



TWINKLING THE IVORIES

June 2017

TAKE ON OUR SUMMER PRACTICE CHALLENGE: MAKE PRACTICE FUN THIS SUMMER!

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Summer is just about here, and when the sunny weather arrives so too does the desire to get out and enjoy picnics, festivals, family reunions, and days at the lake. It can be tough to prioritize piano practice when there are so many fun adventures to be had!

But, we don't want the hard work of students over the year to be erased by 2 months of not practicing. So why not take on our ESPS **Summer Practice Challenge**? Students receive a sheet full of fun activities and are challenged to complete at least 8 items (one a week!) over the summer break. Tasks include composing, researching composers, reviewing old favourites, and learning to play new tunes. Students can choose from a range of fun activities, and can take them on over the summer.

In September, students can present their **Summer Practice Challenge** results to their teacher, and those completing the challenge will take away a special souvenir and will be entered into a prize raffle!

Find your copy of our **Summer Practice Challenge** at your teacher's studio or at our website, edmontonsuzukipiano.ca.

ADD A MUSICAL ADVENTURE TO YOUR SUMMER!

Edmonton's summer festivals offer an incredible opportunity to experience a variety of musical genres. Share your favourites with your kids as you enjoy summertime in Edmonton!

Summer Solstice Music Festival June 21 - 25, 2017

Edmonton International Jazz Festival June 23 – July 2, 2017

Alberta PianoFest July 6 – 23, 2017

K-Days July 21 - 30, 2017

Interstellar Rodeo July 21 - 23, 2017

Blueberry Bluegrass and Country Music Festival August 4 - 6, 2017

Heritage Festival August 5 - 7, 2017

Edmonton Folk Music Festival August 10 - 13, 2017

Cariwest – Edmonton Caribbean Arts Festival August 11 - 13, 2017

Edmonton Blues Festival August 25-27, 2017

Symphony Under the Sky Festival August 31-Sept. 3, 2017

For more fun and adventure, check out these websites for great ideas:

summercitiy.ca

edmonton.ca

SUPPORTIVE SUZUKI SIBLINGS

Having 4 young children in the house with 3 of the oldest being Suzuki students, life is a song. Or 2 or 3 or 51 – simultaneously! It's not uncommon for our living room/piano room to be filled with one of 3 Suzuki music cd's blaring on the stereo in the evening while we prepare for dinner, cozy up for family reading time or a much-needed clean-up blitz. I've heard these tunes so often these past few years, I likely sing them in my sleep...and, to be honest, they aren't always my number one choice of everyday life soundtrack as a busy mom to four daughters.

As we all know, sibling life can have its ups and downs – its advantages and disadvantages. Having to share practice space means that music practice needs to be strictly scheduled and promptly carried out. "It's MY turn on the piano, "... she got to play her cd in the car yesterday...it's MY turn!", has been known to be heard from assertive lips. Conflicts and confusion can sometimes abound, but our experience of having 3 daughters, 3 lessons/week, 3 unique styles, at 3 very different stages of music education gives us a rich and unique opportunity to implement leadership skills, and a much-needed alternative response to the "Me" generation's demand for instant gratification and lack of empathy.

In the sometimes-tiresome trenches of "Twinkle B" and plunking out the left hand to "Cuckoo", both my 9-year-old, who's in book 2, and I can roll our eyes when little sister has a tantrum at the piano bench. It's easy to forget the days of exerting mental effort to form that ever-elusive lifted wrist. After all, we are onto bigger and better... 'real' songs like "_____", and finger positioning has become almost second nature. However, little sister's struggles and victories remind us all when the first child began in like manner. Now our oldest can offer to sit with her sister and encourage her through the sticky bits of those first few pieces. It was our hope that the two older girls would be able to lend a supportive hand to their respective younger sisters, and we have seen this play out progressively over this past year – and often, willingly.

Music is to be shared – to be heard by those who love you the most; music is also a builder of character in that it requires work and repetition. It might have been a simpler life if I could sit down every day and give my undivided attention to just one child's piano practice – but then our family wouldn't have had the opportunity and pleasure to use our children's burgeoning (yet imperfect) music skills as an edifying way to build patience, leadership, co-operation, and character – we can all have something that we can teach someone else, and my kids are learning this at a young age.

Rachel Dueck, ESPS Parent

MOTIVATION FOR PRACTICING, PLAYING, AND TEACHING MUSIC

When I was a teenager I chose to become a musician because of my passion for music, but also because I was in my head too much. I saw music as a way to develop my social and physical aspects, which were lagging behind my mental ones. Indeed, playing music engages the mind, soul and body in high measure.

This balance is often lacking in our computer oriented world. When my daughter started attending Suzuki Charter School in 2004, I became interested in the Suzuki method. I took my first Suzuki teacher training in 2006. The "Every Child Can" course strengthened my desire to teach: I realized that the vast benefits I had derived from my music training were something I wanted to impart to others, as a contribution to a better world. Shinichi Suzuki's idea to use the playing of an instrument to develop beautiful human beings resonates with me, as does his goal of creating community.

Recently, I was quite impressed by Megan Graham's article in American Suzuki Journal vol.44#3, titled "Changing Practice Channels". She reflects upon the reasons why students usually prefer TV and computers as opposed to playing their instrument, and she suggests that both can fulfill similar needs, provided the right approach. I extracted from this article the students' needs, grouped them, explored how they can be met (also using some content from the article), and came up with what is learned.

In conclusion, "Expanding music practice mentally, physically and emotionally is a necessary way to provide children with channels they can tune into. If children learn that learning about music is a world of infinite possibilities that resonate with them, they will return again and again to making music." (above mentioned article, p.37, 48). I see deep purpose in my job as Suzuki piano teacher.

