

Burlington Suzuki School of Music

Newsletter

Summer 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE BSA BOARD AND TEACHERS

Summer 2020

Hello Everyone,

The video lessons have been awesome and extremely effective. We thank all of you for participating. At times, they require more parental involvement than usual, especially where the younger students are concerned. We want to extend our appreciation to all the parents for not missing a heartbeat and diving right in.

Also, the video lessons require our older students to really LISTEN, CONCENTRATE, and be more patient when new techniques are being taught. We are all so very impressed at how they are rising to the occasion.

For all of the above we want to say THANK YOU in the biggest way possible!!! Progress is still being made.... the extra effort is paying off. COVID is not stopping us!!!

The BSA Board has recently announced that, for everyone's safety, we will continue with virtual learning this fall. Please see the recent email from the BSA for more information.

In the meantime, hope you enjoy the beautiful summer weather and stay well.

'WHERE LOVE IS DEEP, MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED'

S. Suzuki



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Visit us at
burlingtonsuzuki.ca

HELP WANTED

The BSA relies on volunteers to help keep costs down.

We presently need a volunteer to help with the registrar and treasury (board position). We meet once a month for about an hour.

We also need a volunteer coordinator (non-board position).

Please consider donating your time and contact Sharon Edmonds if you'd like to help.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

We are extremely grateful to have Lori Weise-Kelly as our Website Coordinator. The site is full of useful info including an up-to-date calendar of events, group schedules, useful links, photos, and much more.

Visit us at burlingtonsuzuki.ca

SUMMER GOALS

By Charlotte Cantin

Summer time: sunshine, warm weather, time outside and hopefully a bit more relaxing than the busyness of the school year. As a young student, I couldn't wait for all the free time that summer guaranteed! I couldn't wait to be outside and play with my friends, and when my mom told me I only had to practice every other day, that made it even better!

As a teacher, I look forward to some down time as well. I can take time to reflect on the previous year, invest in professional and personal development and work on projects around the house. My registrations for the next school year are filed and most of my students have signed up for a few summer lessons.

So what does a family do with their musical journey in the season of summer? And especially the summer of 2020? Things have been so different over the past few months that hopefully we can all at least spend more time outside! Maybe some camping, cottaging, barbequing and marshmallow roasting will fill plenty of time. These activities create wonderful moments and lasting memories that will be cherished for years to come.

How do we fit music into our busy, yet relaxing summer schedules in a pleasant and positive way? I would suggest sitting down as

a family to make a plan and do some goal setting. This is an excellent idea to discuss with your child's teacher before anything is carved in stone. Perhaps you can create a fun chart to help with sticking to a number of practice days (like every other day, or certain days of the week). Perhaps the goal can be to listen to the repertoire recordings for an hour every day, or practice six review songs a day, or for students who read music to do a summer sight reading challenge. Other ideas could be to arrange home recitals for neighbours, outdoor recitals for those with portable instruments, a ZOOM concert to share with family or friends who need to stay isolated, or make a video to send to family and friends. Be creative and involve your children in the process so they can take some ownership in the decision making. Encourage your children to plan on writing down their experiences to include in our fall newsletter! The current situation certainly prevents us from many of our usual activities, but we can use a growth mindset to find alternative opportunities!

Whatever you decide to do this summer, remember to include regular practicing and listening and then September will be an easy transition back into the swing of things. It may not always be easy to make practicing and listening happen when the sun is warm and shining, but the long term benefits are well worth the effort...and maybe can be rewarded with an ice-cream cone.

PRACTICE SPEECH

By Alexa Kampen.

“Lex, get in the car! We have to go to your first piano lesson today!”

Piano lessons? When did this come about? My four-year-old self jumped into the car.

“I’m going to be the greatest piano player ever, right mom? When I start playing I’m going to be the best! As soon as I touch the piano I’m going to be really good, right mom? Mom, do you think that...”

We had arrived. Strange house, I thought. I walked inside, who’s this lady? Strange teacher. I sat to take off my shoes and realized I was being licked. Strange dog.

The lesson passed by quickly. I don’t remember most of it, what I do remember is we drove home, walked inside, and the first words out of my mom’s mouth were, “Time to practice...”

And so began countless hours of sitting at the piano, week after week, month after month, year after year. Practice, practice, practice, dear audience, is what I will be talking to you about today.

Nobody is born with a natural ability to be perfect at something without any practicing. I didn’t master “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” on try one, two, thirty-nine, three hundred and four. Some days I would groan and complain when my mom told me to start playing. Other days, I would avoid her so that she wouldn’t see me and be reminded that I needed to practice. Most of my sessions included some crying. Nobody ever said this was going to be easy!

There is a theory by Psychology Professor, J. R. Hayes, that to be a master at something, you must practice at it for 10,000 hours. Not even Mozart who is considered a prodigy, magically sat down at the piano one day and played beautifully. He was born into a musical family, started playing as a toddler and was constantly surrounded by music. His skills increased over time.

