

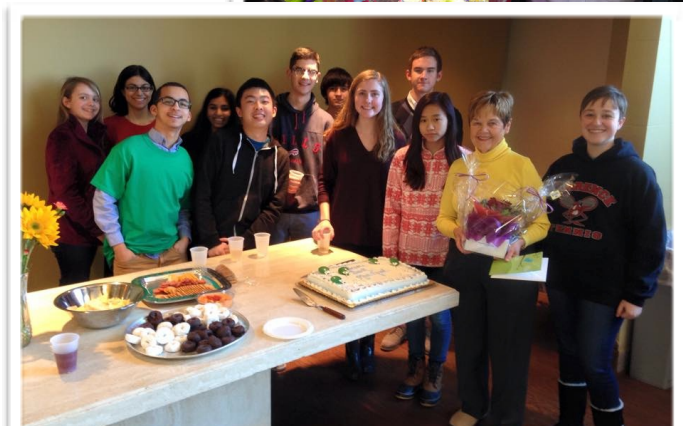
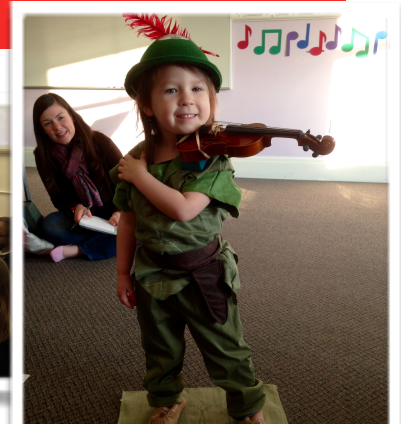
## NEWSLETTER



*"Where Love is Deep,  
Much can be Accomplished"*

I heard Dr. Suzuki say these words frequently during the 30 years I was often in his presence. They remind us that the foundation for becoming the "noble human beings" that Dr. Suzuki wished for all of the students of his method, is first to learn love and respect for each other. He asked parents to nurture their children by love: the kind of love that believes in each child's potential ability and seeks positive ways to develop their ability. Dr. Suzuki knew that giving our children the gift of musical ability allows them the opportunity to learn the important life skills of inner discipline and persistence for learning anything. From an early age, our Suzuki students learn in their repertory classes and ensemble experiences that through teamwork and collaboration they can create beautiful music together. Suzuki Music Education is so much more than music! Where love is deep, we can help our children to learn to live peaceful, productive and loving lives.

Happy Valentine's Day!  
With Love, Mary Cay Neal



## *BSS Calendar for February, March, and April*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
February 7	Rep Classes
February 14 - 22	Presidents' Day Recess - NO LESSONS
February 23	LESSONS RESUME
February 28	Rep Classes
March 14	Rep Classes
March 15	Piano Spring Concerts - 1pm, 3pm, & 5pm Wutz Concert Hall
March 28	Rep Classes
March 29	String Spring Concert - 2:30pm UB Center for the Arts
April 1 - 12	Friendship Tour to South Africa
April 4 - 12	Spring Recess - NO LESSONS
April 13	LESSONS RESUME
April 18	Rep Classes
April 19	Friendship Tour Reunion Concert - 3pm Wutz Concert Hall

*BSS Parents  
Association -  
Saturday Morning  
Program Schedule  
Please join us at  
10:30am in the  
Community Room*

**February 28th:** David Levine and Shannon Levine

**March 14th:** Brain Gym instructed by Kate Baer-Gagola, M.S., a licensed Brain Gym® instructor

**March 28th:** TBD

**April 18th:** Open House at BSS! We will need our parents' help in giving tours.

**May 2nd:** Advanced Ensemble students and parents talk about tour to South Africa



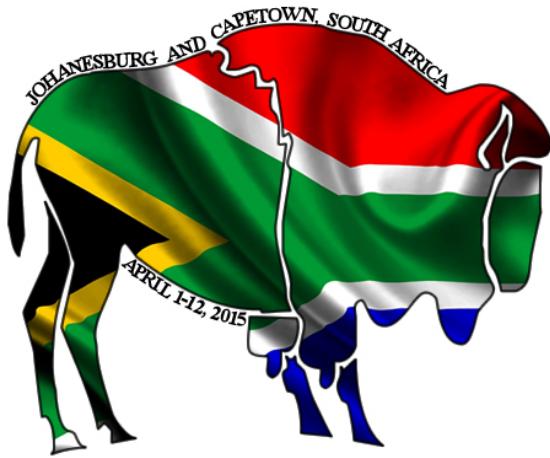
## BUFFALO SUZUKI STRINGS FRIENDSHIP TOURING ENSEMBLE



Congratulations and Bon Voyage to 21 of our BSS violinists, violists, cellists and pianists as they put the finishing touches on the music and preparations for their upcoming Friendship Tour to South Africa, April 1-12, 2015. Along with 6 adults, these students will bring our message of Friendship and World Harmony through Music to Suzuki students from all over South Africa. Our BSS Friendship Touring Ensemble, made up of students from our Advanced Ensemble, will present two hour-and-a-half concerts which include BSS soloists and end with a Suzuki music play-in that includes the South African students. We will visit the Johannesburg and Cape Town areas and learn about this country's incredible journey to peace. We will also visit a National Animal Preserve and see elephants, lions, tigers, hippos, giraffes, penguins and lots of native animals and birds.