Regine Maier, ESPS Teacher

REGINE MAIER'S MOTIVATION MATRIX

Motivation: <i>What needs are fulfilled by playing and listening to music?</i>	Activity: <i>How?</i>	Outcome: <i>What is learned?</i> <i>How does it lead to further motivation?</i>
Competence Mastery Challenge Achievement Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to music • Right way of practicing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separate hands ○ Spots ○ Slow ○ Stop and Go=Small Steps ○ All with awareness • Guidance by teacher or parent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience and persistence lead to success • How to play an instrument well • Focus • Memory • How to learn – and a love of learning • Right use of the body: posture, balance • Self-esteem
Social Interaction Attention Approval Belonging Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing a performance at recital, group lesson, home • Positive interaction parent, teacher, or other students • Playing music together at group lessons or concerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving, sharing, bonding • Responsibility, respect • Self-esteem • Teamwork, cooperation, leading and following • Comfort with performing for others
Autonomy Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input at practice sessions or lesson • Practicing alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence, problem solving, and decision making • Self-confidence
Self-Expression Immersion Creativity Fantasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticing the emotional content of music • Improvisation • Interactive practices or lessons • Striving for beautiful tone • Using imagination • Composing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music appreciation: deeper purpose • Sensitivity: access to emotions • Listening with your heart • Getting to know yourself and others • Stress relief • Self-esteem
Adventure Excitement Curiosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring different styles of music • Attending concerts • Performing in different venues, alone and with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versatility • Inspiration

THANK YOU CITY OF EDMONTON!

Edmonton Suzuki Piano School gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Edmonton through the Community Investment Operating Grant Program.

THANK YOU ESPS VOLUNTEERS!

As we end another harmonious term, ESPS offers sincere thanks to all of our excellent volunteers. Events like our ever-important casino, the Fall Workshop and our group concerts require a lot people power – and your part in that is appreciated! Thank you!

ESPS also benefitted from the help of four student interns this year: Mariana Jechicu, Alyssa Waldner, Michaelene Poworoznik, and Carol Campeau joined us and provided accounting assistance, graphic design, teacher assistance and database development. Thank you, Interns!

Finally, where would we be without the capable guidance of the ESPS Board of Directors, who meet monthly to shape our present and future. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS JUNE GRADUATES

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

Volume 1

Gabriela Buch
Jorge Buch
Zachary Chia
Owen Christensen
Gavin Chung
Ally Giesbrecht
Miles Mahabir
Jolene McAlear
Dami Oladipo
Mofe Oladunni
Edison Pheh
Jay Sabharwal
Ella Sikora
Omar Smaidi
Jadeyn Van Oene
Beatriz Wanderley

Volume 2

Jonah Christensen
Shawn Doroshenko
Olivia Guillaume
Jaidelle Hoffmann
Emmett Kenwell
Julie Lourenco-Reis
Marc Rico-Lam
Xavier Rouleau
Dahlia Smaidi
Conlan Van Oene
Matthew Zhang

Volume 3

Benjamin Davie
Linnea Johnson
Joshua Palmer
Victor Phan
Ryan Szalacsi

Volume 4

Hamish Chan
Wesley Deng
Anna Heintzman
Jannon Kong
Hailey Lothamer
Eric Mierzewski
Elena Oberg
Weiran Sun
Elise Vanden Born

*“Music is the language of the heart
without words.”*

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Parents of ESPS students are members of Edmonton Suzuki Piano School, and are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday September 27th at 7:00 PM at Suzuki Charter School. As a not-for-profit society, ESPS will report on its activities, provide financial statements, and hold elections for membership on our Board of Directors. Consider attending this meeting, and get involved with ESPS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOOK 7 GRADUATE, QUINN SWEETZIR!

ESPS congratulates Book 7 graduate, Quinn Sweetzir. Quinn recently performed works by Chopin, Debussy, Handel, Beethoven, Mozart and Grieg in his concert at Muttart Hall.

Quinn Sweetzir began his studies with Tim Eckert and Edmonton Suzuki Piano School when he was a kindergarten student. Playing piano hasn't always been easy. Over the years, Quinn has faced the challenges of overcoming difficult repertoire, finding the motivation to practice, and prevailing over his own unrealistic expectations. Despite that, Quinn is thankful for the lessons he has learned beyond a love of fine music: persistence, setting measurable goals, and facing each challenge one bar at a time.

Quinn is a student at ME LaZerte High School, where he is a member of the school jazz band. He enjoys playing hockey and baseball. Quinn is an active baseball blogger and at least one of his articles has gone viral thanks to the attention of Blue Jays starting pitcher Marcus Stroman. After graduation, he plans to study Actuarial Sciences at the University of Regina.

Quinn and his family would like to thank Tim Eckert for his support and encouragement over the years.

2017/2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

July 17-21, 2017 *River City Suzuki Piano Institute – Volume 4 Experience*

September 27, 2017 *Annual General Meeting at Suzuki Charter School*

October 21-22, 2017 *Fall Workshop at Suzuki Charter School*

November 5, 2017 *Graduation Concert at Muttart Hall*

January 28, 2018 *Graduation Concert at Muttart Hall*

February 4, 11 & 25, 2018 *Winter Recitals at PCL and Bryan Hall*

March 18, 2018 *Graduation Concert at PCL Hall*

April 21, 2018 *Spring Festival at Suzuki Charter School*

May 6, 2018 *Group Concerts at Suzuki Charter School*

June 3 & 10, 2018 *Summer Recitals*

June 17, 2018 *Graduation Concert*