

# Boulder Suzuki Strings News

## Volume 17, Issue 3

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

-Thomas A. Edison

### Dear Boulder Suzuki Strings Families,

We are getting ready for our 31<sup>st</sup> annual spring workshop to be held the weekend of April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This is our big weekend of concerts and classes with guest faculty. We send our seniors off by honoring them with solos on the Friday night concert of the workshop. As tradition continues, we will have a reception in their honor hosted by the class of 2015 after the concert. All groups and students will perform at this weekend of concerts, which is a spectacular sight to see and hear. Invite your friends and family to these special concerts.

Congratulations to the students in the advanced group for being accepted to perform at the Suzuki Association of the America's biennial convention in Minneapolis, MN in May. These students deserve this honor! Hear a sneak preview of their performance at spring workshop.

The third tour group has been rehearsing since September and is set to leave for Costa Rica in March during spring break. Please come hear the tour group perform their concert, complete with dancing, immediately following group on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, in the sanctuary. You will be tapping your toes and dancing with us.

Start planning ahead for summer Suzuki institutes. Information is now available online for institutes all over the country – ask your teacher. We are fortunate to have an institute right in our own backyard: The Peaks to Plains Suzuki Institute and Advanced Chamber Camp will be held July 14 to 18. Go to [www.ppsicolorado.com](http://www.ppsicolorado.com) for details and registration forms.

The BSS faculty looks forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Amy Gesmer-Packman

### Remaining Spring 2014 BSS Dates

Friday, Mar. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Group
Friday, Mar. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Group <b>Tour Group Concert</b> in sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. immediately following group
Friday, Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Group
Saturday, Apr. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Solo Rehearsals at BVCC 7100 S. Boulder Rd.
Friday and Saturday, Apr. 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Workshop at BVCC
Friday, Apr. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Solo Recital Run-Throughs
Friday and Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Solo Recitals

## Reminder

Seniors: Don't forget senior solo rehearsal at Boulder Valley Christian Church on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Please arrive by 9:45 a.m.

## Reception to Honor Graduating Seniors

Please join the celebration immediately following the Spring Workshop concert on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, honoring BSS graduating seniors. Reception is hosted by the junior class.

## Can you help with our website?

We would like to update the Boulder Suzuki Strings website and make it more user-friendly. If you have website design expertise and would like to donate your time, or if you know of someone who does, please contact Amy at amyges@bouldersuzukistrings.org.

## Spring 2014 Tuition

Semester bills were sent out in December. Thanks to those of you who have already made payments. If you have not already done so, please send your check today!

## Seniors...

Bios and pictures for the Spring Workshop program are due to Amy no later than Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>! Don't make her come after you...

## Robertson and Sons

Robertson and Sons Violin Shop is generously donating a full size Klaus von Aue violin, Pernambuco Bow and Embassy Case (total value over \$2000.00) to auction off at our Spring Workshop in April. For the first time, Don Robertson and his sons will arrive on Thursday afternoon. They will begin to work at 3 p.m. to meet all of our needs. Hours will be Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. -6 p.m. and Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. We hope this will lessen the lines and the wait for the great service they provide.

## Spring Workshop

Get ready for our annual Spring Workshop. On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, we will host a play-in for books 1-3 as well as rehearsals and a concert featuring Senior Soloists. We have hired fabulous guest violin/viola and cello faculty to come and teach classes for all BSS students on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition, all students will attend enrichment classes, like Dalcroze and yoga. Read about guest faculty in their bios on pages 5 and 6. The culminating concert on Saturday afternoon features the amazing sight of more than 200 students on stage. Make sure to mark your calendars! Your schedule of classes and the final concerts will be coming soon.

Please remember that students must attend all instrument specific classes in order to perform in the final concerts. Attendance will be taken.

## Don't forget to Review:

Visit <http://bouldersuzukistrings.org/ReviewPieces.pdf> for a list of pieces to remember.

*"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."*

*-George Bernard Shaw*

## Dear BSS Families,

Did you know that last year Boulder Suzuki Strings families raised over \$3,000 to support our musical community?

