



# Studio Newsletter

## Our Local Suzuki Community

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Local Suzuki teachers gather each year to celebrate, to coordinate calendars and to dream together. This year we looked at the effect of changing STEAD group lessons to Fridays in Durham. We also discussed ways in which to involve busy advanced students, who serve as models for beginners, while nurturing their growth.

First, we decided to move up the time for groups to make it easier for working parents and students riding late school buses. (See schedule).

Second, to encourage our advancing middle and high school students, we will offer 5

enrichment classes with specific performance goals in mind; and choosing great music they will enjoy. (see article below).

Middle and high school students are invited to perform for the first STEAD class on September 14; Graduation Recitals in January; master classes in February; and for Awards Day in the Spring.

Volume 1 students will enjoy a new group lesson format. Lisa Randolph and I (Karen Moorman) will team teach a large group of students at 6:00 p.m. Our goal is to make group violin playing lots of fun for our beginners while teach-



- *STEAD Calendar: see*
- [Www.durhamsuzuki.org](http://www.durhamsuzuki.org)

ing the basics!

- Friday Group Classes at Pilgrim
- Pre-Twinkle 5:30 p.m.
- Vol. 2/3 5:30 p.m.
- Vol. 1/ Vol. 4 6:00–6:45 p.m.
- Volume 4 p.m. 6:00–6:45 p.m.

### Special points of interest:

- Suzuki learning involves the family
- The Community of Suzuki Families support one another
- The World Community of Suzuki Families invest in the future of our planet

## Enrichment Classes: Middle, High School

Students who are in middle and high school and who are at least in Volume 5, are invited to take part in classes especially designed for performance preparation. We will learn and polish Copland's Hoe Down from the ballet *Rodeo* and High School students will play all 3

movements of the Bach Double Concerto in D Minor.

Exploring a 20th century classic, students will gain valuable experience while learning about one of our most beloved American composers, Aaron Copland.

Rehearsal Schedule (7:00 p.m.)

Oct. 18; Jan. 9; Feb. 26;  
Mar.18; Apr; 23

Performances:

May 10 Pilgrim UCC

May 18 Binkley Baptist Church

## Suzuki's Progress Reports: Vital Points



*Listen, practice, perform  
Enjoy the fruits of your  
labor!*

William Starr once said, "If at first you don't succeed, please try something different!" Like Suzuki, Starr had a way of debunking attitudes that get in the way of learning. In our fast-paced, competitive world, we often spend a great deal of time "spinning our wheels" because we replace reflective activity with busyness. This leads to measuring progress inaccurately. Suzuki suggested the following points in developing a progress report:

1. The ability to produce a beautiful tone;
2. Ability to maintain good posture;
3. Ability to hold the bow properly;
4. The ability to change strings and use correct form;
5. Ability to play music with sensitivity;
6. Ability to play with accurate intonation;
7. Eagerness to play;
8. Ability to play fine and clear trill;
9. Ability to use correct movement of the bow arm;
10. Ability to play with quick movement of the right hand.

Please notice that he does not include: the book number or piece; nor how fast the left fingers move! DO notice no.

## NC Suzuki Association: Play-in November 10

**Gabe Bolkovsky has that rare combination of performance artistry and teaching ability.**

North Carolina Suzuki Association will hold a State-Wide play-in at East Carolina University in Greenville on Saturday November 10. Special guest, Gabe Bolkovsky will serve as our violin clinician. According to Joanne Bath, Hardy Professor of Suzuki Pedagogy at the University, Gabe has the rare combination

of violin artistry and teaching ability.

Students of all levels are encouraged to come. You won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity. Greenville Suzuki Teachers are working to make this a great day for Suzuki families and teachers.

Families are encouraged to join

the Association. Your annual dues will help us provide continuing education for teachers across the state. Help us maintain strong programs and build new ones in our rural areas.

Send your membership form today!

[Www.ncsuzukiteachers.org](http://www.ncsuzukiteachers.org)

## SAA: Suzuki Association of the Americas



*...membership is open to everyone interested in the Suzuki Method*

Did you know that the SAA Membership is open to everyone? Family members receive the quarterly Journal as well as early announcements for workshops and Institutes. You will find the Journal to be informative and helpful in getting the most out of your violin study.

