

Music Institute of Chicago

March 2018 MIC Suzuki Sentinel

"Man has been given the good fortune of a powerful life force and limitless possibilities." - Shinichi Suzuki

Greetings, Suzuki families! 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 or Sarah Montzka, Associate Director of the Barston Suzuki Center at smontzka@musicinst.org.

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Suzuki Sunday

Our next Suzuki Sunday will take place on April 22 in **Nichols Concert Hall** at the **Evanston East campus**. The jamborees will include Twinkle Graduation performances. For more information, please contact your private teacher.

- 1:00 Piano/guitar jamboree & Twinkle Graduation
- 2:00 Cello/bass/flute jamboree & Twinkle Graduation
- 3:15 Solo recital (by teacher recommendation)
- 4:00 Violin/viola jamboree & Twinkle Graduation

Teacher Spotlight: Maria Schwartz

The following is an excerpt of an interview with Maria Schwartz. To read the full interview on MIC's website, please click [here](#).

Maria joined MIC as a flute teacher in 2016

What led you to become a Suzuki teacher?

Part of why I became a Suzuki teacher was due to my own Suzuki experience. I joined Berta Frank's flute studio during my third year of playing flute which helped strengthen my dedication to practicing and expand my listening skills. Later in college, I realized that dictation, sight singing, and quickly picking up melodies were awesome skills that were emphasized during my musical upbringing, specifically my Suzuki lessons.

I actually signed up for Suzuki training after I began teaching beginners. I realized that I felt unprepared even after hundreds of lessons myself and pedagogy classes in college. It bothered me that I didn't remember much about the pedagogy and practice methods from the instruction I received at a young age. A few colleagues suggested training and through this I also remembered more about my lessons with Berta. It was amazing to learn many new techniques for specifically teaching beginners which have continued to inspire me.

Register Now for Parents As Partners Online

Parents as Partners Online, presented by the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA), has over 50 video, audio, and transcribed talks for parents and teachers. This series of short online videos for Suzuki parents and teachers will address such Suzuki-related topics as parent-teacher communication, the teen perspective, character development through music, and many practice games for all!

Please contact your private lesson teacher to find out how you can register now and gather fresh ideas on numerous Suzuki-related topics! To visit Parents As Partners Online, please [click here](#).

How it Works

- The SAA will email you with instructions on how to access Parents as Partners Online.
- New video lectures will be added each Monday, and the SAA will email them to you.
- Videos can be watched on any web-enabled device: desktop and laptop computers, smartphones, and tablets—including iPhones and iPads.
- Audio only “podcast style” versions can be accessed by clicking the “Podcast” button at the top of any Parents as Partners Online page.
- Transcripts can be found through a link in the information attached to each video
- Once posted, all videos can be watched online at any time until October 15, 2018.

Images from MIC’S Suzuki Cello Workshop

In February, Suzuki students from MIC and across the Chicagoland area 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.



Clinician Nancy Hair works with MIC student Emilio Colon.



Pam Devenport teaches a technique class.



Cello students join together for a play-in.



Cello clinicians share a smile at the workshop. Left to right: Avi Friedlander, Melissa Solomon de Freitas, Pam Devenport, Cary Beth Hockett, Nancy Hair

MIC Suzuki student/faculty news

- Students from MIC's Third Coast Suzuki Strings program attended MIC's Suzuki violin workshop in January. Students of Karin Addis: Jayvon Brown, Ayana Parker. Students of Carrie Schrader: Donyale Barber, Dazonnie Smith, Dajour Smith.
- Hannah Cheung (cello student of Julia Wen) earned a perfect score at the IMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest on Feb 3.
- Nicole Daniels (flute student of Meret Bitticks and graduating senior) was selected to play for the Robert Langevin (NY Philharmonic) master class at the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) Conference in May.
- Oliver Mah (cello student of Nina Wallenberg) performed the Vivaldi Concerto in C for Cello, RV 399 with the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra for their Young People's Concert on February 24.
- Noah Kim and Jayden Kim (students of Yumy Kim) won second place as a piano duo at the Junior Division of the International American Protege Competition and will perform in Carnegie Hall on June 23, 2018. In addition, Noah Kim was a winner at the DePaul Concerto Competition (Junior Division) and will perform with the Oistrakh Symphony on March 25. Jayden Kim received an Honorable Mention with Distinction.
- Matthew Hahn (student of Christina Tio), Noah Kim (student of Yumy Kim), and Holden Mui (Suzuki graduate and student of Kate Nir) were selected by audition to perform at the Keyboard Departmental master class with Professor Christopher Harding on February 11 at Nichols Concert Hall.
- Flute teacher Meret Bitticks created a video (four minutes long) for the SAA Parents as Partners entitled "Life After Lessons".
- Piano teacher Yumy Kim served as a piano master class clinician at the Denison University Suzuki Winter Fest in Ohio from January 19-20.
- Piano teacher Christina Tio has accepted an invitation from the SAA to serve as a piano master class clinician at the SAA Conference 2018 in Minneapolis this coming May. Christina shares that she feels "very honored and deeply humbled to have been asked." In addition, Christina's students Matthew and Michael Hahn have been selected by audition to perform in the student master classes at the SAA.
- Several MIC Suzuki piano students won medals at the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association (CAMTA) Sonata-Sonatina Festival 2018, on February 4

