

# BUFFALO SUZUKI STRINGS

## NEWSLETTER



MARCH  
2016

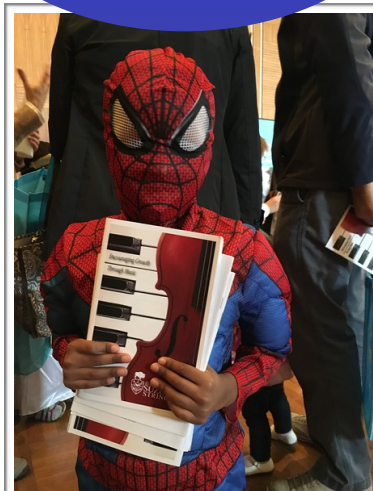
Happy 2016 to everyone! What a wonderful year it has been at BSS thus far. We are especially blessed to have added three extraordinary teachers to our already excellent faculty - Miss Greetham, violin - Miss Llodrá, violin - and Miss Whistler, piano! We are so fortunate to have the highest quality teachers with the kindest hearts at BSS! I am most appreciative to all BSS families for your graciousness during the transitional period this past fall. While speaking with many parents, I have been delighted to hear how happy they are with their new teachers. Indeed our new teachers are enriching the learning at BSS! We so appreciate the opportunity you give BSS to be a part of your lives! The BSS team and I look forward to celebrating a musical afternoon with each of you at the String Spring Concert and the Piano Spring Concert coming up in April!

Sincerely, Mary Cay Neal - Founder and Executive Director

### BPO Instrument Zoo - Halloween



MEMORABLE  
MOMENTS OF OUR  
YEAR SO FAR!





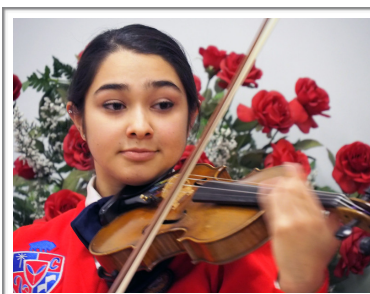
BSS Advanced Ensemble Performs  
as Soloists with the Buffalo  
Philharmonic Orchestra at the  
Riviera Theatre



BSS Advanced Ensemble  
Performs as Soloists with  
the Ars Nova Chamber  
Orchestra  
37th Consecutive Year



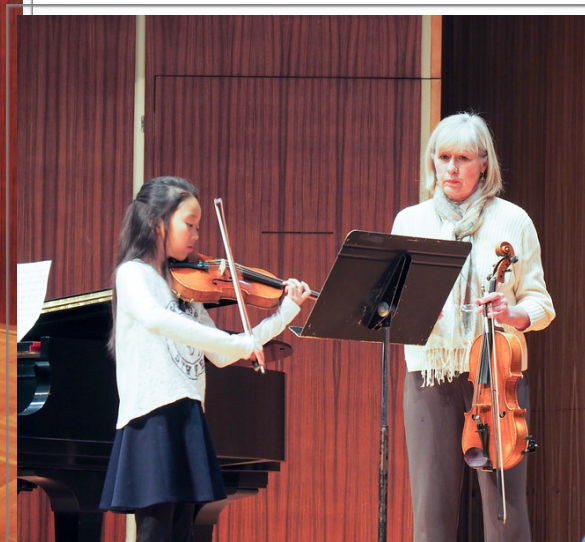
Four of our graduating seniors at their final Ars Nova Performance







# Winter Walk



BSS Violists, Lillian Kahng and Philomena Vennari were selected by audition to participate in BPO Viola Masterclass with Val Heywood, principal violist of the BPO



# BSS Piano Students Performed Community Spotlight Concert at the BPO February 21



Students had an opportunity to meet and ask questions of BPO violinist and BSS alumna, Megan Prokes, during intermission!