Read about the subjects of teaching and learning from expert teachers, inspirational stories and how the Suzuki movement makes a difference with programs around the globe. Membership forms can be found on-line:

[Www.suzukiassociation.org](http://Www.suzukiassociation.org)

Thinking about taking the plunge and attending one of the SAA Summer Institutes . . .? For many, the experience is so wonderful that they return year after year. Plan ahead — they fill up fast!

## Joyful Practice: Can this be true?

Yes! Violin practice can and should be an enjoyable daily event. Here are a few tips—

1— practice every day—it will become a habit, like brushing your teeth; it helps if it is at the same time each day.

2— allow your child to guide the practice and make choices;

3— keep your expectations realistic; remember the weekly focus; if you did not write one down, find one from a previous lesson in your notes;

4— praise effectively—be specific, be honest—we want our students to take over this “self evaluation” practice in the future;

5—prepare by listening to your recording A LOT, every single day;

6—avoid overloading; adhere to the one point lesson;

7—avoid making excessive corrections; make a note of troublesome spots for another time; avoid bribery (“if you do

this, I’ll . . .)

8—include games; counters; play time (play through without comment—just for fun!);

9—review, review, review

10—short and happy is preferable to long and unfocused practice;

11—preface requests before your student attempts a skill instead of interrupting;

Ex. “Let’s play Twinkle theme with a curvy bow pinky



*Move slowly. . .but never cease. S. Suzuki*

## Music: It’s a Family Affair

During the “honeymoon stage” your violin student is in love with the violin. You think that this was a great idea and a good match. Then one day your child resists practicing—how does one recapture the “magic?”

First, know that this experience is normal. Children are programmed to seek out novelty. That’s how they learn! But learning to play an

instrument takes a great deal of time and patience. Children need us to help them learn about patience in learning. Your consistency and support will help your child, not only in learning to play the violin, but other areas as well. This involves family scheduling to facilitate practice, family outings to concerts and listening to the recordings daily. It’s a family commitment and worth the effort!

**North Carolina  
Symphony Young  
People’s Series is a  
great way to introduce  
young listeners to the  
orchestra**

## Concerts for the Entire Family

Live music is a great way to inspire your young musician, and to develop a love of the arts for your family. There are many wonderful opportunities in our region—from the North Carolina Young People’s Series to faculty recitals and local youth orchestra concerts. You can find information in the

local papers as well as on-line. The Classical Voice of North Carolina hosts a great website with calendars of events, previews, and concert reviews.

Please visit:

[www.cvnc.org](http://www.cvnc.org)

For everyday exposure to classical music, tune into WCPE 89.7 FM

And WUNC 91.5 FM broadcasts NC Symphony concerts. You can find the broadcast schedule on-line.

[www.wunc.org](http://www.wunc.org)

# Moorman Studio

109 Jennings Lane  
Durham, NC 27713  
Phone: 919-544-3695

Email: [moorman@mindspring.com](mailto:moorman@mindspring.com)

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STEAD WEBSITE  
[WWW.DURHAMSUZUKI.ORG](http://WWW.DURHAMSUZUKI.ORG)

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## *Moorman Studio Calendar*

Sept. 4	Fall Semester Begins	Jan. 28	Spring Semester Begins
Sept. 14	STEAD play-in/ pizza/ everyone invited	Feb.2,3	Snow dates/ Graduation
Sept. 28	STEAD classes	Feb. 9	STEAD/ Croasdaille
Oct 12	STEAD classes	Feb. 22	STEAD/ Afternoon Workshop w/ Rebekeh Carlson
Oct. 15-24	NO LESSONS	March 14	STEAD classes
Oct. 26	STEAD classes	Mar. 15	STEAD Solo Recitals
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Statewide Play-in</b>	Apr. 11	STEAD Classes
Nov. 19, 20	Make-up lessons	April 25	STEAD Classes
Dec. 14 or 15	STEAD/Alterra	May 10	STEAD Awards Day
Dec. 21-Jan.6	Holiday Break	May 18	Middle/ High School students play at Binkley Baptist Ch.
Jan. 7	Semester Resumes	Moorman Spring Studio Recital Date to be announced —Everyone participates!	
Jan. 11	STEAD classes		
Jan. 25	STEAD classes		
Jan. 26, 27	Graduation Recitals		