We hope you will join us to celebrate our journey and enjoy our music on Sunday, April 19th at 3pm at BSS. Everyone, including the community, is invited!

TO ALL OF  
OUR BSS  
FAMILIES,  
PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR THE  
TOUR  
REUNION  
CONCERT -  
APRIL 19TH  
AT 3:00PM -  
WUTZ  
CONCERT  
HALL



**Buffalo Suzuki Strings**  
FRIENDSHIP TOURING ENSEMBLE

The trip to South Africa is one of the biggest opportunities I've ever been given. I can't wait to share the ability Suzuki has endowed me with. It will be interesting to see how music is assimilated into the South African culture as well. -Kelsey Killelea, piano

HEAR WHAT THE  
STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY  
ABOUT THE UPCOMING  
TOUR!

As part of the Friendship Touring Ensemble, I am privileged to go on the tour to South Africa and I hope to see and experience many interesting things. One thing I'm looking forward to is the food. Tasting the foreign foods will be an interesting experience for me. I also hope to get a good look of South Africa's scenery, and experience playing with the other children who can play a string instrument. These are some of the reasons why I'm excited to go to South Africa. - Heesung Kim, violin

I've always dreamt about being able to go on tour with BSS advanced class. For the tour to South Africa I am especially looking forward to experiencing a culture different from our own. I am excited knowing I will be able to interact and connect with people who come from cities a different side of the equator. Also, the South African scenery interests me highly.

I plan on bringing my camera to take pictures of as much as I can, let it be the food, sights, or even the wildlife. And of course, I can't wait to share the gift of our music to the people of Africa. Being one of the main reasons we are going, it is sure to be the experience of a lifetime. -Julia Anderson, violin

I am really looking forward to embarking on this amazing adventure to South Africa with my fellow ensemble members to engage in something that most others do not have the opportunity to do in high school. I am most looking forward to sharing the joy of music with Suzuki students from an entirely different continent and learning about their culture, country, and history. Preparing for this tour has been both difficult and rewarding for the group as a whole, and I am very excited to share our love of music and Suzuki's philosophy with students that live half way around the world. -Tara Porter, violin/viola





On Friday, January 16th, BSS hosted the 2nd annual alumni reunion. We had a fun evening together with alumni, alum parents and our current advanced ensemble students. Everyone enjoyed playing Suzuki songs together, eating dinner, reminiscing, and catching up with one another!



BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL CONTINUED...

Happy New Year BSS Alums!

Thank you for all of the Christmas and New Years cards that updated me on your current activities. I love hearing from you and seeing pictures of your children! It is a great joy for me to see that many of you are giving your children the gift of the Suzuki music experience. It was especially wonderful to see Suzanne (Taylor) Bourdeaux, Audrey Ettinger and Donna(Loghmanee)Feldman have 3 generations of family at the Ithaca Institute. Also loved seeing a picture of them playing Twinkles linked together!

It was fun for me to see the video of an exuberant rendition of Orange Blossom Special with both current Advanced Ensemble students and Alums at the recent Alumni Reunion event January 16th.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Naples being Grammy on a daily basis! I am back at BSS and looking forward to our upcoming Friendship Tour to South Africa, which completes visits to all continents (except Antarctica) since 1984! Many of you enjoyed these tours in person so I know you will be wishing us well. A special THANK YOU to those of you who contributed to help us make this trip possible!

Best to each of you! Mary Cay

JENNIFER THOMPSON -  
1993 GRADUATE



Since graduating from BSS in 1993, I received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Violin Performance from the University of Michigan and from Rice University, respectively. Since 1999, I've been a member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Outside of the orchestra, I've played many chamber music concerts as well as participating in the vibrant and varied free-lance scene in Toronto. I play in the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson Hole, WY in the summers where I get to see fellow BSS alums Patrick Neal and Ann Marie Terranova and their twins, as well as their Grammy, Mrs. Neal! My husband, John Marshman, (who was a Suzuki cello student as a child in Guelph, ON) and I have 3 children, Hannah, Maggie and Jack, ages 8, 6, and 2. The two oldest ones are currently Suzuki violin and cello students.

I have so many BSS memories, starting with group lessons at Mrs. Neal's house on the yellow shag rug and Saturday morning play-ins at Daemen College. My entire childhood is laced together with the BSS friendships I made, the many performances we shared, and the life lessons that we learned through music as we grew up together.

I feel so lucky to make my living as a musician.

Together with the great effort my parents made to encourage and support me, BSS and in particular, Mary Cay Neal, played an enormous role in setting me up for the life I now enjoy.

BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL CONTINUED...

## CHRISTOPHER NEAL - 1986 GRADUATE

Since graduating from BSS I have been fortunate to enjoy a professional life in many aspects of music. I have been an audio engineer, a studio producer, a free-lance performer and a full-time orchestra violinist. Currently, I play First Violin in the Houston Symphony Orchestra and have done so since 2001.

