



NEWSLETTER

NOV.
2016

As we enter this month of thankfulness, I am reflecting on the many people who have been a part of creating the Buffalo Suzuki Strings community over the past 47 years. Our Alums have helped us to create a history and culture of working together to achieve musical excellence. It is a personal thrill for me to have the privilege of teaching my former students' children! Our faculty offers the best in Suzuki Music Education to every student at BSS starting from birth in our Suzuki Early Childhood Music classes. Our dedicated Administrative and Business staff bring innovative new ideas to the music programs at BSS and take care of the facilities and day to day operations. We are grateful to those who believe in what we do and give so generously of their time and resources to maintain our program now and for future generations in Western New York. Most especially, we thank our current parents and students for joining our BSS community and giving us the opportunity to make music a part of their lives. Together we create the environment, the history and the vitality that is Buffalo Suzuki Strings! Mary Cay Neal



Dr. Suzuki's
Birthday
Celebration



BSS Students and Faculty
sharing and showing at the
BPO Instrument Zoo



BSS Advanced Ensemble
Featured Soloists 38th Year in a Row with
Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra
CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations Mary Cay!

On May 27th, Mary Cay Neal was presented with the Creating Learning Community Award at the Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Mary Cay was nominated for this prestigious award by four Suzuki colleagues from around the country and was given the award in front of Suzuki teachers and students from all over North and South America. The Creating Learning Community Award recognizes those who have worked for the development and expansion of the Suzuki learning community in the Americas or internationally, or who have helped to preserve the Suzuki legacy. It is without a doubt that Mary Cay has accomplished all of that and more! It is such a well deserved honor for our Founder and Executive Director of Buffalo Suzuki Strings who has worked a lifetime and invested so much into the creation of Buffalo Suzuki Strings - a place that we all love and benefit from, year after year, generation after generation. We are so proud of you Mary Cay and thank you for all that you have done for us, the Western New York community and the entire world!

BSS Calendar November, December, January

Date***Event***

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| • November 19 - 27 | • Thanksgiving Recess - NO LESSONS |
| • December 3, 9:00am - noon | • Rep Classes and WINTERWALK |
| • December 4, Arrive 1:00, Perform 1:30-2:15, Attend BPO Concert 2:30 | • BPO Community Spotlight Concert
Mary Seaton Room, Kleinhans Music Hall |
| • December 9, Arrive 1:30pm, Perform 2:00 - 3:00pm | • Roswell Park Hospital Community Concert |
| • December 20 - January 4 | • Winter Recess - NO LESSONS |
| • January 14 and 28 | • Rep Classes |

BSS at Winterwalk - December 3rd

The members of the violin Book 4-5 class will be participating in the Tonawanda/North Tonawanda Winter Walk Celebration this year. They will play a concert at 10:30 in Wutz Concert Hall with the Chamber Orchestra. Later in the afternoon (12:45) they will have their first experience with "busking" as they have been invited to perform at various shops in the Tonawanda/North Tonawanda area. This will be followed by a community concert in the BSS Community Room at 2:15. A selection of holiday music and Suzuki repertoire will be a lovely background to the BSS basket auction which will also take place in the Community Room. Please stop by to hear our students, to share some holiday excitement and to participate in the basket auction.

Annual Alumni Reunion

January 6, 2017

- BSS Alumni,
- Please join us at BSS on January 6 at 5:30. We will have a Suzuki "play-in" followed by a pizza party at 6:30. The current Advanced Ensemble students will join us as well for a fun evening of music and memories!



Emily Bauerlein graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from Buffalo State College in May 2015. She began studying viola at the age of four at Buffalo Suzuki Strings and studied under David Levine for her last 5 years. She was also a member of the Advanced Touring Ensemble and went on tour to Italy in 2006, Spain in 2008, and Argentina in 2011. Throughout her high school and college career she has volunteered at BSS in group classes and summer workshops. At Buffalo State, Emily studied under Kate Holzemer and Janz Costello of the BPO. She won the Young Artist Competition at Buffalo State in 2014 and performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante. During the summer she went to Ithaca and Canada to take Suzuki Book 1 and 2 training. She is so glad to be back as faculty teaching viola and violin.

Welcome Emily Bauerlein and Elizabeth Ruth, BSS Faculty

Elizabeth Ruth graduated from SUNY Buffalo State in May 2016 with her Bachelor's degree in music with a concentration in piano pedagogy and piano accompaniment. She has been playing the piano since she was 6 years on and has been privileged to study with great teachers such as Emma Ziskind and Dr. Emily Boyce.

Elizabeth was first introduced to the Suzuki method under the tutelage of Dr. Boyce during her time at SUNY Buffalo State. Elizabeth took part of a special research project of the Suzuki method of teaching.

Elizabeth is continuing her studies in piano education at the University of Buffalo. She is very excited to be trained as a Suzuki instructor and thrilled to be part of this amazing team here at Buffalo Suzuki Strings.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!



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



Mary Cay teaching from her living room during the early years of Buffalo Suzuki Strings

Advanced Ensemble performance
at the Suzuki Association of the
Americas Conference.
This is 1991, the first year that
groups performed .



BSS ALUMNI ARE SPECIAL

Megan Prokes began studying the violin at the age of four. Her first 14 years of instruction were completed at Buffalo Suzuki Strings, where she was a student of Alice Keith Knowles and Mary Cay Neal. As a member of the Advanced Ensemble at Buffalo Suzuki Strings, she participated in concert tours to the southeast United States, Chile, Peru, England, and Ireland. Megan continued her studies at Carnegie Mellon University, where she earned her Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees in violin performance as a student of Cyrus Forough. Megan has appeared as a soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra. She has been a member of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and has attended the Lake George Music Festival for the past five years. She also participated in the Breckenridge Music Festival during the summer of 2016. This is Megan's fifth season as a section first violinist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Save the Date!
A Gift of Music
given by BSS Alumna
Megan Prokes
March 11, 3:00pm at BSS



KELSEY SHEA, 2010

- After graduating from BSS in 2010, I completed a
- bachelor's degree in Foreign Affairs at the University of
- Virginia, and have just started medical school at the
- University of Arizona in Tucson. Although I didn't
- pursue a music major, I took violin lessons during
- college and played in the orchestra. Even after
- graduating from college, I kept playing violin --
- I'm currently in a band in Tucson that plays European
- folk music. Some of the closest friends I have made
- over the years I've met through music & I still have
- some wonderful friends from my time in the BSS
- Advanced Ensemble. Performing and listening to music
- has been one of the greatest consistent joys in my life
- and I am so grateful to my teachers and peers at BSS
- for helping me foster that love.