

## NEWSLETTER



Happy Summer Everyone! Thank you for an especially wonderful year of music making. Looking back, we began with the Elmwood Festival of the Arts last August and our pianists' stunning pre-concert performance at the Buffalo Chamber Music Society in September and ended with the Fearless Performance Workshop at the beginning of June. In between there were many lessons, classes, graduation recitals, concerts and a tour to South Africa, the sixth continent for BSS tours to visit since our touring program began in 1984.

We are already planning for next year! Our fall season will start in a very special way with a recital and masterclass given by David Kim, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. David is a longtime friend of BSS and a "Suzuki Dad." I met him when he spent his senior year in Buffalo at Williamsville North High School. He is also a very fine violinist! In his recitals, he plays and talks about his life journey. Please reserve Saturday, September 12, 3:30-4:30pm for his recital followed by a 90 minute masterclass for all who wish to stay. Tickets will be \$10 for students and \$12 for adults.

Have a wonderful summer, filled with sunny days and happy times! Mary Cay Neal

### *BSS Calendar for July, August, and September*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
July 24	Summer Lessons End
August 17 - 21	Summer Workshop
September 12	David Kim Recital and Masterclass - 3:30pm at BSS
September 10 & 11	Ars Nova Auditions
September 14	Fall Semester Begins - Lessons Resume
September 19	Springwater Fiddlers Fair

THANK YOU MISS FIONA,  
MISS KLANSEE, AND MISS SARAH!!







BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL  
CONTINUED..

## Jennifer (Lin) Khoe

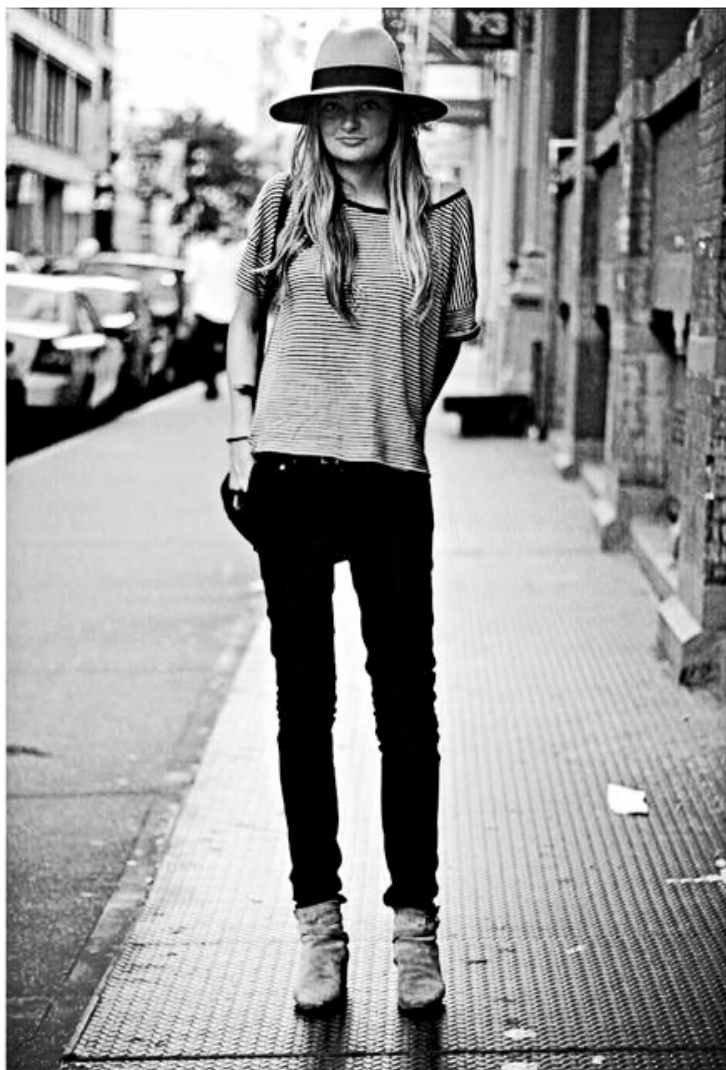


I graduated from BSS in 1992, played in a string quartet during college, then took a 10-year hiatus while attending medical school and completing my general surgery residency. I began playing a few years ago when my son, Sebastian (age 6), started violin lessons. I recently joined a community orchestra, and I also play in the hospital lobby when I'm on call and things are not too busy.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to be a part of BSS and wish that my son could experience it, as well. We live in California, and we travel to Buffalo every summer so that Sebastian can attend the BSS workshop. The quality of teaching, the proficiency of the students, the nurturing environment and the camaraderie at BSS are unparalleled.



BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL  
CONTINUED..



Margaret Huerta

I have been working in fashion merchandising for 10 years in top luxury fashion houses in New York and Paris. I love living in NYC and working for international companies has given me the opportunity to travel abroad.

BSS instilled in me a life long love for music. Learning directly under Mary Cay Neal herself was challenging and wonderful. Through the practice I learned discipline and the importance of always doing your best. Learning music first by ear, as the Suzuki method teaches, has given me a unique advantage in life. To this day I am able to hear a song and easily play it back as well as the ability to very easily learn new instruments.

While I no longer play violin, I have picked up on playing the piano, and enjoy it daily since it helps me relax and escape from the business world.

I congratulate other families who have chosen music for their family activities and wish them as well a life long love for music.

# Welcome Emily Greetham BSS violin teacher



Emily Greetham graduated from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. She is from Buffalo, New York and started playing the violin when she was five years old. At age 7, she began her studies at Buffalo Suzuki Strings and continued there until she graduated from Amherst Central High School in June 2011.

Throughout her high school and college years, Emily has had experience teaching private violin students and working with children in after school programs and summer camps in the Buffalo area. Additionally, she volunteered at the BSS repertory classes and summer workshops.

At Indiana University, Emily studied violin with Dr. Brenda Brenner and worked for Dr. Brenner's string project, teaching violin at Fairview Elementary School. She has also been involved as a helper teacher and counselor for Indiana University's String Academy. Emily taught all string instruments during her student teaching experience at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis, Indiana.

While she was at BSS, Emily went on tour with the Advanced Touring Ensemble to Italy in 2006 and Spain in 2008. During college, Emily performed with the IU orchestras as well as the Carmel Symphony Orchestra in Indianapolis.

In her free time, Emily enjoys going for runs, shopping, and getting coffee with her friends. Emily is very excited to return to Buffalo, NY and to teach in a music program that has had a lasting impact on her both musically and personally.



# Welcome Anna Whistler BSS piano teacher

**Anna Whistler** has a presence both nationally and internationally as a sensitive pianist and enthusiastic pedagogue. A native of Buffalo, NY, Ms. Whistler has engaged in musical collaborations at the Eastman School of Music, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and l'École Normale de Musique de Paris, where she worked with Philippe Entremont and gave a performance in the famed Salle Cortot. She has performed in master classes for such musicians as Richard Goode, pianist; Joshua Greene, Assistant Conductor at the Met Opera; and Vladimir Tropp, chair of the piano department of the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music and professor at the Moscow Conservatory. In addition to performing, Ms. Whistler has explored her interests in music therapy and arts administration – volunteering at the Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, and working full-time as Production Manager for the Yellow Barn Music Festival for the 2010-2011 season.

A student of Judith Gordon at Smith College, Ms. Whistler pursued a major in music and a minor in exercise and sports studies. She won the college's concerto competition and made several appearances as soloist with the Smith College Orchestra. She received a Susan Rose Internship for Music; the Ida Deck Haigh Memorial Prize for distinguished achievement in piano; the Ernst Wallfisch Prize given to a student of music for outstanding talent, commitment, and diligence; and the Harriet Dey Barnum Prize for outstanding academic and artistic work in music. She was elected as an academic tutor in music theory and history, and was asked by the music faculty to help design an introductory aural skills class. In addition to music, she took specialized courses in education, and gained hands-on experience working with students at the Fort Hill Center for Early Childhood Education. Outside of Smith, she volunteered her time giving free piano lessons to underprivileged children in local schools, as well as maintaining her own private students. Upon graduation, she was awarded a prestigious Alumnae Scholarship to support her graduate studies.

Ms. Whistler received her Master of Music in Piano Performance in 2013 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst under the guidance of Gilles Vonsattel. At UMass, she held the position of Teaching Assistant for both academic courses and group piano lessons. While at UMass, she was asked on occasion to fill in for the piano faculty, giving lessons to her peers. She also worked extensively with other studios, accompanying violin, saxophone, and voice students. Upon graduation, she received the Eugenie May Award, for a student who possesses extraordinary musical talent in the area of piano performance and who makes exceptional contributions to the musical life of the Department of Music at UMass. Since receiving her graduate degree, she has given master classes in Los Angeles – most recently at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts – and has worked for the preeminent piano manufacturing company Steinway & Sons.

