Newsletter

TAPE ADDRESSES

APRIL 1983

New Zealand SUZUKI Institute

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Over the last couple of months there has been more interest and feedback shown in the Newsletter. It is reassuring to see that it is meeting your needs as a medium for exchange of information and ideas directly related to Suzuki music and talent education. For your convenience, a list is printed overleaf with the names and phone numbers of some people you may need to contact.

If I'm blushing, it's because your subscription is now six months overdue.

(It was due in October)

Please pay promptly

$12.50

We ask you to pay your subscription promptly or we regret we would have to remove your name from the membership list.

Treasurer: Mr Wayne Budd, N.Z.S.I., P.O. Box 6058, Hamilton.

Books & Records: Mrs Pam Beehan, Crossburn Road, R.D.3. Hamilton.

Librarian: Mrs Sylvia Hart, 129 Cambridge Road, Hamilton.
Phone 67-992

Violin Tapes: Mrs Mary Allan, 15 Beale Street, Hamilton. Phone 395-146

Piano Tapes: Mrs Chris East, 62 Fifth Avenue, Hamilton. Phone 59-522

Violin Tapes - Hawkes Bay: Mrs Wyn Bickerstaff, 12 Enfield Road, Napier.
Phone 55-729

Piano Tapes - Hawkes Bay: Mrs Rosalie McKenzie, 60 Reynolds Road, Havelock Nort

** Remember - your teacher is the primary contact for tape hire. - Ed.

The new Violin tape 1 is now available. Anyone with an old violin tape, numbered (x50), or a faulty tape, please return it through your teacher.

** The Librarian's phone number was incorrect last month - my apologies. Ed.

Our circulation is now up to around 550 - and although we have the computer printed labels, the task of Newsletter despatch is onerous - folding, enveloping and addressing - my sincere thanks to the three volunteers who have joined the band of helpers - "many hands make light work". Another couple of people could be easily utilized if they were available!

Dr SUZUKI says...

"Improper practice will resul in poor performance"

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: Date - Saturday 7th May
Time - Noon - pot-luck lunch preceding meeting
Place - 359 Peachgrove Road

Date: Friday 27th May. Time: 8 p.m. Place: 359 Peachgrove Road.

EVENTS

Hamilton Family Concert — Date: April 29th (Friday)
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Baptist Church, Knighton Road.

January Violin School 1984 — to be held at Rotorua; chosen for its central location, excellent facilities and very reasonable costs.

International Tour — With regret, it has been decided by the Executive not to invite the "Suzuki Children" here in November, but at a later date.

Teachers' information - Tape Terms:

Term I - February to April inclusive

Term II - May to July inclusive

Term III - August to October inclusive

Term IV - November to January inclusive

NAPIER - HAWKES BAY

The rafters rang in Napier when Kathy Shelhart accepted an invitation to "mother" a gathering of teachers, parents and violin pupils during the weekend of 9th April. The play-in on Saturday night drew a large and enthusiastic audience, fifty-five children who came from Waipawa, Hastings, Havelock North, Taradale and Napier participating. There was the usual joyous atmosphere of excited anticipation and happy fulfillment. A generous amount of time was later devoted to questions and answers covering a diversity of problems.

As this was our first meeting of this type, Kathy's presence gave us confidence and we now feel ready to hold regular evenings of this nature. In fact it was unanimously agreed that it had been an experience which could be very happily repeated.

REPORTS

Tauranga Seminar

The first Piano Teachers Training Course and Institute Concert was held in Tauranga recently, run by Mrs Dora Harkness, and attended by an enthusiastic group. Thanks to Elizabeth Barker and Adrienne McCarthy for organising this and the piano and violin concert. Thanks too to Carol Pearson and Alison Pavlovich who travelled over from Hamilton to perform.

August Conference 1982

After the August Conference the Aokis, who were the tutors from Japan, wrote the following article for Talent Education Journal (No. 62). Mrs H. Stewart has translated it for us - (with thanks).

