



Nuts and Pegs

Welcome to 2011 and CSA's new newsletter!

Welcome to 2011 with the Cadillac String Association! You are looking at the first issue of the new newsletter! The following are a few things you can look forward to with *The Stringer*:

- A working Calendar for CSA's scheduled events in 2011
- Reminders and explanations of what's to come
- Congratulations on jobs well done
- Fun additions like recipes from recital receptions
- An upcoming calendar of students' activities outside CSA, so you can support your fellow string-lovers!
- Student input in the newsletter, in the form of creative writing or thank you notes
- Encouragement and inspiration sprinkled throughout
- Contact information for CSA teachers
- If you have suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, pass them on!

Our goal is to encourage our young people in their pursuit of music, instill in them a life-long love of music as well as a desire to succeed in all that they do, and support the parents as they try to put all this together. This newsletter is a different way for CSA to help you meet your goals. Should you need to contact CSA, you can do that via the website: www.cadillacstrings.org or through postal mail: P.O. Box 835, Cadillac, MI 49601.



Practice, Practice, Practice!

You've probably heard the admonition "Practice makes perfect!" or a variation of that idea: "Practice makes permanent!" But have you heard: "Practice makes profit!" Practice is an important ingredient for success for anyone, whether you participate in sports, play an instrument, or you're learning a new hobby. Cadillac String Association not only believes practice is important and encourages their students to practice on a daily basis, but they actively promote the value of practice through the annual PRACTICE-A-THON. The PRACTICE-A-THON is an annual effort to raise funds for tuition reductions for kids with financial need. Students participate by practicing and getting pledges from friends and family. Check the website, and listen in on the group lessons, for more info on this exciting event coming next month. (Think motivation, inspiration, and a will to succeed!) And get your fingers ready to play; practice is not just for recitals anymore!

CSA's Mission Statement

The CSA exists to offer young people and the general public, music education and music culture; to help local string musicians develop their skills and technique for a high level of performance; and to provide a variety of enrichment and performance opportunities to as many people as possible.

Shoulder Rest

Here you will find encouragement to lift your spirits and motivation to inspire you to reach for the stars!

"Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

~ Thomas A. Edison

Fine Tuner

Quarterly Calendar for 2011
For Cadillac String Association Events
First Quarter

Check your calendar with the following schedule of events for CSA and make adjustments as necessary. Check the website for updates in between newsletters and let us know how we can help you meet your commitments.

January

- Jan. 17th, board meeting: Mackinaw Trail Middle School, 6 – 7:30. Interested parties welcome!
- End of the month will bring an invitation to this year's Practice-a-thon, with an explanation and materials given during a Monday group lesson

Please note: there was a billing error for December – the due date was Dec. 1st, NOT Jan. 12. Please send in payment ASAP if you have not already!

February

- Practice-a-thon begins!
- President's Day, 21st, no group lessons. Private lessons at alternate location. Stay tuned for more info. SPRING BILLING DUE!
- Feb. 28th, board meeting, same time and place

March

- March 1st, Practice-a-thon ends
- March 7th, Spring term begins
- March 28th – April 1st, Spring Break, no lessons

Chinrest

You will find here a thought to "rest your chin on". . .

Ludwig van Beethoven began to lose his hearing in 1796. How frustrating for a musician and composer to lose his hearing! However, he did not give up! In fact, he wrote a book, called "Heiligenstadt Testament" in which he explained that he had resolved to continue living for and through his music. He continued to work, including composing, even after going completely deaf. When he conducted his ninth symphony, he could not hear the grand applause with which the audience responded.

What difficulties have we encountered which could impede our progress? How can we follow Beethoven's example to persevere? How can we use our art to help us?

The String Section

The First Movement

Alicia Woodman:
Teaches beginning violin
231-768-4564 home
231-388-3406 cell
aliciaviolin@yahoo.com

The Second Movement

Rebekah Klein:
Teaches violin, Suzuki Book 4.
616-550-6222 cell
231-876-5667 work
Rebekah.klein@cadillac.k12.mi.us

The Third Movement

Leilani Kitler:
Teaches violin and viola
From Suzuki Book 3 and up.
231-779-4064
kitler4@charter.net

The FingerBoard

CSA Member Calendar Extras

My goal for this space is to include information about events, meets, or concerts in which students may be involved outside of CSA. As a family supports and encourages each member, so would we like to support and encourage each family within the Cadillac String Association "family". Is your child involved in any recreational activities outside of CSA which you would like to share with us? Contact Gretel Deem at

crfdeem@earthlink.net or call her at 231-389-2313 and she will get your information posted on The FingerBoard. Check back here in the future and make note of any upcoming events outside of CSA. Support your fellow string-players!

"Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you . . ." This spot will eventually include student birthdays as well! If you do not see your birthday on the list, let Gretel know so we can update our list and share more "happy birthday" wishes!

