans to benefit your children and would love your help.
3. **Let us "INSTITUTE" you with Dr. Doris Harrel and Nicole Elliott** at our Fall Institute in November 6-8, 2009 at Suzuki Charter School.

A non-profit organization such as ESPS does not function without the collaborative efforts of teachers and parents. We are very fortunate to have a casino every two years. It is through the use of these casino funds and the hard work of your teachers and administrator that we are able to support you, your children and your teachers.

You and your children greatly benefit through:

- fun and motivating ESPS group music class experiences
- interesting, educational ESPS events such as the Fall Institute
- resources that support music learning such as Suzuki books and CDs, and a lending library
- celebrations such as graduations, group concerts and spring festivals

Your ESPS teachers greatly benefit through:

- professional development throughout North America including opportunities to attend international Suzuki institutes
- financial support to initiate and coordinate parent, teacher and student educational events
- administrative support with registrations, group lessons, events and volunteer coordination

None of this happens without your continued support. "Thank you" is not enough, but we deeply thank you.

*Karen Spencer, Co-Chair, ESPS Board of Directors*

### Board of Directors

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Karen Spencer  
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#### Vice-President:

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#### Administrator:

Kim Green

#### Other Volunteers

#### Casino:

Shauna Bevan-Stewart

ESPS

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## Lesson Notes Pages – Get Them Online!

Last year, ESPS provided families with smart black tote bags and practice binders, all with the hope of making note-taking and practicing a little bit easier. Over the summer, we've adapted and revised the original lesson notes page and developed a few more, with the help of some Suzuki parents and teachers. In addition to the Lesson Notes pages, you'll find pages specifically created for working on repetitions and charts for children to assess their own playing. If you need new pages, or want to try an entirely new style, take a look at our website ([www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca](http://www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca)), where you can download and print what you need.

If you have a page of your own that you've developed over time and wouldn't mind sharing, then please contact Kim Green at 780.488.0548. We'd love to have even more ideas to share with ESPS members.

If you are new to ESPS, then watch for your own tote bag to arrive soon at your teacher's studio.

## CALENDAR 2009-2010

Annual General Meeting	<i>September 19, 2009</i>
Fall Graduation	<i>October 4, 2009</i>
Fall Institute	<i>November 6-8, 2009</i>
Winter Graduation	<i>January 24, 2010</i>
Winter Recitals	<i>February 7, 2010</i> <i>February 21, 2010</i>
Spring Graduation	<i>March 21, 2010</i>
Spring Festival	<i>April 17, 2010</i>
Group Concert	<i>May 16, 2010</i>
Summer Graduation	<i>June 13, 2010</i>
Year End Recitals	<i>June 6, 2010</i> <i>June 20, 2010</i>

## Fall Institute – Coming Soon

Edmonton Suzuki Piano School is pleased to announce our annual Fall Institute, to be held November 7th and 8th, 2009 at Suzuki Charter School. This is our largest Suzuki piano event of the year, and it features a unique learning opportunity for your family.

Each year, the Fall Institute offers master classes, parent sessions, and a special enrichment activity, all designed to help motivate you and your child. This fall, we welcome guest teachers that include Doris Harrel (a Houston-based Suzuki educator) and Nicole Elliott (who travels to us from Saskatchewan). Additionally, Dani Altieri, a local dance artist and educator, will offer the kids an action-packed hip-hop dance class.

For children, the Institute can be a great benefit. They have an opportunity to learn from someone new and can also find it motivating for practice to have an event to prepare for. Finally, it's always beneficial for them to have an opportunity to observe others playing. They might get to hear an interesting new piece of music or observe another child facing similar challenges.

Families can register as participants or just as observers. As a participant, children receive a master class with a guest teacher, attend the hip-hop enrichment class, and have more opportunities to learn by observing others' lessons. Parents are also invited to attend one of the daily parent sessions.

As an observer, children and their parents are invited to observe lessons at any level.

Watch for registration information and forms at your teacher's studio.

## For New ESPS Families: Parent Class

For those of you new to Edmonton Suzuki Piano School and piano lessons, ESPS is offering a **Parent Class, Saturday October 3, 2009, from 9-12** at Suzuki Charter School (7211 96 A Avenue). The class is designed to provide information about the Suzuki Method, tips for successful practicing, an introduction to some of the first songs in Book One, and answer any questions that may have come up as you get started as a Suzuki parent.

There is no additional charge for this class - the cost for this course is included as part of your ESPS registration fee. To register, please contact your teacher.

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[www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca](http://www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca)

If you haven't yet had a chance to take a look, then visit our website.

In addition to being a source for important ESPS dates and events, the website hosts a buy/sell space for pianos and music-related items. You'll also find information about our teachers and the Suzuki Method. It's also the place to download registration forms for events and membership, and to find printable practice pages.

Check it out and let us know what you think.

## ESPS Welcomes A New Teacher

Families who have signed on for Saturday groups classes this year will have the first opportunity to meet our newest teacher, Melanie Bodnar.

Melanie (nee Christensen) grew up near St. Paul, Alberta. Her love of piano began as a student with the Suzuki method at the age of 7, and in 2004 Melanie obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Lethbridge where she studied with Glen Montgomery. During this time she was also fortunate to complete her Book 1 Suzuki Teacher Training with Merlin Thompson at the Mount Royal College in Calgary. Melanie currently lives in Edmonton and is in her final year of an After-Degree in Elementary Education at the King's University College. She looks forward to pursuing further Suzuki teacher training.

Melanie will be teaching Saturday Groups classes at Suzuki Charter School. Please be sure to introduce yourselves when you see her.

Welcome Melanie!

## Group Lessons

Teachers are currently putting together class lists for all of our group classes. If you can't remember when or where your classes are, then you can find those lists posted on our website ([www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca](http://www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca)).

## Practice Tip:

Avoid student pet peeves:

- *Don't say "just one more time," especially when you mean 5 more times.*
- *Don't interrupt free time to call children to practice. If possible, practice right after supper, after their favourite TV show, or right after breakfast.*

*Marilyn Andersen, Master Teacher, 2008 ESPS Fall Institute*