In her spare time, Ms. Whistler is an avid ice hockey player, having won a gold medal in the NY-State Championship and a bronze in the National Championship. She is a two-time recipient of the All-Western NY Scholar Athlete Award, and in 2007 was named an Academic All-American in lacrosse.





# Welcome Sonsoles Llodrá BSS violin teacher

Sonsoles is originally from Montevideo, Uruguay. She started her violin studies at the age of six. After graduating from high school, she won a chair at the Orquesta Filarmónica de Montevideo, the official orchestra of the capital city. In 2009, she decided to continue her pursue in violin studies and came to the United States to study with Venezuelan violinist Edward Pulgar at Carson-Newman University. While in Tennessee, she performed regularly with orchestras in the area such as Symphony of the Mountains.

After attending several summer music festivals, and being in contact with students from all over the country, Sonsoles decided to pursue a Masters in Suzuki Pedagogy at Ithaca College under Suzuki Pedagogue Carrie Reuning-Hummel. While in Ithaca, Sonsoles enjoyed the best of both worlds: playing in numerous concerts throughout the year in orchestras as well as chamber concerts being a member of the graduate string quartet, and having the privilege to observe and teach both private and group class lessons.

In addition to her long-term Suzuki training, Sonsoles has also been part of short-term teacher training institutes having studied with Kimberly Meier-Sims and Edward Kreitman. Sonsoles is also particularly excited about the Suzuki Early Childhood Education (ECE) program and is pursuing the completion of all stages of certification of ECE.



# BSS FRIENDSHIP TOURING ENSEMBLE

## SOUTH AFRICA 2015



This is a picture of a lion that we saw on our safari. It was amazing, and a little unreal, being able to see them in the wild, instead of in a zoo. That was pretty much how all of South Africa was- many of the places we visited seemed as if they belonged in a postcard. At times, it was difficult to believe that it was all real. - Elizabeth Augustine











Please visit <http://buffalosuzukistrings.org/blog/suzuki-south-africa/page/2/> to read and see much more about the 2015 South Africa Tour



# PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!



*Celebrates 50 Years of  
encouraging growth through music  
June 8th & 9th  
2019*





# OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

## NICHOLAS SASS

BSS has meant so much to me over my 12 years in the piano program. Not only have I thoroughly enjoyed my musical education, but it has also taught me a dedication and discipline that I apply to every part of my life.

Next year I will be going to Johns Hopkins University for Biomedical Engineering on a pre-med track. I look forward to bringing my musical skills with me to Baltimore.



## ELIZABETH VENNARI

Leaving Buffalo Suzuki Strings this year will be one of the most bittersweet moments of my life. Having grown up through the program, I have special memories of so many different experiences from playing at Kleinhans every year to teacher training with Mrs. Neal and volunteering at rep classes. I intend to pursue music with the skills I have developed here, and I hope one day to teach, perform, and inspire others the way I was inspired every time I entered BSS. Thank you to my teacher, family, colleagues, and anyone else who encouraged me and collaborated with me through music.

# OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

## continued



### DANNY COLUCCI

BSS has taught me how to play violin but also develop the love and appreciation for music. Beyond music, it has taught me discipline, dedication, perseverance, confidence and a strong work ethic.

In the future, I will go to UB to study engineering. Everything I learned at Suzuki will carry over into my life. I hope to continue to perform music and plan to audition for the UB orchestra.

### ANDREW SIAW-ASAMOAH

BSS has shown me the power of music and its ability to permeate every part of our lives. My experience has not only developed me as a musician, but it has helped me grow as a person.

I plan to matriculate to Yale University in the fall to study biomedical engineering. I hope to some day become an oncologist and find a cure to cancer.





# OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

## continued



### SIMON WU

BSS has shown me that music can bring ordinary people together to do extraordinary things.

I will be attending Cornell University and plan on majoring in Physics.

### MANDELA NAMASTE

BSS has made a huge impact on my life. Through BSS, I have learned such important life lessons as determination, perseverance, and discipline. These are skills I wouldn't trade for anything, and I'm so grateful that I've been able to learn them through the welcoming community of BSS. I'd like to thank Mrs. Mary Cay Neal and all the other teachers of Buffalo Suzuki Strings for the guidance and support they've provided for me over the past 13 years.

This fall, I will be attending Williams College in Western Massachusetts. I plan to study political science and minor in music.



Our other graduates this year are Monica Bates, Roman DiPasquale, Alana Eagan, and Ryan Grieco. Congratulations to all of you!