

# fabulous friday flyer

HOUSTON  
AREA  
SUZUKI  
STRINGS  
ASSOCIATION  
2014-2015  
ISSUE NO. 2



The new HASSA Group Classes in League City are creating a lot of excitement!

## Freaky Friday, October 2014

**Are you a "stone Buddha"?**  
by Danette Schuh

Do you love Halloween? The chance to dress up in an outrageous costume and adopt a totally different personality for the night. What fun! Being an expressive performer actually has something in common with the exciting Halloween experience. Every time we play a piece of music, we take on a new role, a new character. It is our job to tell the story of that character, acting it out through the music. For some, this comes naturally, and for others... well, Suzuki might have called them "stone Buddhas" when

he saw them standing still as a statue, stiffly playing their violins. Some creative imagery games can bring some of those statues to life! Take a favorite review piece and your child's favorite movie or book character and ask them to play the piece as that character. I'm sure you will hear a very different version of Perpetual Motion as Superman would play it! How about a Hello Kitty-style performance of Minuet 3? When children put themselves into a different role, they become free to be expressive in a way that is different from their usual style. One of my favorite activities is "the many moods of tonalization". Each

day, students choose a mood (happy, sad, melancholy, surprised, excited, mad, etc.) and reflect that emotion when playing tonalization. Then we analyze what was changed with the bow to make that sound. These are excellent first steps to expressive musical playing that can bring joy to both audience and performer.

**Next Class:**  
**League City: November 7**  
**Houston: November 21**  
**Fundraising Friday! Let's show our generosity to Suzuki students in Latin America.**



on the web at [hassa.wildapricot.org](http://hassa.wildapricot.org)

"As I have said before, I had no illusions about my performing ability. But I did not know that my despair was brought about not because I had no talent but because I did not know how to develop it."

— Shinichi Suzuki, *Nurtured by Love: The Classic Approach to Talent Education*

# What's next? Upcoming HASSA events...

October 12  
HASSA Musicale

October 25  
SPOOKY SUZUKI

November 15  
HASSA CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP

November 7 - League City  
November 21 - Houston  
FABULOUS FRIDAY GROUP CLASS -  
Fundraiser Friday  
December 13  
HOLIDAY CONCERT AT  
OLD TOWN SPRING

January 16-17  
WINTER WORKSHOP  
January 6 - League City  
January 27 - Houston  
FABULOUS FRIDAY GROUP CLASS -  
Fearless Friday

[details at hassa.wildapricot.org](http://details.at.hassa.wildapricot.org)

## Suzuki programs in Latin America need YOU!

### There are so many stories

told by Suzuki teachers who have been to Latin America for workshops and festivals, but there is



one recurring theme - need. Among the bright and excited and determined and hardworking children who love learning and playing music, there is a great need for supplies. Teachers talk about the threadbare strings, faded copies of music and shoulder rest sponges that students use until they literally disintegrate into dust. Any small gift, even a used sponge or rosin is accepted with shining eyes and great excitement and gratitude. They cherish things that we would just take for granted.

### What can we do?

Bring your gently used but unwanted items. Look around your practice area. Do you have an old set of strings, rosin, flashcards, music or Suzuki books that you don't use anymore, that sponge or shoulder rest you outgrew, but is still in your closet or drawer?

Do you really need that old recorder that you used in 4th grade? Suzuki recorder programs are very popular in Latin American. How about your old smartphone that has been replaced by a new one, an old iPod shuffle and extra headphones, Suzuki CD's or cassettes, long-forgotten and replaced by new items and new technology.

Don't have any used stuff? New stuff is good too!

Don't have any extra stuff?



We will happily accept cash or checks. Many of the students in small villages in Central and South America do not have electricity in their homes, so we are collecting funds to purchase solar chargers to charge iPods and other devices so students can listen to Suzuki recordings. Headphone splitter hubs will allow 5 students to listen to one iPod or device at one time! We will send the materials collected with teachers that



regularly travel to Latin American countries for Suzuki workshops and festivals. With your help these kids can continue to enrich their lives, their community and our world.

## The Music Mind Games Corner



### Let's go fast!

Suzuki knew that children loved to move fast and play fast. This is one reason why the Twinkle variations are quick rhythms. Music Mind Games

creator Michiko Yurko knows that too. Not only do kids love to play these games fast, but she designed them to reinforce quick hand-eye coordination which is necessary to read music in tempo. In a chamber group or an orchestra, there's no time to slow down. Reading must happen in time and with the speed of the group. Keep playing those Music Mind Games!