

# Music Institute of Chicago

## March 2020 MIC Suzuki Sentinel

*“What is man’s ultimate direction in life? It is to look for love, truth, virtue, and beauty.” - Shinichi Suzuki*

Dear Parents,

During these uncertain times, practicing an instrument might, understandably, be the last thing on your mind. It is precisely during times of upheaval, though, that music can be its most powerful; a source of stability and comfort. We, the teachers of the Barston Suzuki Center at MIC, are here for you. Behind the scenes, we are exploring creative ways to stay connected and keep the music flowing. If you need help with practice ideas, tuning or assignments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Hang in there, everybody and keep playing!

Avi Friedlander, Director, Barston Suzuki Center at the Music Institute of Chicago

Welcome to MIC's Suzuki e-newsletter. Each month, we'll be sending you the latest news and information from MIC's Suzuki program. For more information about any of the items in this newsletter, please contact your private teacher. You may also contact Avi Friedlander, Director of the Barston Suzuki Center at [afriedlander@musicinst.org](mailto:afriedlander@musicinst.org) or Sarah Montzka, Associate Director of the Barston Suzuki Center at [smontzka@musicinst.org](mailto:smontzka@musicinst.org).

In this month's issue:

- Online Resources for Suzuki Practice Partners
- Practice Tip Spotlight
- Suzuki Sunday
- Report from MIC's Suzuki Cello Workshop
- Suzuki Family Resources
- MIC Suzuki student/faculty news
- List of February Suzuki Sunday performers
- 2020 Suzuki Events Calendar

### **Online Resources for Suzuki Practice Partners**

Inspirational Tips during Virtual Instruction.

Looking for some inspiration during this time of online instruction? Sarah Montzka, Associate Director of MIC's Barston Suzuki Center, has compiled a list of online resources including topics such as tuning your instrument; accompaniments and play-along tracks; online concerts, inspiration and livestreams; and more! Click [this link](#) to view the full list.

Need a pep talk? Check out our recent Parent Podcast, *Curveballs: Sarah's Top 5 Tips for Practicing in the Face of Unpredictable Obstacles*. Click [this link](#) to hear the podcast.

## Practice Tip Spotlight

### *What does a practice session look like?*

Carrie Anselmo, Suzuki violin:

A practice session starts with open string bowing techniques as a warm-up to get the right hand engaged. It includes starting with scales and beginning to build upon these skills. Using a metronome and different bowing patterns helps increase knowledge within the selected repertoire. Before diving into repertoire and selecting pieces for my instrument, I like to focus on etudes, double stops, shifting, and technique books that build upon sequential techniques that help both the left and right hand. I identify difficult passages, take them apart, and work out certain measures and phrases. Next, I increase the speed and techniques.

Setting clear SMART goals is the best way to work a practice session. SMART stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. When practicing, location is key for a mindful practice session as well as productive mindset. All electronics and other devices that would be distracting should be put away. At the end of each practice session, it's always fun to sit back, relax, and enjoy playing straight through the piece.

The progress made during "problem spot" practicing can be reinforced, and you'll feel a sense of accomplishment hearing changes you've made in the full context of the piece.

So let the music-making begin! You CAN make "practice makes perfect" come true for you. All it takes is a little hard work and a lot of concentration. You'll soon find just how rewarding productive practicing can be.

### **Kyra Saltman, Suzuki cello:**

A good practice session is like a delicious meal. Imagine when you practice that you are sitting down to a fancy dinner. You might have an appetizer, a soup course, a salad course, a main dish with a few sides, and a dessert. A meal like this is planned out very carefully, to make sure that there's room for everything.

When we're practicing, our "courses" are warm-ups, scales, etudes, review, new music, and sight reading. Your teacher can help you come up with which courses are right for you. For a treat, as your dessert try improvising or seeing if you can pick out the melody to a song you love. Just like a great chef plans their meals carefully, you can decide how much time you want to spend each day on each of those sections. Maybe you want to do five minutes of warm ups, five minutes of scales, ten minutes of review, and ten minutes on your new piece. Or maybe you're practicing four hours a day and you want to spend forty five minutes on each course!

Enjoy your practicing the way you enjoy your delicious meal—savor each bite, and watch how many things you can learn at once with just a little bit of work each day!

### **Suzuki Sunday**

The next Suzuki Sunday will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2020, via Zoom. Participants will enter an invited link from the host (using the host's personal ID), and perform one at a time. Students will stay for the entire concert and watch the other performers. Performers may play either with or without the accompaniment recordings at home.

- 1:00 Piano/Guitar jamboree
- 2:00 Cello/Flute jamboree
- 3:15 Solo recital
- 4:00 Violin/viola jamboree

## Report from MIC's Suzuki Cello Workshop

From February 22 to 23, cello students participated in MIC's Suzuki Cello Workshop. Participants had the opportunity to work with internationally recognized Suzuki teachers during small and large group classes, and enrichment classes. The clinicians were Pam Devenport, Nancy Hair, Carey Beth Hockett, Aaron Kaplan, Sarah Sarah Montzka, and Melissa C. Solomon de Freitas.