Gaining a skill is mostly about repetition. In my ten years of piano my teacher has come up with many methods to try to make my lesson more fun. She usually still asks me to pick a card from a deck and

then play a trouble spot over and over again to match the number on the card till a technique is perfected.

No matter which way you put it, it’s still practice.

Some of the greatest sport’s heroes of all time, have dedicated many hours a day to their game. Young Wayne Gretzky skated on his backyard rink, improving his skills, his skating, his shooting, and now he will forever be remembered as “The Great One”.

I am not saying that there aren’t going to be a few bumps on the road... nobody is perfect. It’s okay to make mistakes. In high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basket-ball team and didn’t make it. This didn’t discourage him, it kindled the practice fire - he wanted to become better.

I have been discouraged many times playing piano especially when I kept making the same mistake, or when I felt that others were better at it than I was. But it’s not about comparing. Each person has their own musical journey, and we learn at different rates...

Take recitals for example, one of the teachers would announce:

“And finally, Nathan, performing “Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D Minor, by Bach.” Nathan, the grand finale, would sweep the crowd away with his show stopping pieces and every time he played I felt a tinge, (or tidal wave) of jealousy.

He is now studying university level piano at age fourteen so he’s no longer performing at my music school’s recitals. I heard though that he is known to practice up to five hours a day, so it’s no wonder he’s so good!

The key to practice is not to give up, and don’t slow down. Keep trying and failing and trying again. That’s what practice is, learning from our mistakes.

“Have a good lesson Lex!”

“Thanks mom, see you in a bit,” I walk up the driveway to a familiar house.

“Hey Alexa! Ready for your lesson?” a familiar teacher asks. A familiar dog licks me as I take off my shoes.

“Sure am,” I respond with a smile, “I’ve been practicing.”

GRADUATES

November 2018

VIOLIN

Matthew Matteo, Bk 1
Janserey Hartnup, Bk 2

PIANO

Rowan Plante, Bk 1
Rogan Moffat, Bk 1
Alex Black, Bk 1
Abby Morosin, Bk 2

CELLO

Sara Billard, Bk 2
Maliha Mann, Bk 2

February 2019

VIOLIN

Tania Carrescia, Bk 4

PIANO

Jasmine Hartnup, Bk 1
Carleigh Niles, Bk 1
Claire Islip, Bk 1
Brayden Carusone, Bk 3

CELLO

Adrianna Lulich, Bk 2
Arihant Mann, Bk 3
Gavin Lulich, Bk 3

April 2019

VIOLIN

Lauren Waller, Bk 1
Declan Hammond, Bk 1

May 2019

VIOLIN

Janserey Hartnup, Bk 3
Eli Plante, Bk 2

PIANO

Sophia Cino-Zarco, Bk 2
Amaan Warsi, Bk 1
Aaron Kelly, Bk 3

CELLO

Greg Cuzen, Bk 1

November 2019

PIANO

Jewell Bouwman, Bk 2
Senna Carusone, Bk 3
Teague Carson, Bk 3
Emily Lenko, Bk 1
Anousha Tavokoli, Bk 2
Andy Wang, Bk 2

February 2020

VIOLIN

Ayla Dawoud, Bk 2
River McKhool, Bk 1
Jared Mikitzel, Bk 1

PIANO

Allison Gauley Bk 1
Luke Hillis Bk. 4
Maddie Hynek Bk. 1
Kenna Smallegange Bk. 2
Chantal Vanderkruk Bk. 1
Bruce Zhou Bk. 2

CELLO

Angela Don, Bk 4

100 DAY PRACTICE CLUB

May 2018

Christian Matthews
Emily Lenko
Kiran Leppe

May 2019

Jasmine Hartnup

Jansery Hartnup
Max Niemiec
Rosha Tavakoli
Anna Kiar
Kiran Leppe
Alex Black
Leah Black
Aerin Black

December 2019

Audrey Cannon
Bruce Zhou
Kole Harris
Max Niemiec

EARLY START PROGRAM



The BSA offers a fun and interactive program in musical instruction for babies and toddlers which focuses on preparing children, ages 0-3, for lesson readiness.

This course, based on the Suzuki Early Childhood Education program, uses a well-paced series of traditional songs and rhymes as stimulus for movement, singing, and percussion playing.

It runs Saturdays, September to June from 11am to noon. Fees are \$285, which includes a booklet and Suzuki listening CD.

For more information and to register, contact Sharon Edmonds at 905-630-5162 or

BURLINGTON SUZUKI MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Suzuki talent education is to recognize the unique worth and dignity of each individual;

to be dedicated to the philosophy that all children have potential and can develop ability;

to provide an environment that will stimulate development of musical skill in young people;

to offer teaching that divides the skills to be learned into the smallest possible units, each of which is mastered;

to provide the highest standards of musical performance for students to hear and to model;

to provide performance opportunities for students;

to stimulate appreciation of and enthusiasm for the performing arts;

to provide training and encouragement for parents of students engaged in music study;

and to provide educational programs to continue to challenge students as their skills advance and their musicianship matures.