I have performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestra player in the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom, Japan and Russia. More importantly, it has been my great good fortune to meet my wife, Mila (also a professional violinist, in the Houston Opera and Ballet) and to know our daughter, Maja, and son, Luka.

I think the most important thing I learned at BSS was how to learn. In my opinion, the hardest problems in life cannot be solved all at once. They must be broken into smaller pieces. Once you solve all the smaller pieces, real progress can be realized.

BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL CONTINUED..

KRISTINA NEFF - 2003 GRADUATE

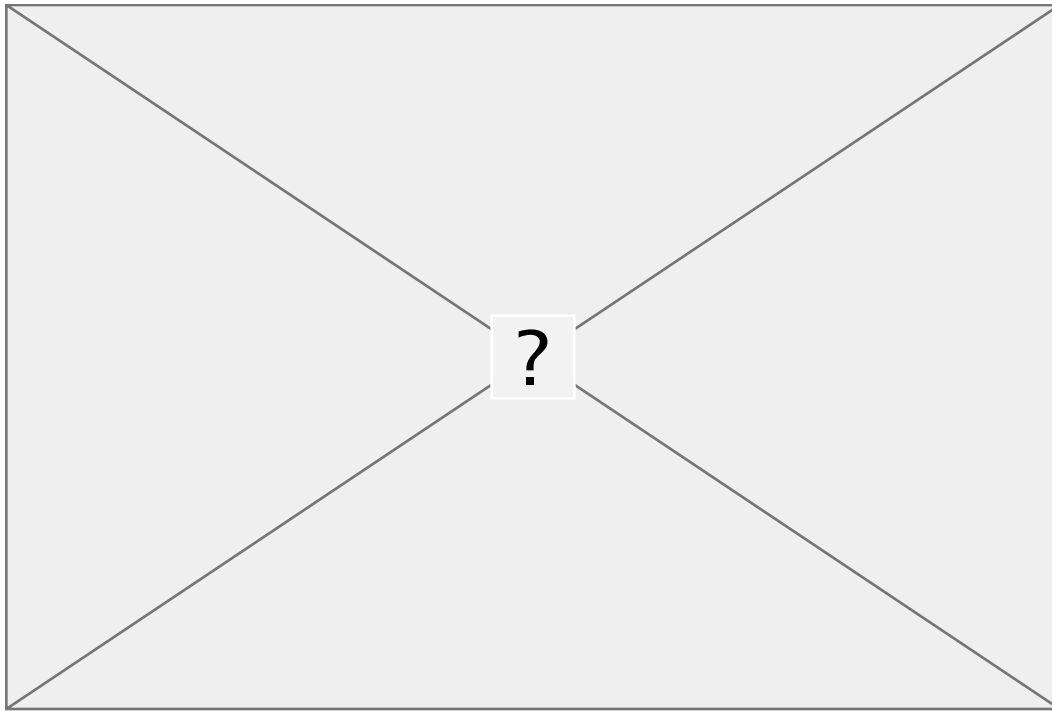
After graduating from high school and BSS in 2003, I attended Davidson College in North Carolina and went on to pursue a law degree at Villanova University School of Law. I am currently a third year associate in the Philadelphia Office of DLA Piper, a large multinational law firm, where my practice focuses on product liability and mass torts, with an emphasis on pharmaceutical drug and medical device litigation.

I will always credit violin, the Suzuki method, and BSS for helping me shape who I have become. BSS taught me discipline, attention to detail, commitment, accountability, and team work. These traits and values have been central to my successes as both a student and a professional.

While I do not play violin too often these days, it never ceases to amaze me how often I find violin and BSS coming up in everyday conversation. Recently, I was at a small dinner at a local restaurant where an up-and-coming cellist from the Curtis institute gave a performance. She mentioned after the performance that her bow was made of pernambuco wood, and before long, we were deep in discussion about my trip to Brazil with BSS in 2003, which included a tour of a pernambuco bow maker's facility. She remarked what an incredible opportunity the trip to Brazil had been. She was right.

(Picture left to right, Kristina Neff and Katie Neff McCormick - her sister, also a graduate of BSS)



BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL CONTINUED..

## NICK SHEA - 2012 GRADUATE

I am currently studying engineering at the University of Arizona. I am a fortunate recipient of Arizona's generous National Merit Scholarship, which is awarded based on standardized test scores and academic and extracurricular achievement. I am confident that my Suzuki training was instrumental in my earning this honor. I continue to play and appreciate music at every opportunity. I've managed to fit it neatly in my schedule, complementing my academic pursuits, my triathlon training, and my work with the university's High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

The 2012 Spring Concert was my last as a student, and I have come to see it as a highlight of my Suzuki story. I remember the finale in particular, the traditional pan-BSS performance of "Twinkle, Twinkle." I was reminded of my earliest Suzuki days, and the years of practice, careful guidance, occasional frustration and eventual, exhilarating success that separated me from the newest students. Yet we were all together on stage, and we all shared a genuine and unique joy in the music we created, a gift that Suzuki gave us.