

Highlights from a Successful Suzuki 50th Anniversary

By Beth Turco

January 5 and 6 was a weekend of celebration, renewed connections and fabulous performances. The weekend started with a Department Recital on Friday, featuring current Suzuki students and recent Suzuki Alumni, including college students Claire Miller, Bella Horton and Annie Amen. The performances were certainly honors level, and the audience was filled with current families and alumni.

Saturday morning featured a play-in for violin students led by Mark Bjork. Our current students and faculty were joined by college students and alumni from as far away as Munich, Germany. Mr. Bjork led all levels of students through a play-in, accompanied by Kathy Wood. It was fun to see our students playing with alumni who have kept up their Suzuki review pieces for over 30 years!

The Saturday night Gala Alumni Benefit Concert was a sold-out, festive event. The lobby and stage were transformed by candles, tablecloths and flowers provided by Michelle McIntosh and the MacPhail Suzuki Association. We celebrated the rich history of our Suzuki program, which began 50 years ago with Mark Bjork and just a few violin students. Our Suzuki program now offers Suzuki lessons in 7 different instruments, has 39 teachers on the faculty, 4 orchestras and over 700 students.

The 16 performers, all MacPhail Suzuki program alumni, many of whom are professional musicians, eagerly agreed to donate their time and talents for the concert. Their performances were stunning. It was heartwarming to see the wide variety of performers; some graduated in the early days of the program and some were recent graduates. The performers were:

- **Travis Anderson**, piano, a 1998 graduate who studied with Nancy Daley for 16 years. He is currently a professional photographer and plays regularly at The Dakota with his classic jazz combo, The Travis Anderson Trio.
- **Katherine Bodor**, composer, a 2012 graduate who was in the Suzuki program at MacPhail for 14 years and studied piano with Nancy Daley. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Composition Indiana University. She composed, Currents for String Quartet, in honor of the 50th Anniversary.
- **Kirsten Docter**, viola, a 1988 graduate who studied violin with Mark Bjork. She is currently on the faculty at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.
- **Bella Horton**, cello, a 2016 graduate who studied with Christy Libbus and is a student at Dartmouth.
- **Xavier Jara**, guitar, a 2011 graduate who studied with Alan Johnston. He is the 1st prize winner of the 2016 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, and is currently on a tour of more than 50 concerts in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala & Panama, including a concert at Carnegie Hall (April 5, 2018.)
- **Henry Johnston**, guitar, a 2015 graduate who studied violin with Andrea Noteboom and guitar with Alan Johnston. He is currently a student at University of Texas at Austin, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Guitar Performance.
- **Brooke Knoll**, harp, a 2016 graduate who studied harp with Phala Tracy and Nikki Lemire. She is currently a student at the University of Minnesota
- **Karen Kubin**, violin, a 1990 graduate who studied violin with her father, Mark Bjork in the Suzuki program from 1975 to 1990. She currently maintains a private studio and conducts the Kirksville Community String Orchestra.

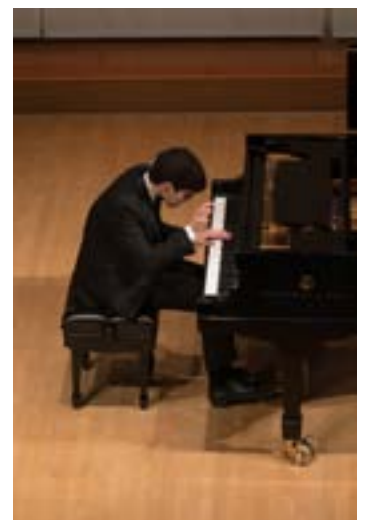
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- **Grace McEnergy**, violin, a 2016 graduate who studied with Andrea Noteboom and Kathy Wood. She is currently a freshman at Tufts University.
- **Heather MacLaughlin**, piano, a Suzuki faculty alumna who taught in the Suzuki program at MacPhail for a total of 14 years. She currently teaches at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park.
- **Claire Miller**, violin, a 2015 graduate who studied violin with Margaret Haviland and piano with J.B. Taylor, Richard Stanton and Beth Turco. She is a junior at the University of Minnesota.
- **Evren Ozel**, piano, a 2017 graduate who studied with Cindy Malmin from 2002 – 2007 and is now a freshman at New England Conservatory.
- **Alexandra Sophocleus**, viola, a 2014 graduate who studied with Andrea Noteboom, Brad Johnson and Margaret Haviland. She is a senior at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.
- **Michael Sutton**, violin, a 1987 graduate who studied with Mark Bjork for 12 years. He is currently a member of the Minnesota Orchestra and he's also a MacPhail faculty member.
- **James Waldo**, cello, a 2003 graduate who studied with Brenda Villard. He performed with his wife, **Alyona Aksyonova**, piano. Together they form the A. W. Duo and concertize around the U.S. James recently returned to the University of Wisconsin - Madison this fall to begin doctoral studies as a University Fellow.

