

# Catching Up with CCSA Grads: Jeremy Peterson

Learning to make music with others through the CCSA is a life-changing experience for many of the young people who come through our program. Here, alumnus Jeremy Peterson talks about why CCSA was important to him.

"I took weekly violin lessons with the CCSA beginning in kindergarten and continuing all the way through the end of high school. Throughout that time, I practiced violin on a daily basis. I played in group concerts when I was younger, and in high school I was part of a three-person chamber group supported by the CCSA.

"The social side of the violin program also was important to me. By performing on the violin from an early age, I became comfortable in front of crowds. I made many of my best friends through the violin, and I remain close with a number of them today. Not all of the people I got to know were my peers in age; when I was a senior in high school, the CCSA made it possible for me to teach a beginning violin student. This gave me my first experience formally teaching anything, and also provided a great opportunity to get to know a young boy.

"More than a decade later, I still play the violin, but the general musical skills I gained have proven even more useful to me than my violin skills. In college, I took up singing, studying with a voice teacher and voice coach, and singing in the college chorus and in an a cappella group. Later, I sang with a Gilbert and Sullivan Troupe in New York City and then with the paid church choir of Harvard University.

"The Copper Country Suzuki Association has become a highly successful institution that, over the past few decades, has established a strong tradition of quality teaching in the Keweenaw."

*Jeremy graduated from Harvard Law School in 2006, and now works as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., in their environmental law unit. He and his family live in Arlington, Virginia.*

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#### Copper Country Suzuki Association

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1971 – 2009

38 Years of Music Making

# Musical Musings

Spring  
2009



Dear Friends,

Back in December, a group of CCSA teachers and students performed at the annual Poor Artists' Sale in Calumet. Playing at the event is a CCSA tradition, which goes back at least ten years. I observed a beginning violinist who was hesitant to play a piece with the group. Wendy Larson, her teacher, stood behind her and encouraged her to try. After successfully playing the piece, the young girl turned to Wendy and exclaimed, "I did it!"

I am proud to be part of a group that makes such a moment possible. Thank you for all you do to help the CCSA.

*Susan*

Susan Dlutkowski  
 CCSA Board President



**2nd Annual CCSA Family Talent Show • Chapel of St. Matthew, Finlandia U.**  
 April 26 • 2:00pm

**Senior Recital, Emma Dlutkowski, violin • The Bluffs**  
 May 3 • 3:00pm

**Advanced Student Recital • The Bluffs**  
 May 6 • 6:30pm

**CCSA Spring Recital • McArdle Theater, MTU**  
 May 17 • 2:00pm



## Student Spotlight: The Dix Family

The Dix family, from Baraga, has three students in CCSA: Cassie, Samuel, and Sarah. Their parents are Dave and Beth.

### **What is your age, what instrument(s) do you play, and how long have you played?**

Cassie: I'm 15 and I've played violin for 6 years. I also play piano and trumpet.

Sam: I'm 11. I've played cello for 3 years, along with piano and trumpet.

Sarah: I'm 9 and I've been playing violin for 2 years. I also play piano.

### **Do you have a favorite type of music to play?**

Cassie: I enjoy fiddle music most.

### **What do you find most difficult?**

Cassie: I find counting certain rhythms most challenging.

Sam: The extended positions are the most difficult.

### **Do you have other interests or hobbies?**

Cassie: I enjoy downhill skiing, skating, swimming, and shopping.

Sam: I like fishing and playing baseball.

Sarah: I like figure skating, playing basketball, baseball, and swimming.

### **Is the rest of your family musical? Do you play your instruments together?**

Dave & Beth: They have an older brother, Jordan, who is 17 and plays the alto saxophone in the L'Anse High School Band.

Beth: I also played the saxophone in the L'Anse School Band.

Dave: I've played the trumpet for 33 years and also am a self-taught piano player. The kids and I have played along together as a family in church, and at the county fair, community events, nursing homes, and recent KYSO concerts. My grandfather, John Dix, played the clarinet and piano. He played in bands and taught music in the Houghton area.

Beth: I was also raised in a family where there was a strong emphasis on music. My dad, Garry Tollefson, played the baritone and sang in gospel quartets for many years.

Dave and Beth: Music has brought our family much joy and enrichment. We are thankful for CCSA and the wonderful opportunity to take quality lessons from professional instructors. It really is a wonderful program that we are fortunate to be a part of. We know that the investment in this program will make a positive difference in Cassie, Samuel, and Sarah's lives.



Cassie, Sam, and Sarah

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## Thanks to Our Donors

We sincerely thank the following people, businesses, and units of government who have recently donated to CCSA: Judy & Steve Albee • Lois Berg • David Bezotte • Paul & Anita Campbell • Jeanenne Dlutkowski • Ted Fredrickson • City of Hancock • Mary Haller & Larry Carroll • Mary Harkins • Lois Jambekar • John and Sherry Jaszczak • Lilliana Kostinski • Sharon Levine & Dana Richter (continued on p. 4)