

Catching Up with CCSA Grads: Myra (Huuki) Moyryla

I joined the Suzuki violin program with my sister when I was in third grade and she was in kindergarten. My mother's love for music and her enthusiasm for the new Suzuki violin program gave us the opportunity to begin instruction with Rosemary Remington. I had the privilege of enjoying a half-hour time-out at school for my lesson in the Houghton Elementary School board room once a week. When our family entered the end of the mining era at White Pine Copper Mine, where my father was an electrician, Rosemary quietly offered to continue lessons to my sister and I in exchange for some firewood that my family makes and delivers in the summer. From this arrangement we had three extra years of lessons we couldn't have afforded otherwise. I learned a lot about music from Rosemary, but perhaps I learned even more about compassion and generosity from this great teacher. Best wishes for the continuation of this great music program.



Myra (right) with sister Barb, 1977

Suzuki Milestones!

These students recently completed a Suzuki cello book: Erin Lehnert – Book 1 • Elise Cheney Makens – Book 6 • Erin McKenzie – Book 6 • Margaret Ensminger – Book 1 • Daren McKellar – Book 1 • Daniel Twining – Book 1 • Samuel Dix – Book 4

Welcome New Students!

Evie Austin, Sara Neva ...and eleven Cello Class participants!

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Copper Country Suzuki Association

P.O. Box 161
Houghton, Michigan 49931-0161
906.487.3606
www.coppercountrysuzuki.org

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



CCSA • 1971 – 2012

Over 40 Years of Changing Lives through Music

Musical Musings

Spring
2012



Upcoming Events

Spring Concert & 40th Anniversary Celebration •
Finnish-American Heritage Center, Hancock
May 12 • 2:00pm

Bergonzi String Quartet Children's Concert (free) •
Portage Lk. District Library
June 23 • 1:00pm

Finnish Folk Music Camp (with children's program) •
Finlandia U. campus •
www.finlandia.edu/
finnish-music-camp
July 17-19

Dear Friends,

As we finish out our 40th anniversary year, the CCSA leadership has been reflecting on the past, evaluating our current program, and making plans to take our organization forward into the next 40 years and beyond. One of the things that remains central for us is providing quality musical instruction and performance opportunities in our community at an affordable rate. State grant support has dramatically declined over the past ten years, and we have come to rely much more on fundraising and donations to keep our costs low. As a board, it is our desire to increase our financial aid opportunities, even as we find it necessary to increase our fees to keep up with costs. I'm pleased to say that this past year we awarded about \$2300 in financial aid to 12 families in our program. For many, it is this aid that makes music lessons possible, even within a tight budget.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all of you who have supported our programs, financially or otherwise. If you have bought a Fun Card, sent in a donation or helped us publicize our programs in the community, you have helped bring music into the life of a child, and that is no small thing.

"Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart."
— Shinichi Suzuki

All donations sent as a response to this newsletter will go directly toward student financial aid. Thanks for considering a gift to celebrate our anniversary.

Maria

Maria Bergstrom
CCSA Board President



Members of the Parents' Class performing with their children at the Holiday Concert



Student Spotlight: Daniel Lauritsen

Daniel Lauritsen, CCSA's recipient of the 2012 Stark Scholarship award, started to play the cello at instructor Maggie Twining's "Cello Club" last summer. Recalling his first impressions of the cello, Daniel says, "It looked cool! You could play with a bow!" He found out how "cool" the cello really was and decided to commit to lessons. In just a few months he was up and running, playing in cello group class and in Reading Orchestra.

Learning the cello does come with its challenges. The biggest challenge Daniel says is "my fingers—they are too wide. I play wrong notes: B-flat and others, too." Another challenge for Daniel and his family is the commute from Baraga, a 45-minute drive. One time the cello didn't make it into the car. And during winter break, one of Daniel's three dogs ate the rosin for his bow (and you can't get replacement rosin easily in Baraga.) Those dogs sure keep practicing interesting, though. "My dogs wrestle by me when I play," reports Daniel.

Daniel also plays his cello for his family, friends, and church. His favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me," which he just learned and performed at church. He also travels with the cello: "I play at my grandmas' houses." When Daniel is not playing his cello he enjoys "Legos, basketball, baseball, and reading a lot of books."

Daniel's parents appreciate the opportunity for him to study cello. His mom says, "We always wanted Daniel to learn an instrument, neither of us know how to play one and wanted more for Daniel. [In] homeschooling, I always read how great it was for children to learn music, so that was a big push for us to start him in lessons! We love that music teaches him discipline and responsibility in a way that a classroom never could."



The Reading Orchestra cello section, Daniel L. at far right, rehearse "Peanut Butter & Celli."



KYSO members about to take the stage



Carrie Dlutkowski, graduating senior, performs with KYSO



Graduating senior Cassie Dix



The Joy of Music: KYSO cellists

The Stark Scholarship: Helping the Next Generation

Bill and Patricia Stark, from Baraga County, appreciate how much classical music instruction through the CCSA benefitted their family. So they started a yearly scholarship to a young person or persons interested in studying violin, viola, or cello using the Suzuki method. The Starks' children were all actively involved in music growing up. Bill said that he and his wife Patricia were impressed with the CCSA's program and it proved to be a perfect fit for their youngest son, Joel, who studied violin for about 10 years. "We all like music," Bill said. "Music helps you appreciate so much more of what life has to offer."

With the decline in funding to the arts and cuts to music programs in the schools, the Starks chose to make a difference locally by creating a scholarship fund managed by the Keweenaw Community Foundation. The scholarship is open to students in the Houghton, Keewenaw and Baraga counties, with special consideration to students in Baraga County. "Driving to lessons and rehearsals from Baraga County to Houghton takes commitment, not to mention the cost of gas," Bill related. Bill and Patricia trust that the Stark scholarship fund will help foster the benefits of music instruction to young string students in the area. "We hope the students take from this the experience to be able to participate in music and maybe get into the youth orchestra," Patricia said.



P.O. Box 161
Houghton, Michigan 49931-0161
906.487.3606
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- purchase instruments
- offer scholarships
- keep tuition affordable