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F u n t a s t e a s

A Newsletter of Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore

From the President

Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore (STEAS) is 3 and we are grateful to all parents, teachers, volunteers, supporters and sponsors for your support through the years, without which we will not be what we are today.

Being the only local association recognized by Asian Region Suzuki Association (ARSA) and the International Suzuki Association (ISA), we are humbled by the efforts and commitment of our students and parents, for their participation in STEAS activities throughout the year, including our piano and violin camps.

This year, we celebrated the achievements of our budding pianists and violinists with our very 1st Graduation Concert. In addition, we also participated and performed at the Suzuki Conference 2018 in Manila, as part of our commitment to the ARSA family.

Our local Suzuki family continues to grow and we hope more teachers and students will benefit from the method.

Here's to wishing all happy holidays and a Happy New Year!

P.S. remember to keep practising your instrument while enjoying your holidays! 😊

Best Wishes

Una Lauw

President

Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore
(STEAS)



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Suzuki Talent Education
Association Singapore

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'Music is the language
of the heart without words'

- Dr Shinichi Suzuki



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A Parent's Experience at the 7th Asia Region Suzuki Conference "Art to Heart" in Manila, The Philippines

Chikako Yamawaki

We have been learning the violin through the famous Suzuki method for about a year and our teacher Ms Una Lauw introduced us to the Asia Region Suzuki Conference held in Manila, The Philippines from 2-4 July 2018. We were beginners then and unsure initially whether to join the camp. We also didn't know what to expect from participating in it. In the end, we took our teacher's advice and went for the 3-day camp. We are delighted that we did!

The Camp was Organized by the theme of "Art to Heart"

The children were divided into groups by their book levels and practised the whole day with friends who are learning the Suzuki method from different countries. Most of the students were from Manila, but we also made friends from Taiwan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia who play the violin, piano and guitar.

I was amazed that my daughter never complained and very much enjoyed playing and practising the violin with her new friends in and outside of the class. It was only for three days, but a solid 4-5 hours of practice each day! At home, I struggled to make my daughter practise for even 10 minutes a day. It was a miracle to see what happened when she was with friends and in the right environment. It was pure joy for her! This camp enabled my daughter to pick up a good habit and it was truly an achievement for us :)



Rhea Dhaliwall with Martin Rüttimann,
Chair of the International Suzuki Association

"Talent is no accident of birth... the right environment can change a person with undeveloped ability into a talented one."
By Dr Shinichi Suzuki

The camp was conducted by many Suzuki faculty members who are from Europe, the USA and Asian countries. Participants get the benefit of teachers with different experiences, backgrounds and teaching styles. Participants were also able to mix and make friends from different countries who share the same interests.

You can also experience the Suzuki method at the final concert, regardless of skill or level. Everyone including the teachers played together and I thought it was very beautiful. Through participating in the camp, we have experienced

what the Suzuki method is all about. Parents also made friends from the Philippines, India, Indonesia and other countries. Although it was a short trip, it was filled with wonderful memories and friendships.

Thanks to the organizer and Ms Una Lauw who introduced us to the camp. Please keep them coming!



Rhea Dhaliwall performing at a Lunchtime Recital during the Conference, accompanied by Ms Una Lauw.



Rhea Dhaliwall and Chikako Yamawaki with teachers and participants from Singapore.

My First Charity Performance

Janine Loh



Janine Loh playing a duet with her teacher, Ms Leng Sher Lyn

During the June holidays, I participated in "A Little Light Music" performance at the Jurong Community Hospital. This performance was organized by Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore. It was my first time performing on the piano for the elderly and the sick.

I had been practicing for this performance for two months. I was going to play a duet with my piano teacher. The song was "Tian Mi Mi", a popular Chinese song.

On the day of the performance, I had butterflies in my stomach. Both my father and brother were there to support me. I felt confident with them around. Soon, the performance began. I waited patiently in the waiting room. After the guitar and violin ensemble had performed, it was my turn.

The emcee announced my name and I walked up the stage steadily. As I started to play, the audience sang along. As they sang louder and louder, I felt less nervous. Instead, I was happy that the patients could sing so loudly. After I had finished my item, the audience gave a huge round of applause. I was bursting with joy inside me. I hope I can do it again!



