



Twinkling The Ivories

March 2011

Mark Your Calendars: Spring Festival

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Our Edmonton Suzuki Piano annual Spring Festival is coming soon! Saturday, May 7 is the date and registration forms are currently being distributed to parents.

Our Suzuki festival is both a performance and educational opportunity. 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 or 2nd etc.) The students are placed in classes of 3 to 5 students according to what piece they are playing, what book they are in, and their age. Each student prepares a piece and polishes it to as high and excellent a level as possible and performs it in the class for the visiting teacher to evaluate and make written comments. These comments typically include suggestions for further study, practice tips, and encouragement.

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 families to observe at least one additional class at the festival.

This year we have two Suzuki adjudicators coming to Edmonton, one of which we'll be meeting for the first time. **Mrs. Carmen Morin Wheaton** began studying piano at the age of two with her father, Dan Morin. Mrs. Wheaton later studied with Dmitry Nesterov at Mount Royal University obtaining her Diploma in Music Performance, and under the tutelage of Marilyn Engle in the Bachelor of Music program at the University of Calgary. She completed the Suzuki Pedagogy Practicum with Merlin Thompson and is a registered Suzuki Piano Instructor in Calgary.

With over a decade of teaching experience, Mrs. Wheaton has been on Faculty at Mount Royal University Conservatory since 2008 and also maintains a busy private teaching studio. She is an active and dedicated pedagogue in Calgary's musical community as well as proud mother to her two young children, Jasmine and Percy. Mrs. Wheaton is enthusiastic about coming to Edmonton to our festival and we are really looking forward to our festival day with her.

Ms. Nicole Elliott last adjudicated our festival in 2008. She has also been to our Fall Institute as a master teacher in the past and we are really happy to have her return to our festival this year. She comes to us from Saskatoon where she is a mom to 3 girls; ages 19, 17, and 5. Ms. Elliott has her B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan and her ARCT from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She also teaches Kodaly Early Childhood classes and the Suzuki Early Childhood Class through the University of Saskatchewan where she is the Program Coordinator for a Community Music Program. Nicole has been a workshop clinician across Canada and is currently completing her training to become Canada's newest Teacher Trainer in Suzuki Piano. Many of our families have worked with Ms. Elliott before, and will be pleased to see her return.

The registration fee for the Spring Festival is \$20 for ESPS members. The deadline for registration is April 14th. Unfortunately, due to scheduling challenges, no late registrations can be accepted.

See you at the Festival!

Ruth Johnson

Registration

Watch for the 2011-2012 registration packages to arrive in your teacher's studio in mid-April. Within the package, you'll find registration information and forms for selecting volunteer options and marking group class preferences. This year, both teachers and ESPS are keeping registration and tuition fees unchanged.

The registration deadline for returning families is May 15, 2011. Please note that due to the high demand for lessons by new families, parents who do not submit forms and payment by this date cannot be guaranteed a lesson space. In order to confirm your place in your teacher's studio, you must register by May 15th, 2011.

Hats Off to Our Casino Volunteers!

ESPS offers its many thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers at our recent casino. It takes a special volunteer to work long hours, often late into the night at the casino, and we appreciate that so many of you were willing to help. As our sole fundraiser, the casino is vitally important. It helps cover the cost of things like group classes, facility rentals, repertoire, and ongoing training for our teachers. Thanks to all of you who worked a shift or stood by on call, just in case we had a cancellation. Hats off to you!

What's New in the ESPS Library?

Classical Kids Series – Check out this series of CDs, each of which feature a dramatic story, a little history, and music from some of the most famous composers including Bach, Mozart, Handel, and Tchaikovsky.

Mr. Bach Comes to Call

Hallelujah Handel

Mozart's Magnificent Voyage

Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery

Mozart's Magic Fantasy

Tchaikovsky Discovers America

More Stories of Composers for Young Musicians

by Catherine Wolff Kendall

This comprehensive book features biographies of 38 composers, including those in the Suzuki repertoire. Read about composers as diverse as Beethoven, Clementi, and Suzuki.

If you are interested in borrowing any of these or other titles listed in our ESPS library, talk to your teacher.

March 2011 Graduations

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

Volume 1

Liam Cowie

Hannah Wolfe

Stefani Lourenco-Reis

Jordan Smith

Pauline So

Volume 2

Jane Chen

Jackson Zhou

Volume 3

Erin Chow

Phillip Rodda

Nicholas Yamamoto

Volume 5

Michaelene Poworoznik

Upcoming Events

May 7, 2011 *Spring Festival*

May 28, 2011 *Parent Class*

May 29, 2011 *Groups Concert*

June 5, 2011 *Recitals*

Tim

Melanie & Rhonda

Tess

June 12, 2011 *Recitals*

Alla

Nancy

Ruth

June 19, 2011 *Graduation Concert*

Recitals for Ken, Joyce and Eleanor TBA