



Twinkling The Ivories

September 2014

Welcome to Another Year at Edmonton Suzuki Piano School!

2014/2015 promises to be another great year for ESPS as we look forward to new events and the return of some family favourites! Read on for more details about what's in store this autumn:

Board of Directors

Rolinda Graham
Betty Lee
Tammy Field-Compri
Merrie Zubritsky
Meleena Doroshenko
Roxanne Fraser
Marci Friesen
Michelle Rose
Eve Zuk

Teachers

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

Administrator

Kim Green

Contact ESPS

Phone 780.488.0548
Fax 780.488.0538

Parent Class

Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 9-12 at Suzuki Charter School (10720 54 Street)

Families who are new to our program are required to attend our Parent Class. This orientation workshop provides information about the Suzuki approach, tips for successful practicing, an introduction to some of the first songs in Book One, and answers to any questions that may have come up as you begin your journey as a Suzuki parent. The class is also open to families looking for a refresher class. *Note: Parents who attended the Parent Class in May do not need to attend this workshop.*

Annual General Meeting and Parent Talk

Wednesday September 24, 2014 at 7:30 PM at Suzuki Charter School

Plan to attend our AGM and Parent Talk on September 24, 2014. Guest Speaker Eileen Christensen will share stories based on her knowledge and experience as a Suzuki piano mom to 4 kids. Her talk will include anecdotes about the ups and downs of piano practice, practice tips, and advice for parents, both new and more experienced.

Prior to the Parent Talk, our Annual General Meeting will take place. In addition to reporting on our year and presenting our financial statements, we'll also hold elections for membership on our Board of Directors. We're looking for parent representatives who are keen to help shape the future direction of Edmonton Suzuki Piano School. It isn't necessary to have had previous Board experience, and whether you have been an ESPS member for one year or ten, your perspective is valuable! For more details about getting involved with the Board, speak to Kim Green at 780.488.0548.

Fall Workshop

October 25 & 26, 2014 at Suzuki Charter School

Edmonton's biggest Suzuki piano event offers ESPS students master classes with guest teachers, an enrichment class featuring instructors from the Alberta chapter of Carl Orff Canada, a Parent Session with Nicole Wilton, and an exciting new special event – student performances at an Honours Concert. This value packed program is available to ESPS members for a low registration fee of only \$30 per student! Watch for registration information and forms at your teacher's studio. Registration deadline is September 30, 2014.

Do you want to get off to a great start at lessons this term?

Load up your practice binder with fresh note-taking pages and repetition and goal charts.

Find all kinds of practice pages at our website.

www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca



Help Wanted: Casino Volunteers - January 23/24, 2015

In today's economy it's all too common for charities to approach membership with fundraising requests and pleas for volunteers. Charities will query, "**Are you available to volunteer at our casino?**" Before you answer, you think of the long shift or the late, late night, and how you're going to feel the next day at work. But you agree to do it, because you know just how much it helps out your organization. And you know that once you get there, you'll meet some interesting people, enjoy a free meal, and have a little fun, all the while lending an important hand to the organization.

And that's the truth. Every 2 years, ESPS takes its turn to provide volunteer staffing at Casino Edmonton, on Argyll Road. In exchange for 2 long days of hard work by about 50 volunteers, ESPS receives a cheque for approximately \$70,000. That's a lot of money, and it goes a long way towards subsidizing teacher training, piano equipment and maintenance, facility rentals, and costs for group classes.

But we know it's a big commitment for you. That's why a casino shift counts as your volunteer commitment for two years. Essentially, casino volunteers receive a free pass from volunteering every second year.

The dates for ESPS' next casino are Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th, and we'll be looking for volunteers to work at a variety of jobs morning, noon and night. If you chose the casino option on your volunteer form at registration time last spring, you'll be contacted shortly about your availability at this casino. If you didn't choose that option, please take the time to consider whether you might be available for this very important event. If you didn't choose the casino option, but would like to help out after all, we'd sure appreciate it.

For more information, please contact Kim at 780.488.0548

2014/2015 Calendar

September 20, 2014 *Parent Orientation Class for Beginner Families*

September 24, 2014 *Annual General Meeting and Parent Talk*

October 25 & 26, 2014 *Fall Workshop at Suzuki Charter School*

November 16, 2014 *Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall*

January 23 & 24, 2014 *ESPS Casino, Casino Edmonton, Argyll Road*

February 1, 2015 *Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall*

February 8, 22, and March 1, 2015 *Winter Recitals at Suzuki Charter School*

March 8, 2015 *ESPS at the ESO Event*

March 14, 2015 *Spring Festival at Suzuki Charter School*

April 12, 2015 *Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall*

May 2 or 3, 2015 *Groups Concert at Suzuki Charter School*

June 7 & 14, 2015 *June Recitals at Convocation Hall*

June 21, 2015 *Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall*

Welcome to Teacher Regine Maier

This fall, we are pleased to welcome our newest teacher, Regine Maier to Edmonton Suzuki Piano School.

Regine grew up playing violin and piano in a big musical family in Germany. She studied music for 7 years at universities in Frankfurt, Salzburg (Mozarteum) and Basel (graduate studies), focusing on violin performance and teaching, obtaining two degrees. After working three years full-time with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra in Egypt, she joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as a casual violinist. Since 2009 she is the concertmistress of the Concordia Symphony Orchestra.

Regine's teenage daughter attended Suzuki Charter School and is currently in book 7 of the Suzuki piano repertoire, studying with Alla Rekhson since 2004. Regine learned a lot by observing those lessons and helping her daughter with her piano practice at home.

Having previously taken her violin Book One teacher training in 2006, Regine completed her Book One piano training in Calgary with Jane Kutscher Reed. Regine will be teaching individual lessons at Suzuki Charter School and in the Stadium area of Edmonton.

Look out for Regine in the River Valley, where she loves to walk, cross-country ski and take photographs.