レッスン中の筆者

才能教育について研究して帰国され、あちらの協会を確立されたわけです。以前のスター先生と言い、ハークネス先生といい、よいものを学ぼうとする勇気と情熱には頭が下がります。そして勿論その実行力にも。

その松本の二年間で鈴木式ハードスケジュールを身につけて帰られたのですから、すべて全く大変でした。今度の会はニュージーランド全国各地から、生徒及び先生が参加されたので、八月セミナーといっても、夏期学校と研究会と一緒になったようなもので、午前が生徒、午後が先生とぎっちりとレッスンがつまっています。その間に昼一時から四十五分の小コンサート、夜は会合とかコンサート。全くよく似ていますね。

鈴木先生から今度ばかりはお許しがなくて、「行きなさい」との仰せで、私は本当に仕方なく出かけることになった後で、ヴァイオリンの方でも博幸が決って、「カバン持ちをつけて上げます。言葉は日本語が喋れれば通訳してくれるから大丈夫です」と鈴木先生のお言葉ながら、どうなる事やらと出かけたのですが、旅行社のコンダクターのような博幸の同行と、ニュージーランド生活十七年という日本の方の通訳でどうにか無事終えてきました。

この通訳のミセス・ヒロミは子供を才能教育で二年近くおけいこさせていて、先生共々参加されていました。ですから才能教育のことも理解出来て、私のおかしげな日本語を上手に訳してくれました。そう、教室といったら天井から紙の変てこな作品の下がっている工作室らしい部屋、そこにあまり感心しないアップライト一台、先生も生徒も父兄もそれを取りかこむわけです。私と通訳の人は仕方がないのでピアノの後ろに立ちました。必要に応じてピアノの横

Above is an excerpt from p.29, showing Mrs Aoki tutoring Pai Chunyu.

"We were welcomed at the Auckland Airport by the Harknesses and Mr Kerr and a group of children playing "Twinkle" led by Mrs Barbara Ker. A warm-hearted greeting - very nice. New Zealand is a pastoral country - lots of white sheep - just like the pictures. The people here are trying to teach in the Japanese manner.

At the Conference most advanced pupils were working at Book 8 level. The atmosphere was like a Japanese Summer School. The children really enjoyed playing in groups - they seemed to be doing well in group aspects.

I enjoyed the time with the teachers, some teachers have been teaching Suzuki method for quite a while and for some it was their first time - a diverse group. had so many things to tell, and time was short. I started talking about Suzuki's philosophy and the purpose of the talent education movement. I talked about how to teach a class, practice at home, posture and tonalisation. I taught the basics of the method until all teachers understood. Then I asked one young teacher to come to the front, and taught her to bow, and teach the first piece, and then Volume 1. The teachers were very keen to learn in the limited time. They asked detailed questions. Not only the children, but the teachers too, were keen to play, and all willing to get advice, which made it much easier. I felt embarrassed teaching experienced teachers, older than myself, when I havn't had as much experience.

We had an enjoyable time - morning tea and afternoon tea daily - everybody shared this time together talking - typical English custom! Children's parents prepared the food, a friendly atmosphere.

At the opening ceremony, the Deputy Mayor came - just like Summer School in Japan.

At the lunchtime concerts there were violin and piano solos and groups. Care s taken that everybody had a turn to play. On the first night a psychologist gave a lecture which was followed by a teachers gathering. The next evening there was the Graduation Ceremony where the children received their certificates and played in a concert. The third evening was the A.G.M., and the fourth was a Public Concert.

We had films about "Suzuki Method" and a T.V. crew and reporters came.

The five days passed very quickly. It was a very profitable school for everybody. The efforts of Mr & Mrs Harkness and Mr & Mrs Kerr and many teachers and parents, enabled its success.

There is one young teacher who has decided to come to Japan to study, and I'm sure Suzuki Method in N.Z. will develop well in the future. Good luck to N.Z. I hope they increase, just like the sheep."

Mrs Aoki

I didn't know where N.Z. was. (she described where) ... Many people have been crossing the world, but only a few go south. Its a very important thing that even in a far away country in the South Pacific, there is Suzuki Method.

It was only recently that I found out that Mr & Mrs Harkness went to Japan travelling and during their visit they happened to find out about Suzuki method and came to Matsumoto. They realized this was a very important thing, so sold their possessions etc and came to Matsumoto to live for 2 years. Mrs Harkness studied piano with Mrs Kataoka and also sent her children to the local school - they couldn't even speak Japanese. Mr Harkness didn't study violin from Dr Suzuki but studied thoroughly about the Suzuki method, and after returning to N.Z. continued to foster Talent Education in N.Z. I am very amazed at the courage and enthusiasm of Mr & Mrs Harkness towards Suzuki method. In the short two years they had to study hard schedule - it wasn't easy for them. From their confidence many people from all over N.Z. have become involved.

The Conference was like a combined Summer School and Teachers Study. In the morning there were childrens lessons with teachers observing. In the afternoon concert, then teachers only. In the evenings meetings and conference - just like Suzuki in Japan.