# BSS Students Performed Community Spotlight Concert at the BPO January 16





## 3rd Annual Alumni Gathering





BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL

## Namisi Chilungu

I graduated from BSS in 1997 (wow!). After that, I went to UB for a B.A. in English and Psychology, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. During graduate school, I wrote about the Suzuki method for one of my Ed Psych professors, relating it to mastery learning, and he ended up using the story in a book he later published! The BSS Friendship Tours were my first real travel experiences, and definitely inspired me to travel and become more independent. I went on the Southeastern US tour, and Peru and Chile. I have since traveled to several parts of the world, including my father's home country, Kenya. I also lived and taught secondary school in Guyana, South America for one year, and am working with a Teachers College in Uganda. I am currently an Educational Psychology professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Atlanta was one of our stops on the first BSS tour I took, and I remember receiving a CD of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during that trip. When I first moved down here, Mrs. Neal and I talked about different parts of the city to live. It seems fitting that I have now made it my home, and regularly go to ASO concerts.

It is hard to sum up how much BSS has impacted my life in a few sentences. I feel incredibly fortunate that I was able to be a part of the Suzuki family with my siblings Neli, Michael, Edward, and Lutomia. My parents, Kathleen and Simeon, gave us the greatest gift by becoming a part of the BSS community, and encouraging our musical development. Our BSS teachers still have a very special place in our hearts and in our family. There was even a time when I was not practicing enough in middle school and maybe starting to lose interest; my teacher suggested I try a different instructor to change up my routine. That selfless gesture helped me persist and I am forever grateful she did not let me quit. All of my siblings and I are still actively involved in music today; my nephew Isaac has even taken some lessons, and is testing the waters. I played violin throughout college and graduate school in an orchestra and quartet; when I first moved to Atlanta, one of the first things I did was join a community orchestra. Today, I meet with friends weekly to play quartets. It is the greatest gift I have ever received-- to be able to play the violin, and appreciate and make music with other people. Music was a central part of my home and family growing up because of our BSS experience. It has opened up so many opportunities for me in my life, and created deep, lifelong bonds to other BSS families and musicians.



## BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL



Madelyn Lisker graduated from BSS in 2013. Since then, she has been attending SUNY Fredonia. For the first year and a half of college, Madelyn had a hard time figuring out exactly what she wanted to major in, and eventually have a career. As a second semester Junior, she has decided to make a career path that hopefully will lead her back to music and specifically BSS. Majoring in business and having a concentration in the music industry has been really eye opening. Learning and understanding what happens in the background to operate a successful business such as BSS is interesting and inspiring. A very important lesson that I have taken from BSS is that if something does not work out the first time, you have to keep going until it is perfect. Figuring out what I wanted to make a career in was very much like Gossec Gavotte; it took me many tries to get it right. I had to discipline myself to work even harder so I could reach my full potential and be pleased with the outcome. It took me a very long time to learn and I did not particularly like the piece but with perseverance and support from my teacher I did learn it. There are so many ways in which BSS has influenced me and my life decisions: self-discipline, integrity, persistence, friendship. I think about my second home on Webster Street with fond memories and love.



## *BSS Calendar for March, April, May 2016*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
March 12	Group Rep Classes
March 19 - 27	Spring Break - <i>No Lessons</i>
April 9	Group Rep Classes
April 10	String Spring Concert - <i>UB Center for the Arts, 2:30 pm</i>
April 17	Piano Spring Concerts - <i>BSS Musical Arts Center - 1:00, 3:00 &amp; 5:00 pm</i>
April 23	Group Rep Classes - <i>Open House</i>
May 7	Group Rep Classes - <i>Ensembles Concert and Grandparent's Day</i>
May 15	BPO Instrument Zoo - <i>1:00 pm</i>
May 16 - 21	Recital Week

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BSS STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE 100 DAYS PRACTICE CHALLENGE!!**





# PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!



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

Alumni, can you guess who some of these early BSS students are?  
(answer will be in next newsletter)