Students and Teachers at "A Little Light Music" performance at Jurong Community Hospital.

"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

A Parent's Experience with the Graduation Process

Catherine Lau

Graduating from Suzuki Volume 2 is an achievement for my son, Colin. The journey started in August 2017 when he recorded the first piece and he went on to complete 9 recordings totaling 15 minutes in August 2018.

The graduation assessment requires the student to possess the necessary skills and in the process attain mastery on the techniques required of that level before he can move on to the next volume. Countless recordings were made and assessed by Colin's violin teacher, Ms Una Lauw, who is known for her stringent and high standards for perfection, before they were ready for submission to her trainer, Professor Chen for assessment. The task was not easy and at times it was quite daunting and tiring for Colin but he made it, "Alas, we have completed the recording and the final piece is approved for submission!"

and not only has he graduated we have also witnessed him grow and mature musically.

We are thankful to Ms Una Lauw for her patience in bearing with many of his bad recordings and Mrs Lauw's belief on instilling love for music in every student and make learning music an enjoyable process.



Colin Cheung and his teacher, Ms Una Lauw performing at the 2018 Graduation Concert

An Orientation Towards Happiness

Taken from 'Talent Education' No. 120 (English Translation by Lili Iriye Selden)

Published in the Fall 1997 Issue of the 'International Suzuki Journal'



Dr Shinichi Suzuki

When one considers all human ability as talent, it is important to recognize the value of the talent to register happiness and well-being*.

Aspiring to a state of happiness is a human quality that results from one's heart and sensibility. The appreciation of beauty is also an ability of the heart and sensibility. Feeling delight and sadness, or registering more noble sentiments, is something we cannot do without ability. The ability to perceive beauty, too, varies according to the person, and is one of the talents human beings can cultivate.

Likewise, I believe that the ability to appreciate one's well-being can evolve to the point that one takes joy in even the small concerns that defy other people's sense of what constitutes good fortune. The same holds true for unhappiness. People in whom a talent for unhappiness has been nurtured tend to regard as highly unfortunate even those circumstances that others wouldn't consider to be so dismaying. One might say that their ability to feel dissatisfaction has been fostered.

Many factors are at the root of happiness. Among those, one might wish parents to plant a sense of appreciation within their children from a tender age onwards. Only where parents respond with joy to the smallest phenomenon will they be able to transmit that sensibility to their children. I think that when parents constantly complain, there is nothing in their

sensibility to nurture in their child an orientation toward happiness.

The world is full of instances of mothers and fathers who say that although their lives have been unhappy, they want to prevent at least their children's lives from being unhappy. When I hear such stories, my feeling is that such parents are asking the impossible. If people don't realize that their inability to sense happiness makes them vulnerable to misfortune, how can they possibly nurture in their children a sensibility toward happiness?

I have come to the conclusion that for people who consider their lives unfortunate, it is impossible to dream of instilling a sense of happiness in their children.

For parents to make a child happy, they must first come to understand, through their own experience, "What exactly is happiness?" and to express that through their own beings. Otherwise, a sensibility toward happiness simply cannot be developed in a child. What this means from the perspective of Talent Education, is that it is imperative that parents who wish to foster all kinds of wonderful human abilities in their children must first be happy themselves.

*The Japanese word Dr Suzuki uses here, *kōun*, means both 'happiness' and 'blessedness'.

Upcoming Events in 2019

16 March
Perpetuo Musica

20 - 24 April
Piano Book 2
Training

18 May
Violin Teachers'
Assessment

19 - 24 May
WLID &
Violin Book 1
Training

31 May -
2 June
Violin Funtasy

9 - 11 August
Piano Funtasy



14 August
Submit Videos
for Graduation



STEAS Activities & Performances in 2018

Violin Funtasy



Piano Funtasy - Our first camp for Suzuki Piano Students!



STEAS Activities & Performances in 2018

Our First Graduation Concert!



Perpetuo Musica - Our Annual Student Marathon Concert



STEAS Special Performances in 2018

'A Little Light Music' at Jurong Health Community Hub



STEAS is proud to celebrate our National Museum's 131st Birthday!