This time Dr Suzuki really made me go - I didn't want to go, but I had to - Dr Suzuki said, "Hiroyuki (Mr Aoki) will be porter for you - so don't worry" and about language - "if you can't speak English, don't worry, they will arrange interpreter". So somehow I managed; Hiroyuki was like a tour conductor, and Mrs Hiromi Stewart, a Japanese person who has lived in N.Z. for 17 years and has a child training Suzuki method for 2 years, joined the Conference with the teachers. She understood Suzuki method very well, and was an excellent interpreter. The classroom we used looked like an Art Room, with unusual items from the ceilings! It had an upright 'not very well' standard piano (sick!). Teachers and children were seated around the piano. Hiromi and I stood behind the piano. Pianos are very expensive, so maybe it's impossible to get grand pianos. Three hours in the morning were childrens lessons, about ten children, so like a belt conveyor system. Children seemed to be enjoying lessons. Each child had one lesson, so I couldn't go through details - so reported "very good" "listen to tapes" "play with stronger fingers" etc. and "Thank you". I felt rather casual and started wondering "Am I doing the right things" but the teachers reassured me, and in the afternoon we made sure of points. The teachers were very enthusiastic, and in their

lessons we started from Volume 1 and everybody quite keen to play. They seemed to feel better to play, then they will learn. Even a lot of time spent about one staccato - I was really amazed - I replied using Dr Suzuki's sayings. So if someone played, and it was not very good, I said, "It will be better if you listen more." Dr Suzuki says "Don't offend anybody's heart." It is very hard. Teachers said that some parents don't play the tape enough, I said "If love is deep, much can be achieved." These are Dr Suzuki's words - so very important. After playing, I usually said, "very nice, BUT ...." The teachers came to anticipate these words and relaxed. It became a joke. They were all different ages. Their technique and levels were varied, but all enthusiastic, and trying hard to learn. The teachers gave me a card and beautiful flowers. The children were cute and lovely. A little girl came and told me to bring ear close - and said "You are a very good teacher." I made two baby friends. There are many things I want to tell, about the beautiful green pastures, the blossoming trees and the friendly, kind, people. At the closing ceremony I made a short speech.

"I was pleased to come and see peoples warm hearts and to see the peaceful nature, and I felt I wanted to be born in N.Z. BUT (some smiled) because I was born in Japan I met Dr Suzuki and joined Talent Education. Also I brought up my son by Suzuki method since he was a baby - and sent him to study in West Germany. I wanted him to study abroad longer, but he decided after 2 years to return to Dr Suzuki, and chose the Suzuki method as his life work, so we were able to come together to N.Z. Please parents bring your children up in the Suzuki method; and please teachers help to develop the Suzuki method in N.Z. I wish you all success in your efforts. Thank you very much Mr & Mrs Harkness and thank you Mrs Stewart."

AUGUST CONFERENCE 1983

This will again be held at Diocesan School and again with the Aoki's who will be bringing with them at least two children who have grown up in the Suzuki Method.

MAYME EARLE IN JAPAN

Letters from Mayme tell us that she is learning a tremendous amount; at times feeling lonely and very cold! But, with Mayme's usual courage and determination she has still found it a very exciting and enjoyable experience.

Hawkes Bay people will be pleased to know that $201 was raised at her "Benefit Concert" and she has been sent a cheque for that amount.

Mrs Maida Bousfield has contributed words to some violin pieces - two are included below.

Song of the Wind

Listen to the wind,
Its blowing, playing
in the trees,
Such a gentle breeze.

Boughs are swaying
Waves are spraying
Leaves are blowing
in the wind.

Boughs are swaying
Waves are spraying
Listen to the wind.

May Song

All the world is
Bright and gay
For this a
Holiday

Bring your kite and
Bring your ball
Happiness for one
And all.
All the world is
Bright and gay
For this is a holiday.

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale 3/4 size violin bow $35-00
Phone Joan Stiles Hamilton 67-519

For Sale 3/4 size violin and case, in excellent condition $40-00
Phone Jillian Jenkins Hamilton 78-927

For Sale 1/4 size cello - Suzuki - as new
Mr Benson, 11 Selbourne St, Grey Lynn. Phone 764-587

For Sale 1/2 size violin - German "Hops" - $150.
Phone Mrs Griffiths Hamilton 62-762

STOP PRESS — SIMON GRIFFITHS CONCERT

The concert for Simon was a huge success. The Centennial Hall, Auckland Grammar was filled, and people gave so generously that we were able to present Simon with a cheque for $1000. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Barbara Ker, Organiser

"A Fantastic success" - Graeme Harkness