

fabulous friday flyer

SOUTHEAST
TEXAS
SUZUKI
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH/SE
REGION
2015-16
ISSUE NO. 1



Frontal Lobe Friday, September 2015

Playing the Brain Game! by Danette Schuh

Playing a musical instrument is both a cognitive and physical skill. Many people are not aware that music is the only thing that causes both hemispheres of the brain to "light up" or become active. This occurs when listening to music and to an even greater extent, while playing music. The coordination required to play a musical instrument is staggering. The violin and viola are especially complex, since all the motions needed to play are also crossing the 'midline' of the body. When we do things with our right hand on the left side of our body

and the left hand on the right side of our body, we are crossing the midline. Activities crossing the midline, such as playing the violin, can actually increase the physical size of the corpus callosum, the part of the brain that connects the right and left hemispheres. Researcher Alfred A. Tomatis coined the term "The Mozart Effect" after a study that showed a significant improvement in IQ test scores after subjects listened to the music of Mozart. It is supposed that the increased brain activity in both hemispheres of the brain is responsible. Every year, the average SAT test scores of the Texas All-State

music groups are tallied. The orchestra students' scores are not only significantly higher than average, but also higher than the band and the choir. Apparently string playing does have a big effect on the brain!



Watch this TedEd original video by Anita Collins and learn more about music and the brain.
www.ed.ted.com

Next Class:

October 9

Freaky Friday! Get ready for our "Hauntcert" by dressing up in a costume inspired by the Suzuki literature!



"Our aim needs to be the nurturing of children. The moment we rigidly convince ourselves, "Education is what we're after," we warp a child's development. First foster the heart, then help the child acquire ability. This is indeed nature's proper way."
-Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

on the web at stxsa.org

What's next? Upcoming HASSA events...

September 25
STXSA SW Region
Pajama Play-In

October 9
STXSA S/SE Region
FABULOUS FRIDAY
GROUP CLASS -
Freaky Friday

October 24
STXSA S/SE Region
Spooky Suzuki

November 13
STXSA S/SE Region
FABULOUS FRIDAY
GROUP CLASS
Formation Friday

November 14
STXSA SW Region
Ribbon Festival

December 2015
STXSA HOLIDAY
CONCERTS - TBA

February 6
STXSA WORKSHOP

details at www.stxsa.org

Meet your friendly faculty!

Meredith Harris



is the STXSA League City Group Class Chairman and group class teacher. A native of North Carolina, she completed her

undergraduate studies at East Carolina University. Her Masters of Music in viola performance was at Rice University in Houston with James Dunham. Ms. Harris performs with the Houston Grand Opera and the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. She has performed at the Lincoln Center Opera Festival in New York, was a founding member of the Quartus Chamber Players. She teaches violin and viola in the Memorial/610 area. Most recently, she has joined the faculty of the Dolce Strings Touring Group!

Danette Schuh



teaches STXSA League City HASSA group classes. She is a Past-President of STXSA (formerly HASSA) and has chaired numerous events over the years.

She is the Director of Dolce Music Studio, home of Dolce Strings and Dolce Babies, where she teaches violin, viola and Suzuki Early Childhood classes in Sugar Land. She has taught and presented at workshops and conventions from here to Japan!. She has a Bachelor of Music degree with honors in violin performance from Indiana University, where she studied with Tadeusz Wronski and Josef Gingold. Her newest project is starting the Dolce Strings Touring Ensemble with Ms. Harris and Ms. Hope.

Elisabeth Hope



is this year's new STXSA South Region Chairman, and group class teacher. She began her musical training at the age of three with Susan Kempter in

Albuquerque, New Mexico. This "Suzuki kid" went on to study with Peter Haase at George Mason University, and Andrzej Grabiec at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, where she received her Masters degree. Ms. Hope has been featured as a soloist with orchestras in Texas, New Mexico and Virginia, most notably at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C. She currently runs a thriving private violin and viola studio in Dickinson, TX. Most recently, she has joined the faculty of the Dolce Strings Touring Group!

Suzuki Philosophy

The Seven Concepts of the Suzuki Philosophy, by Danette Schuh

Part One in a seven part series exploring the Suzuki Philosophy in depth.

The Suzuki philosophy is often misinterpreted, or abbreviated to the extent that the full meaning of Suzuki's ideas cannot be understood. The following seven concepts, 1. Every child can learn, 2. Ability develops early, 3. Environment nurtures growth, 4. Children learn from one another, 5. Success breeds success, 6. Parental involvement is critical, 7. Encouragement is essential; completely define the Suzuki philosophy, which Suzuki developed for the purpose of educating the whole child.

The belief that **every child can learn** means that every child has the potential to develop ability. There are no "geniuses", only children who have been taught and trained in the appropriate environment to develop superior ability. This contradicts the traditional opinion that only children who exhibit some sign of innate ability or "talent" without prior instruction are deserving of lessons in music or any other discipline. It boggles the mind to imagine the numbers of children who would never have had the opportunity to realize their talents if it were not for the educational philosophy of Shinichi Suzuki.

So what is STXSA? Formerly, HASSA – Houston Area Suzuki Strings Association, STXSA (pronounced "sticks-ah") stands for Suzuki Association of Southeast Texas. Same great people, same great music, and a new name! Look for South/SE Region events in your area!