In 2013, BSS benefitted in many ways from your donated support, including:

- Scholarships for 8 students
- Purchasing music
- Hiring guest faculty (it can cost up to \$3,000 to hire guest faculty for Spring Workshop)
- Continuing education for our teachers (for example, the biennial SAA convention costs \$235 plus airfare per teacher)
- Renting facilities (Church rental costs over \$4,000 per semester)

### **Boulder Suzuki Strings depends on your donations and support!**

This year, you can support BSS through a “no hassle” fundraiser. It’s a way to make sure that all of the scholarships get funded and continuing education can be offered without taking time away from our busy lives. Here are some of the reasons we’ve chosen a “no hassle” fundraiser this year:

- 100% of the donations go to BSS
- Your donation stays local
- Tax-deductible
- Your company may match your donation
- There’s nothing to bid on or deliver
- You just write a check

### **Our goal is to raise \$4,000 by the Spring Workshop.**

Donating couldn’t be easier. First, choose a level of support that’s right for your family, then mail your tax-deductible check made out to Boulder Suzuki Strings by April 5<sup>th</sup>, and we will acknowledge you in the Spring Workshop concert program. We’ll also send you a receipt that you can keep for tax purposes.

- Quarter note: \$25
- Half note: \$50
- Whole note: \$100
- Spring workshop corporate sponsor: \$500

If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Soika at (512) 470-8041 or [ksoika@gmail.com](mailto:ksoika@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!

Musically yours,

Boulder Suzuki Strings Fundraising

## Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> is Boulder Suzuki Strings Spirit Day!

Join us in celebrating the Costa Rica Tour group send off concert by wearing your Boulder Suzuki Strings t-shirts to Group classes on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. T-shirts will be available for sale on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Buy yours for \$10.



*Thanks to our models, Paul, Miriam and Lucas Muller*



### National Honor

16 violinists and 3 cellists are performing at the Suzuki Association of the Americas biennial conference Memorial Day weekend. It is a huge honor to be chosen to perform after submitting an audition tape and application back in September of 2013.

All music must be performed from memory and at the highest level. The students will perform on Friday evening, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Boulder Suzuki Strings sweatshirts will be sold to students and chaperones going to Costa Rica and Minneapolis on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Sweatshirts will be available for all students and families in the fall. Cost is \$25.

### International News

We leave for Costa Rica early on Saturday morning, March 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 9 violinists, 2 cellists, 2 teachers, and 4 chaperones. We are looking forward to performing, hiking, testing our Spanish skills, eating and learning about the Costa Rican culture and being ambassadors of the uniting spirit of music while on the tour.



## Presenting Spring Workshop Guest Faculty

### Dr. Jeremy Dittus

Jeremy Dittus enjoys a career as a pianist, theorist, and Dalcroze eurhythmics instructor. An avid recitalist, he has performed solo and chamber programs and presented Dalcroze masterclasses throughout the United States and in Europe. He currently teaches on the summer faculty at Colorado State University where he founded and now directs the Dalcroze School of the Rockies Dalcroze Academy teacher-training center. A former Lecturer in piano, theory, and solfege at the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory in Cleveland, he also has instructed undergraduate solfege, piano, and composition courses at the University of Colorado at Boulder as well as eurhythmics and solfege at L'Institut Jaques-Dalcroze in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Dittus is the founder and director of the Dalcroze School of the Rockies in Denver, Colorado, the only authorized Dalcroze training center west of Pittsburgh in the United States. The DSR offers Eurhythmics classes for children (pre-kindergarten through high school), adult enrichment classes, and full time study toward the Dalcroze Certificate/License (eurhythmics, solfege, improvisation, and pedagogy). Additionally, he has presented Dalcroze workshops at home and abroad including the World Piano Conference, International Early Childhood Music and Movement Convention, National Dalcroze Conference, American Orff-Schulwerk Association National Convention, National Flute Convention, Colorado Music Educators Association State Convention, Piano Celebration at Metro-State University in Denver, University of Louisville Piano Institute, in addition to several summer music institutes, universities, and conservatories across the country. He also serves on the state board for the Colorado Federation of Music Clubs and functions as the Vice President of the Dalcroze Society of America. He recently has published books on Dalcroze Education: *Embodying Music: A Textbook for Dalcroze Teacher Training*, and the first of five books that correspond to the Rhythmic-Solfege youth program in place at the Dalcroze School of the Rockies.