Aaron Kaplan conducts the cello choir



Pre-Twinkle group with Melissa C. Solomon de Freitas



Pam Devenport works on a bow hold with a student during a master class.



Carey Beth Hockett leads a piece during the play-in.



Nancy Hair works with students in a special “warm-ups” class, which explored ways to start the daily practice schedule as a cellist in today’s world.

### **Suzuki Family Resources**

For information about the MIC Suzuki program including group classes, free practice consultations, and more, please visit our Suzuki Family Resources page at [musicinst.org/suzuki-family-resources](https://musicinst.org/suzuki-family-resources)

### **MIC Suzuki student/faculty news**

- MIC Suzuki piano teachers Dr. Yumy Lee Kim and Dr. Christina Tio earned the Certificate of Achievement, Level 1 from the Suzuki Association of the Americas.
- MIC Suzuki violin teacher Rachelle Puccini made several presentations at clinics in January and February including the ILMEC Illinois Music Educators Conference in Peoria, a week-long residency in Montana with Eastman Strings as an artist and clinician, and four clinics in DuPage County as part of their annual clinic day for music educators.
- Several MIC students scored a 1 at the IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest during February. Students of Dr. Karin Addis: Eleanor Feeney, viola; Alexandre Martinez-Scarampi, violin; Louis Martinez-Scarampi, violin. Students of Erin Cano: Shreya Mohan, violin; Jack Yang, violin.
- Several of Dr. Christina Tio’s piano students won medals at the Chicago Area Music Teacher Association (CAMTA) Sonatina-Sonata Festival on Sunday, February 16 at Roosevelt University. Gold medal: Emily Hu, Edie Park, Riley Kwok, Karnik Prasad, Kashyap Prasad, Nathan Wirth. Silver: Vida Burekovic. Several of the gold medal-winning students performed on the gold medalists’ recital at St. Lutheran Church in Lake Forest on Sunday, February 26.



Micah Chan (piano student of Dr. Christina Tio) performed on the CAMTA gold medalist's recital on Sunday, February 26.



Sophia Martin (piano student of Cheryl Lim) earned a gold medal in the NSMTA Sonata-Sonatina Festival on February 9, 2020.



Ella Wimbiscus (cello student of Sanghui Wimbiscus) won the Grand Prize at the Enkor International Music Competition. In addition, Ella performed with the Oistrakh Symphony as the winner of the DePaul Concerto Competition on February 16, 2020. Ella posed for a picture with conductor Mina Zikri after the performance.

#### List of February Suzuki Sunday performers

- **Piano jamboree:** Elise Ahn, Sachi Dhar, Suvali Dhar, Emily Hu, Eric Hu, Alina Liu
- **Cello jamboree:** Eliot Ahn, Noah Chen, Emilio Colon, Sara Kaplan, Juliana Konopacki, Kevin Konopacki, Dillon Leong, Avery Oppenheim, Amit Patel, Zal Richardson, Alexander Rim, Santiago Robles-Berthier, Sebastian Vining
- **Violin/viola jamboree:** Annika Bassamboo, Blake Hartmann, Liam Hartmann, Emily Hu, Sonam Kotte, Borna Movafaghi, Mira Orhan, Winifred Orth, Alina Schultz, Zachary Slaven, Rachel Slaven, Lily Stern, Reese VanderLaan, Jack Yang

#### Solo Recital



Lavie Huang



Caleb Tang



Vida Burekovic





Kashyap Prasad



Tolga Bozkurt



Miona Burekovic



Eilidh Davis

## **2020 Suzuki Events Calendar**

**Please note that all event dates are currently pending due to the COVID-19 closure.**

### **Suzuki Level Graduation Recitals**

The graduation ceremony has been postponed to a later date. Suzuki program administrators will create a recital montage from the graduation recordings on file and send a link of the video to all participants.

### **Suzuki Sunday via Zoom (Twinkle Graduation)**

Sunday, April 19, 2020

### **Mixed Instrument Jamborees – Evanston East Room 9 at 3:00 & 4:00 pm**

Sunday, June 7, 2020

### **Suzuki Festival Concerts (Nichols Concert Hall, Evanston East Campus)**

- Saturday May 16, 2020
  - Cello Rehearsal: 9:00 am
  - Cello Concert: 11:30 am
  - Flute Rehearsal: 1:00 pm
  - Guitar Rehearsal: 1:00 pm, **Room 9**
  - Guitar Concert: 2:00 pm
  - Piano Concert: 3:00 pm
  - Piano Concert: 4:15 pm
  - Piano Concert: 5:30 pm
- Sunday May 17, 2020
  - Flute Concert: 12:30 pm
  - Violin/Viola rehearsal: 2:00 pm
  - Violin/Viola Concert: 4:30 pm

### **100-Day Challenge Celebration**

Saturday June 6, 2020 Time and Location TBD