November & December: Silas Bonzcyk (Nov. 28th), Abigail Dennis (Nov. 28th), Roxanne Montague (Dec. 9th), Sarah Catlin (Dec. 10th). Hope you all had a great birthday!

January & February: (If we have missed anyone, we apologize and hope you had/have a great day!)

The Symphony Orchestra

In an orchestra, many people and factors contribute to the beautiful sound heard on stage. Such is also the case with CSA; there are many parts that make up this whole. Each one plays an important role in CSA, from the students, to the parents, to the teachers, to the board members, to the financial supporters backing this project. We should give some attention to this facet of CSA, in order to fully appreciate the beautiful sound our students are creating.

This month we focus on the students themselves. They did a great job this last November at the Winter Concert. As in years past, the program was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Cadillac. They have a splendid facility and graciously allowed us once again to play in their beautiful sanctuary. We had an audience full of family and friends eager to hear some good music, and they were not disappointed. In addition to the two group presentations, from the "Pre-Twinkle Group" and the Book 1-3 Group, we had 11 tremendous solo performances. The Pre-Twinkle Group stole the hearts of the audience, with their diligence, perseverance, and obvious enjoyment of their craft. We had quite a treat with a guest performance by Matt Lipinski on his viola. It was an inspiration to up-and-coming string players to see how far they can go through hard work and determination. However, it is entirely possible that the all-time favorite was the finale with all the CSA students playing the twinkle variations together.

Following this Winter Concert, there were two outreach concerts at two different assisted living facilities in Cadillac: Green Acres and Curry House. The students again did a wonderful job. We even had two of Lani Kiltler's highschool students come play with us at Curry House: Silas Bonczyk and Rebekah Jaroh. It was a pleasure to hear them.

We are all looking forward to another concert this spring. The students get to show off all their hard work and, at the same time, gain valuable experience playing in front of an audience.

A salute to the students of CSA: keep up the good work! You are doing a great job! Stay tuned next month to learn more about one of your teachers!



CSA students gathered to play for Green Acres.

Tailpiece

A Student Contribution to The Stringer

How My Violin Experience Began, by Ruthie Deem

I don't really remember what started my love for a violin, but I think I saw or heard a violin, and then I really wanted to play it. I went to visit Interlochen and my interest increased even more. I started saving and saved for two years. Every Christmas I asked for one. By 2008, I had saved up at least \$80. I didn't have much, but I kept persevering. I asked for a violin again that year for Christmas. There was a specific violin that I wanted. One day, a huge box came in the mail. I thought the box had Christmas presents in it from my grandparents; but I was wrong.

On Christmas Day, when we were opening presents, I was given what I thought was my last present, a story about a girl who got a violin for Christmas. As soon as the story was finished, Mom and Dad disappeared into their bedroom. They came out pushing that huge box that came in the mail. Dad cut it open with his knife, and I pulled out the case of the exact same violin that I was saving up for. I opened it and there lay the violin that I began my "career" on. It wasn't until June 17 of that year that I had a lesson; but I was so happy I had a violin, that the time seemed short to me.

Now I have a full size violin and I am starting Suzuki Book 2. Although I am only on Book 2, I have played other songs outside of the books, such as: fiddle tunes, hymns, Praise and Worship songs, songs from the radio and songs from movies. I am glad that God has blessed me with a love for music and a desire to play it. My most recent goal is to go as a student to Interlochen, the place that inspired me to play.

I am very grateful to all of my teachers for teaching me how to play this beautiful instrument.

Extra E-Strings:

- Are you a CSA student who likes to write? Would you like to be published in *The Stringer*? Submit your short composition, poem, or thank you note with your name to Gretel Deem at crfdeem@earthlink.net and you just may see your name in print!
- Check the web page! www.cadillacstrings.org CSA's got a great website, full of helpful info. Check it regularly! You may see pictures of someone you know!



The Stringer

Just in Case

Check "The Case" for fun tidbits!

- Recipes! There were tasty treats of all sorts at the Winter Concert's reception. More than one person in attendance was heard to say, "This is great! Do you know who brought this? I would love the recipe!" If you brought something to the reception, would you consider sharing the recipe with us? Perhaps it was one of your favorite family-get it at the bakery-recipes. We'd still like to know!
- Would any of the students like to start a correspondence with other students outside of class, say through email or even snail mail? It might be a way to forge new friendships. If you would, send your info to Gretel Deem.
- Are there any CSA parents who would like to share a craft idea, a good book to read, tips on balancing a full schedule, suggestions for seasonal family activities, wisdom on encouraging their children to practice? The possibilities are endless! We can all learn from each other. What can you share that might help someone else out? Send your thoughts to Gretel Deem.

The Rest of it . . . Don't forget the Practice-a-thon coming next month! Remember the billing dates!
Check the Web page! www.cadillacstrings.org



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