### Everett Goodwin

Everett Goodwin began violin studies at age 5. He attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he received a Bachelor's of Music diploma with a violin major. During the summers of his final two years 1968 and 1969 Dr. Shinichi Suzuki held two week seminars in Madison. An opportunity became available for Everett to play in a master class for Dr. Suzuki which eventually changed the course of Everett's musical career.

After studying for his undergraduate degree, Everett was accepted as a student of Sidney Harth. He enrolled as graduate performance major at Carnegie Mellon University and received his MFA degree in 1971. While in Pittsburgh, Everett and his wife worked at the St. Francis Hospital children's mental health in-patient unit. Both he and his wife were moved to dedicate their life to helping children. The inspirational speeches for the sake of children given by Dr. Suzuki two years earlier now took on deep significance for Everett. He decided to use his love of violin and his good technical training to develop his teaching ability in the Suzuki method.

He had teacher training under Marge Aber in 1972 and 73. He attended the summer institutes in Stevens Point from 73-77. He then worked under Marge from 1978 to 1981 as a full time teacher in the American Suzuki Institute and also as violin teacher at UW Stevens Point. In 1981 Everett became the director of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Suzuki Talent Education Program. He retired from that position in 2004.

His teaching career has included work as a Suzuki clinician throughout the United States, Canada and New Zealand. He continues to teach privately and accepts invitations as a guest clinician. He and his wife enjoy performing chamber recitals. Playing the violin remains the great joy of Everett's creative life.

Everett and Santha have four children and eleven grandchildren. He is now teaching 3 of his grandchildren.

## Spring Workshop Faculty Continued

### William Starr

William Starr is an internationally recognized Suzuki pedagogue and a founder of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He has appeared at workshops and conferences throughout the world, as teacher, conductor, soloist, and lecturer, and is founder of numerous Suzuki programs and pedagogy programs throughout the United States. Mr. Starr was a faculty member of the University of Tennessee Department of Music for many years, serving as chair from 1977-1982. During this time, he was first violinist with the University String Quartet and concertmaster of the Knoxville Symphony. He has also served as an adjunct professor of music at the University of Colorado–Boulder. He is author and co-author of numerous books, including *Perceiving Music*, a college theory text, and many Suzuki-related texts, including *The Suzuki Violinist* and, with his wife, Constance, *To Learn with Love*. From his experience as a university symphony conductor, Mr. Starr has first-hand knowledge of the relationship between the understanding of music theory and the reading skills of many young violinists. Passionate about teaching theory and music reading to children, he has published a series of reading books that incorporate what he calls “usable” theory. Mr. Starr is currently a faculty member of Boulder Suzuki Strings, which he has worked with since its inception in 1982.

### Jessica Berg

Jessica Berg is a violin teacher and Iyengar Yoga instructor with active violin studios in Denver and Boulder. She joined the faculty of Boulder Suzuki Strings in 2002. In addition to teaching private lessons and coaching string ensembles in Denver, she leads St. Anne’s Strings at St. Anne’s Episcopal School in Denver, where she has worked with students since 2008.

Jessica believes in linking yoga and music to help musicians overcome the physical strains of playing an instrument and find emotional balance for performance. She has taught Yoga for Musicians at workshops including Peaks to Plains Suzuki Institute, Intermezzo Chamber Music Sessions and the Suzuki Winter Workshop in Denver, CO.

Jessica began studying Suzuki violin at age 3 at Wheaton College in Wheaton Illinois under Kee Soon Ahn and William Fuhrberg. She completed her teacher training with Suzuki Pedagogue, Ellie Albers Leroux. While traveling in India in 1998, she discovered yoga and began teaching in 2002. She is happy to make her home in Colorado, and enjoys the mountain lifestyle to the fullest.

### Veronica Pigeon

Veronica Pigeon, violinist, fell in love with the violin at the age of 6, when she began studies with Suzuki pedagogue Alliree Meyers in her hometown of Golden, CO. Alliree’s encouragement, vibrant personality and positive attitude helped foster Veronica’s lifelong love of music. She actively turned that love into her profession, studying with Basil Vendryes, Yumi Hwang-Williams, and Linda Wang at the University of Denver (Bachelor of Music and Certificate in Orchestral Studies), with Lina Bahn at the University of Colorado at Boulder (Master of Music), and with Simin Ganatra of the Pacifica Quartet at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (Quartet Studies).

