



Twinkling The Ivories

May 2012

Board of Directors

Betty Lee
Heather MacMillan
Don Dyck
Gerry Morita
Lori Demeriez
Rolinda Graham
Geeta Passi-Shourie
Beata Zitnansky
Karen Spencer

Teachers

Melanie Bodnar
Tess Brown
Tim Eckert
Ruth Johnson
Rhonda McEachen
Alla Rekhson
Joyce Sipsas
Nancy Thornhill
Eleanor Tsui
Ken Zeller

Administrator

Kim Green

Contact ESPS

Phone 780.488.0548
Fax 780.488.0538

President's Message

What a Great Year!

This is my first year as President and I feel privileged to have served with so many exceptional people to provide excellent musical education to our children over the past year.

This year, we have about 175 ESPS families with 200+ piano students. Over the year, 115 students participated in the Fall Institute, 100 in the Spring Festival, 200+ students showcased their talent at the winter recitals, more than 50 students will have successfully graduated to the next level in the repertoire, and 200 + students will be participating in the upcoming group concerts (at Suzuki Charter School) and year-end recitals at the historic Convocation Hall at the University of Alberta. *ESPS is one big piano school!*

We couldn't have accomplished this without our ten fabulous, committed teachers, who work hard, thinking of innovative ways to teach our kids and keep their interests going. They meet monthly to share ideas on how to improve teaching methods and student learning. *Parents, how many times could you teach the four variations of Twinkles?* Having two kids go through Suzuki piano was plenty of Twinkles for me, in a good way of course. Thank you, teachers, for your abundance of patience and determination to instill joy in piano learning!

The variety of parents, who serve on our Board of Directors, with different backgrounds, expertise, and years of piano experience, has inspired much discussion and ideas. Some parents have very young children in piano, while others bring years of invaluable piano experience. Coming from backgrounds as divergent as the arts, accounting, and the legal system, we can count on a thoughtful approach and representation on any issue that ESPS faces.

I would also like to thank the many, many parents who volunteered as drivers, newsletter contributors, event hosts, emcees, refreshment coordinators, clean-up crews, and much more. Every bit of involvement, big or small, contributed to another successful year and builds the foundation for the future. So, thank you, parents!

And finally, Kim Green, our multi-talented administrator, who not only takes care of all the small details, but manages all the operations with such extreme fluency that I cannot believe she only works with us part-time.

Have a fun and musical summer!

Betty Lee

www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca

Upcoming Events

June 3, 2012 Group Concert, Suzuki Charter School

June 10, 2012 Summer Recitals, Convocation Hall

12:30 Ken Zeller
1:30 Alla Rekhson
3:00 Melanie Bodnar/Rhonda McEachen
4:00 Tim Eckert

June 15, 2012 Summer Recital, Joyce Sipsas, SCS

June 17, 2012 Summer Recitals, Convocation Hall

12:30 Tess Brown
1:30 Nancy Thornhill
2:45 Ruth Johnson
4:15 Eleanor Tsui

June 24, 2012 Graduation, Muttart Hall

It's Graduation Time!

You've practised for weeks, months, even years! You've struggled through difficult parts, learned challenging new pieces, and performed countless repetitions! And you have succeeded! You have made it to the end - and a new beginning!

Use your graduation to celebrate the success of your journey. Let your teachers, mentors, parents, and family celebrate with you. Here are some tips for having a graduation that celebrates your success.

- **Dress up for your graduation!** This is a special occasion: you've done much preparation for it. Jeans, T-shirts, shorts, and messy running shoes are not appropriate.
- **Arrive early so you do not feel rushed before your performance.** If you are not familiar with this area, then plan to come extra early so you are not late for the graduation.
- **Invite your family and friends.** Just as they are important to you, you are important to them. Share in the excitement of your accomplishment!
- **Stay until the end of the graduation** when plaques and certificates are awarded and photographs are taken.
- **Stay for the reception afterwards.** Enjoy some treats and savour the moment with your family and friends.

Where: Muttart Hall, inside MacEwan College's Alberta College campus in the heart of downtown, overlooking the river valley. The address is **10050 MacDonald Drive**, which is west of the big Telus Tower and east of McDougall United Church. There are only four buildings on that street, so once you get onto MacDonald Drive, you can't miss it.

Access: Drive south on 100 St., then west on MacDonald Drive, which is a one-way street going west. Access to the parking lot is on the west side of Alberta College. Parking is a few dollars on a Sunday. Alternatively, street parking for free may be available near 102 Street or 103 Street.

Muttart Hall is the concert hall on the main floor. The easiest way to find it is from the MacDonald Drive main entrance: it is immediately accessible inside the front doors. If you come in the building through other doors, go through the large hallway until you come to the front doors.

Tim Eckert

Get Ready for the Group Concerts

The Group Class Concert is on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at the Suzuki Charter School Gymnasium. Please arrive promptly 15 minutes ahead of time so that all students can be in their places to begin on time. **For the 1pm concert, please arrive at 12:45. For the 2:30 concert, please arrive at 2:15.**

The dress code is **casual**. Students will be sitting on mats on the floor and it can get warm in the gym; so please dress accordingly.

Although seated with their group prior to their performances, we ask that parents please monitor their children's behaviour and intervene if necessary. The teachers are pretty busy with their groups and cannot always correct behaviour. Once your child has performed with the group, he or she may sit with you in the audience or remain seated on the designated floor mats.

1:00 Concert: Groups taught by: Rhonda, Melanie, Alla, Tim.

2:30 Concert: Groups taught by: Ruth, Nancy, Eleanor, Tess, Ken.

There's An App for That!

This summer, try something new to help with practising. Some of our teachers have provided recommendations for great apps that just might help kids improve their skills but still have a little fun, too. Search for these apps for your iPad, mobile phone or other device

For note recognition and ability to read patterns in music, Nancy Thornhill recommends:

- *Blue Note*
- *Read Music*
- *Sight Reading*

Ken Zeller suggests a program for those who need help slowing down the pieces on the CD. First, convert the songs on the CD to mp3 or wav files. Then play them using a program called VLC. Using the keyboard commands, you can slow the song down but keep the pitch the same so you can play along. VLC media player also plays movies and CDs and is available on c-net.com

Finally, Rhonda McEachen recommends these games for a little fun on your iPad:

- *Flashnote Derby*
- *Virtuozzy Rhythm Game*
- *Monkey Drum*
- *Piano Dust Buster*