- Gold medal - Students of Christina Tio: Audrey Chan, Daniel Chapman, Margaret Duda-Anderson, Sophia Lee, Ethan Riddle. Students of Yumy Kim: Elise Ahn, Jayden Kim, Noah Kim, Ethan Lin, Alina Liu
- Silver medal - Students of Christina Tio: Darya Chapman, Suvali Dhar, Nina Wedge
- Several MIC Suzuki piano students won medals at the North Shore Music Teachers Association (NSMTA) Sonata-Sonatina Festival 2018, on February 11
 - Gold medal - Students of Kate Nir: Zachary Gerber, Jaxon Lau, Holden Mui (Suzuki graduate), Christina Rim, Alexandra Zhu. Students of Christina Tio: Micah Chan, David Dai, Tiffany Dai, Matthew Hahn, Michael Hahn,
 - Silver medal: Students of Kate Nir: Jacob Matten, Everett Tong. Students of Arlene Stokman: Shabnam Thakrar, Amel Uzicanin. Students of Christina Tio: Alex Acimovic, Karnik Prasad, Kashyap Prasad, Ray Wang, Viviann Wang



- Students of Christina Tio performed in the NSMTA Gold Medalists recital on Feb 18, at St. James Lutheran Church in Lake Forest. L to R: Ray Wang, Matthew Hahn, Michael Hahn, Micah Chan, (Christina Tio), Tiffany Dai.



- Tess Malia (piano student of Arlene Stokman) presented a Suzuki Piano Book 1 recital at her home. Tess and her mom also performed a duet as an encore.

List of February Suzuki Sunday performers

- **2:00 pm jamboree:** Auren Boynton, Caius Boynton, Liam Cuasay, Luke Cuasay, Helena Dube, Emily Hu, Margaret Lin, Adele Mathieu, Nina Wedge
- **3:00 pm jamboree:** Michael Cerimele, Guhan Chandramouli, Hannah Cheung, Sachi Dhar, Suvali Dhar, Ilana Fisher, Lillian Hunsader, Merrill Kaplowitz, Shreya Mohan, Amit Patel, Advita Ray, Henry Tong, Ingrid Updegraff, Simon Updegraff, Sebastian Vining, Ella Wimbiscus
- **4:00 pm jamboree:** Tolga Bozkurt, Elidh Davis, Ella Feeney, Bowen Gao, Hannah Gao, Adelyn Henderson, Mikaela Joo, Oliver Mah, Lily Stern

2018 Suzuki Events Calendar

- **Suzuki Graduation Concert (Nichols Concert Hall - Evanston East)**
Sunday, April 8 – 3-5 p.m.
- **Suzuki Sunday (Nichols Concert Hall - Evanston East)**
April 22, 2018 (Includes Twinkle Graduations)
- **Suzuki Festival Concerts May 12 & 19 (Nichols Concert Hall – Evanston East)**
Please plan to arrive 30 minutes in advance of all rehearsal and concert start times.

Saturday, May 12

9-11 a.m. Cello Rehearsal
 11:30-12:30 p.m. Cello Concert
 1:00 p.m. Guitar Concert (guitar rehearsal Friday afternoon)
 2:30 p.m. Flute Rehearsal
 3:30 p.m. Flute Concert
 4:30-5:30 p.m. Piano Concert
 5:30-6:30 p.m. Piano Concert
 6:30-7:30 p.m. Piano Concert

Saturday, May 19

9:45 a.m. Violin/Viola students arrive for tuning
 10:30 a.m. Violin/Viola Concert

Save the date!

2018 Chicago Suzuki Institute, June 30 - July 8

Information available at <https://www.musicinst.org/csi>

- Student Institute: July 1 - 6
- Chamber Music Program: June 30 - July 6
- Advanced Program: June 30 - July 6

The Suzuki Parent Association:

1. Helps the Suzuki faculty organize and execute events such as workshops and festival concerts.
2. Provides opportunities for Suzuki families to connect and socialize.

Interested in joining? Please contact Sarah Montzka at smontzka@musicinst.org.