We heard remarks during the recital from Mark Bjork, Suzuki founder and director of the program from 1967-1992, Kathy Wood, Suzuki director from 1999 – 2011, and Beth Turco, director since 2011. Clark Ohnesorge, the first Suzuki violin student for the MacPhail Suzuki Program in 1967 shared recollections from his initial lessons with Mr. Bjork. Nancy Pederson, Suzuki Piano teacher and Associate Director of the program from 1977 – 1992 was also in attendance.

The proceeds from the recital will help fund the Bjork/Pederson Suzuki Student Scholarship, which was established in 1994 by the MacPhail Suzuki Association in honor of Mark Bjork and Nancy Pederson for their years of teaching and work in establishing MacPhail's Suzuki Program. **The fund is close to the \$25,000 goal needed to permanently endow the scholarship!** If you haven't yet contributed, please consider doing so and contact Lisa Salzl at 612.767.5327 or Salzl.lisa@macphail.org.

The themes from the weekend were clear: There is deep personal connection between students and teachers that lasts a lifetime; we are all part of a large, close-knit Suzuki community; and we have shared goals of achieving a high musical potential and developing kind, noble people through music study. There's no doubt that our MacPhail Suzuki community is wide-reaching, and the impact of the program runs deep. The weekend was a poignant demonstration of Dr. Suzuki's mantra; "When love is deep, much can be accomplished." What a proud weekend of events for our wonderful Suzuki community!



WINTER WORKSHOP FOR CELLO, VIOLIN AND VIOLA Saturday, January 12-13, 2018

A wonderful weekend of music to kick off the New Year!

The weekend included slightly different schedules from our usual Saturday morning to offer students an opportunity to work with a number of wonderful guest teachers.



CONGRATULATIONS!



- Ada Dong**, attended 10 Performances!
- Anna Rosen** completed 700 days of practice!
- Charlie Poulter** Graduated from Suzuki Piano Book 3!
- Lauren Fairbairn** completed 300 days of practice!
- Lena Chu** completed 100 days of practice!
- Mitch, Alex and Ben Hinrichs** completed 100 days of practice!
- Oliver Czaplicki** completed 300 days of practice!
- Nathan Chu** completed 100 days of practice@
- Owen Fairbairn** completed 300 days of practice!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 19

Suzuki Department All Instrument Recital, 6 pm, Antonello Hall

Friday, January 26

Suzuki Department All Instrument Recital, 6 pm, Antonello Hall

Saturday, January 27

Suzuki Graduating Seniors Recital with Faculty Orchestra, 7 pm, Antonello Hall

Monday, February 5

Spring Semester Tuition Due

Friday, February 9

Suzuki Department All Instrument Recital, 6 pm, Antonello Hall

Saturday, February 10

Suzuki Orchestra Concert, 10:30 am, Antonello Hall

Sunday, February 11

Suzuki Graduating Seniors Recital with Chamber Orchestra, 1 pm, Antonello Hall

Super Bowl LII

Super Bowl LII is approaching and due to the proximity of the MacPhail Minneapolis building to the US Bank Stadium, we wish to inform you of changes to our schedule and building hours. We hope that this important information will facilitate your planning and preparations. Please carefully read through the information sent via email from MacPhail on January 8th and confirm your lesson/class schedule with your instructor.

The Student Services office is also available to answer questions.
Student Services can be reached at 612-321-0100.

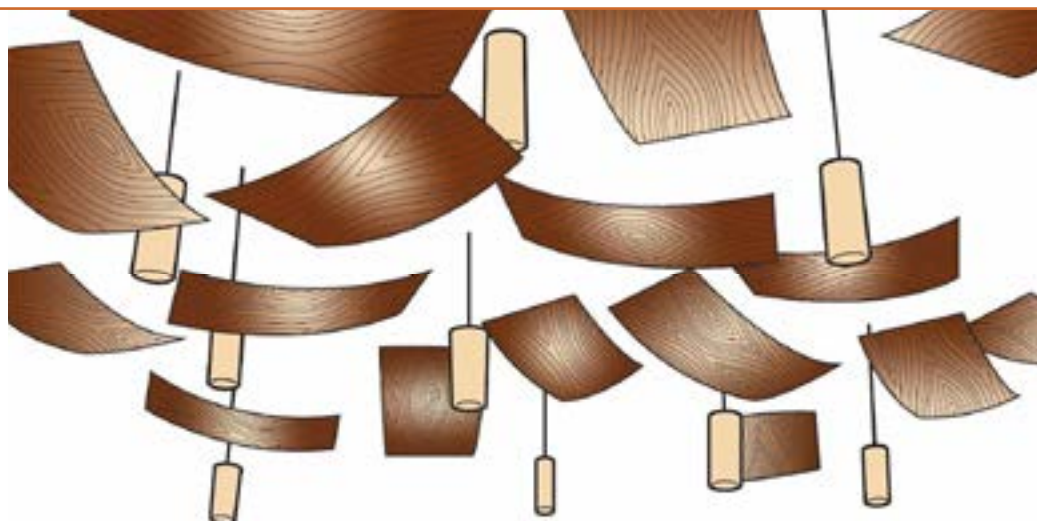
Parking and Street Closure Information for MacPhail Center for Music in Mpls during Super Bowl week: Parking will be a challenge during the week leading up to the Super Bowl. To best plan please view live updates for the latest on parking options on the following link:

<http://cityoflakes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f8005414ee1a48338aba6bce7fee4280>

Please note: we have been informed by the city of Minneapolis that regular parking meter rates will remain in effect and will increase only on Sunday, Feb 4th, Game Day.

Please note there will be several streets closed off in different areas of Downtown Minneapolis, and this is not limited to the area around the US Bank Stadium. The closures around Nicollet Mall and the Convention Center begin the week of the Super Bowl, and some of the closures near the stadium began on January 2. More information can be found at <http://minneapolismn.gov/visitors/SuperBowl/WCMSP-195148>.

SENIORS CONCERT SATURDAY, JANUARY 27



MacPhail

CENTER FOR MUSIC

PLEASE JOIN US

2018 Suzuki Seniors Concert

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27,
2018

ANTONELLO HALL
7:00 PM

Featuring Suzuki Graduating Seniors

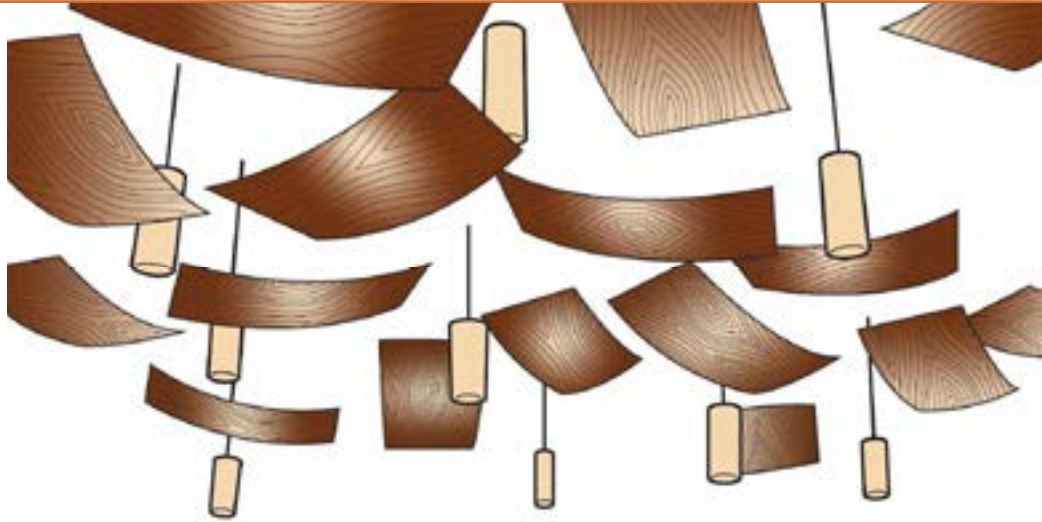
Grace Bianchi – Violin
Sonia Driskill - Harp
Kathryn Hillmer – Viola
Jake Peterson – Piano
Becan Schindler – Cello

Ravi Chepuri – Piano
Michael Feldkamp – Piano
Till Konczak – Violin
Cassidy Roland – Piano
Andrew Zhou – Piano

*Join us after the recital for a reception provided by the
MacPhail Suzuki Association in the US Bank Lobby*



SENIORS CONCERT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11



MacPhail

CENTER FOR MUSIC

PLEASE JOIN US

2018 Suzuki Seniors Concert

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018
ANTONELLO HALL
1:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION

Featuring Suzuki Graduating Seniors

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ian Bromander – Piano | Mary Jo Dunne – Violin |
| Christopher Eiesland-Birch - Cello | Julia Fabbro – Guitar |
| Caroline Heine – Violin | Emma Medeiros – Violin |
| Elle McShane – Piano | Abigail Murray-Stark - Guitar |
| Claudia Partridge – Cello | Annie VanPilsun-Johnson – Viola |

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ASSOCIATION**



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AND ONLINE

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INDRA KHARIWALA, SUZUKI VIOLIN STUDENT OF JOY MOELLER

is featured in the Stages Theater Production of

**Leo Lionni's FREDERICK
Jan 19 – Feb 19, 2018**

Adapted by Suzanne Maynard Miller.
Music and lyrics by Sarah Durkee and Paul Jacobs.

Directed by Marilee Mahler
Age Recommendation: All Ages

Purchase Tickets Here: <https://www.stagestheatre.org/>