



# Twinkling The Ivories

November 2012

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Kim Green

## Contact ESPS

Phone 780.488.0548  
Fax 780.488.0538

## Share the Music – Host a Neighbourhood Piano Party!

In the Spring of 2012, I decided to ask a few families from our neighbourhood if they'd like to participate in a Suzuki Music Night. The interest was there, and I set a date for the first concert. Four families attended, including nine children who played the piano, cello, violin and flute. In most families, both parents were able to attend.

Each child performed one or two pieces on their instrument. Afterwards there were refreshments, and some playtime for the kids in the basement. The parents socialized upstairs, and the night was a great success!

Since then, there have been three more Suzuki Music Nights, each at a different family's home. The children enjoy them very much, and ask "When is the next music night?"

### How to Host a Suzuki Music Party

1. Contact other Suzuki families that you know and ask if they want to participate.
2. If you don't know any Suzuki families, ask your private teacher to help you to bring people together. Big numbers aren't necessary - a great party can happen with just a few children performing.
3. Pick a few possible dates/times and see when the most people can attend.
4. Plan and prepare some simple refreshments
5. Keep it low-key and relaxed - then someone else might volunteer to host next time!

### Benefits of Hosting a Suzuki Music Party

1. There's a live concert in your living room!
2. Your children will form friendships with other music students.
3. You get a chance to socialize with other adults that also live the Suzuki journey.
4. It's a lot easier than serious entertaining.

Being part of a music community can make a huge difference for your family. It takes some effort to form this community, but Suzuki Music Nights are a relatively easy way to get started. It's not easy practicing with your children every day. Parents need the support of other parents. Children need to be inspired by others, and comforted by the fact that other kids practice their instruments too. Most of all, music needs to be fun in order for your child to stay invested in this process.

Any questions? Email Rhonda McEachen at [rmceachen@hotmail.com](mailto:rmceachen@hotmail.com)

*Rhonda McEachen*

## Great Practice Ideas! Congratulations to Our Contest Winners

At our recent Fall Institute, we ran a contest for our students and parents looking for great practice ideas and tips. We were looking to utilize the collective wisdom of our members to gather a collection of ideas, games, and activities that can be shared, borrowed and adapted to fit the needs of every family. Congratulations to our winners, Alexa, Olivia, Allison, Gaby, Peter, and Shawn, who were randomly selected in a draw. Watch for this complete collection of great practice ideas on our website or at your teacher's studio

In the meantime, consider trying some of these great practice ideas gleaned from our own ESPS families at your house.

- We love to play for our family and friends. We perform a concert for our family that is far away with skype. Guests that come to visit receive a concert after dinner!
- *I like to listen to a song before I practice it because it helps me to remember what it sounds like.*
- I like it when Mom lights the candles in the piano room.
- *I like to pick a part in the song to practice and I roll the dice to see how many times I need to practice it.*
- We like to put together puzzles. Every time we complete a task, our son earns a puzzle piece. He gets to put the puzzle together when he has earned all the pieces.
- *I hold pompoms on my hand and my dad times me to see how long I could keep my posture correct and stop the pompom from falling off.*
- We roll the die across the room. After we have discovered the number, we race back to the piano to practice the song number from the die.
- *I like to mark the hard spots with see-through stickies because it helps me to remember what areas to focus on.*

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## Help Wanted:

Do you have a flair for decorating or a creative eye? Do you spend time at Suzuki Charter School on a regular basis? ESPS is looking for the services of a volunteer to decorate and maintain our display board in the hall outside Room 4/5 at Suzuki Charter School. Help make this space into a great resource for our ESPS families!

For more information, please contact Kim at 780.488.0548 .

## November 2012 Graduations

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

### Volume 1

Jethro Flores  
Emma Fraser  
Anita Guo  
Lauren Huang  
Mackenzie Maziarz  
Shae Rose

### Volume 2

Natalis Chen  
Mae MacDonald  
Ruby MacMillan  
Elena Oberg  
Amaan Suleman

### Volume 3

James Gray  
Jackson Zhou

### Volume 4

Nicholas Yamamoto

## Upcoming Events – 2012/13 Calendar

January 20, 2013 Graduation Ceremony, Muttart Hall

January 27 & 28, 2013 Casino, Argyll Road

February 3/10/24, 2013 Winter Recitals, Suzuki Charter School

March 16, 2013 Spring Festival, Suzuki Charter School

April 14, 2013 Graduation Ceremony, Muttart Hall

May 26, 2013 Group Concert, Suzuki Charter School

June 2, 2013 Graduation, Muttart Hall

June 9 & 23, 2013 Summer Recitals, Location TBA