Veronica cultivated orchestral skills at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival (2007) and National Repertory Orchestra (2008 and 2009), working with world-class musicians Scott Yoo, Bion Tsang, Carl Topilow, and Joann Falletta. These experiences led to several leadership positions in the Denver Metro area, including Concertmaster of Lakewood Symphony (Fall 2007-Spring 2011) and Principal Second Violin of Denver Philharmonic (Fall 2007-Spring 2008). She is a member of the Boulder Philharmonic (Section First Violin, September 2008-present), and performs 8-9 concerts a season.

*(continued next page)*

## Spring Workshop Faculty Continued

### Rodney Farrar

**Rodney Farrar**, a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, has enjoyed a distinguished career as cello instructor to students of a wide range of ages and levels. He has served on the faculties of the University of Kentucky, the University of Illinois, the Crane School of Music and the Brevard Music Center. He has also been active in the development of Suzuki Method cello teaching from its early beginnings in this country and has been invited to teach at hundreds of workshops and institutes throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Australia. Incidentally, his first-ever workshop teaching experience resulted from a kind invitation by **William Starr** to come teach at a Suzuki institute at the University of Tennessee in 1974! Rodney resides in Littleton, Colorado with his wife, two children and two grandchildren. He currently serves as principal cellist of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra, performs with several local chamber ensembles and teaches a large class of beautiful private students.

### Enion Pelta-Tiller

Enion Pelta-Tiller (Lyons, CO). She plays the 5-string fiddle and sings in groups as diverse as the Juno-award winning new acoustic ensemble, the Jayme Stone Quartet, traditional and progressive award-winning bluegrass band the Railsplitters, and Taarka, the gypsy-pop-grass group she co-founded in 2002. Enion began playing classical violin at the age of 3, and learned to improvise from her jazz guitarist father, playing in Gypsy-Jazz bands, Jazz ensembles, and folk and rock groups with him and others throughout her youth. Enion has led fiddle workshops around the country and taught at Mark O'Connor's Strings Conference, and is delighted to be able to share her enthusiasm for and knowledge of the intricacies of improvising on the violin with the students of Boulder Suzuki Strings

### *Veronica Pigeon (continued)*

In 2013, Veronica was invited to play for the Opera Colorado pit orchestra. She enjoyed performing *Romeo & Juliet* (February 2013) and *Don Giovanni* (March 2013), and is looking forward to playing *Rigoletto* (March 2014) and *Carmen* (May 2014). Also, Veronica won a Section First Violin position with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra (July 2013), and looks forward to performing 6-8 concerts this season.

An avid chamber musician, Veronica was a member of the Anasazi String Quartet from August 2009-June 2012. She worked with the Takacs Quartet, Miro Quartet, and Pacifica Quartet, and took first place with the Anasazi String Quartet in March 2012 at the MTNA National Chamber Music Competition (Collegiate Division) held in New York, NY.

Veronica has always enjoyed sharing her knowledge of music, and this spurred certification in Suzuki Violin Books I-VIII and Pre-Twinkle under Suzuki pedagogue James Maurer as an undergraduate. Since then, she has actively taught, both privately and for local programs. She worked as an assistant for Arvada West High School's orchestra program (2007-2011), giving sectionals once to twice weekly, and coached high school chamber music ensembles once weekly for the University of Illinois' School of Music Academy (2011-2012).

Since August 2012, Veronica has taught weekly classes at Edgewater Elementary School for City Strings, a community outreach program under Augustana Arts. The program offers violin classes to students unable to afford extracurricular violin lessons. She is honored to be a member of the Boulder Suzuki Strings faculty, and currently coaches chamber music and occasional group classes.

Presently, Veronica continues to play with the Boulder Philharmonic and Greeley Philharmonic Orchestras, teach for Boulder Suzuki Strings and City Strings, and pursue performing in the Denver Metro area. In her free time, she loves spending time with her family and friends, doing volunteer pet therapy work at Craig Hospital, reading, and going on outdoor outings with her Newfoundland, Sullivan.