

## Catching Up with CCSA Grads: Jessica L. (Dakota) Chandler

"I was six years old when I began taking violin lessons, too young to see the vast impact that music would have on my life. I will graduate from Michigan Tech in a few weeks and when I look back now, I see just how much the Suzuki program has helped me along the way. It takes a lot of hard work and discipline to stick with any sort of program, especially when you're eleven years old and all your friends are playing outside while you're practicing your instrument. All that time spent practicing pays off when you're standing on the stage performing the solo piece you've put your heart and soul into.

"Many times I wanted to give up my violin and be 'normal' like all the other children my age, but my father would always tell me, 'Jess, if you quit now, you'll regret it. You don't want to be the person who *used to play* the violin.' I didn't know how right he was until I grew up and heard many people say those very words. All the friends I had as a child have grown up and we've all moved on, but my passion for music and my instrument has remained the same throughout the years. I have made lifelong friends and several wonderful memories, all with my instrument by my side.

"It hasn't been easy to stick to my studies and get my degree, but when times got tough I thought of all the things I have accomplished with my instrument and it helped me realize there isn't much I couldn't do with some hard work and determination. As I end my career as a student, I would like to thank my parents for helping me realize how disappointed I'd be without music in my life, and thanks to Libby Meyer, who made my violin lessons something to look forward to."

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### Copper Country Suzuki Association

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CCSA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

### The Joy of Music: CCSA Violinist Eva Weissbach Nemiroff



# CCSA • 1971 – 2010 39 Years of Changing Lives through Music Musical Musings

Spring  
 2010



Dear Friends,

Since September, CCSA students and teachers have performed for nearly 3,000 people in the Copper Country, at events in schools, senior residences, the library, at the Community Arts Center, Finlandia University, and Michigan Tech. Knowing that people, and their instruments, do travel (cellos less easily), I asked about ten students where they have played beyond our community. The list expanded to the following locations and venues: Lower Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Wyoming, Ecuador, Ireland, Korea, at weddings, banquets, churches, a synagogue, a school talent show, family get-togethers, 90th and 100th birthday parties, a county fair, on an island in Lake Huron, over the phone, and on YouTube.

CCSA students proudly play their music for many people and for many occasions. Thank you for your support of our music, which starts here in the Copper Country and is heard near and far!

*Susan*

Susan Dlutkowski  
 CCSA Board President



### 2010-11 CCSA Fun Cards Now on Sale!

Fun Cards give you great discounts at 19 area businesses. Save on sandwiches, coffee, sporting goods, video rentals, pizza, and more! At only \$10, CCSA Fun Cards quickly pay for themselves ... and your purchase supports our local economy and the CCSA! Good from May 2010 through April 2011. You can buy a Fun Card from any Suzuki parent or by calling the CCSA office at 487-3606.





## Student Spotlight: Kora Johnson

### How many years have you played the violin?

Since I was 3 years old. About 3 years.

### What do you enjoy about playing your instrument? What do you think about when you are playing your violin?

I like playing with other people, especially at festivals. I like very high notes and I love Reading Orchestra. When I play, I think about what the songs are about.

### Do you have a favorite song to play, or a favorite type of music to play?

My favorite song is always the song I am working on. I like to play fiddle music.

### Does anyone else in your family play an instrument? If so, do you play together?

Both of my parents play an instrument. My dad plays the drums. My mom plays the clarinet. Sometimes we will make up songs and my parents play the beat on hand drums.

### What other activities do you enjoy?

Biking, pogo sticking, playing with friends, reading, camping, swimming, helping in the kitchen, gymnastics, drawing, painting, climbing trees, swinging on my tire swing, playing ladder golf, and sleeping in late.



Kora in concert



## Suzuki Milestones!

Congratulations to these students who recently completed a Suzuki book or achieved another milestone:

- Grace Bergstrom — Book 2, violin
- Rebecca Bergstrom — Book 3, violin
- Micah Cavaleri — Book 1, viola
- Won Young Choi — Book 2, violin
- Anna Ensminger — Book 3, violin
- Liam Hrabinsky — Book 2, violin
- Brandy Kinnunen — Book 1, violin
- Bria Neves — Book 2, violin
- Meredith Raasio — Book 1, violin
- Anton Smirnov — Book 2, violin

And special recognition goes to our graduating seniors:

- Adam Campbell-Olszewski
- Julia Feeley
- Kelly Suvanto

Congratulations, everyone!



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