

WDSS NOTES

West Denver Suzuki Strings, Growing Musical Community

Welcome to Ms. Sandy, our new Cello teacher!

Sandra Miller currently resides in Golden, CO where she has been teaching **cello** for over twenty years. Her teaching is informed by having experienced all three parts of the Suzuki triangle: teacher, parent, and student. She is currently certified to teach Suzuki Cello Books 1-5 and has trained with Dr. William Starr, Dr. Tanya Carey, Carey Cheney, Avi Friedlander, Blake Brasch, and Heather Hadley. She has also trained with Dr. Jeremy Dittus of the Dalcroze School of the Rockies. She holds a BA from Wesleyan University and a MM in cello performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder where she studied with Judith Glyde and members of the Takács String Quartet.

An active performer in the greater Denver area, she is a core member of the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado which has been recognized by Early Music America as having “a national reputation as a first-rate period-instrument ensemble.” She enjoys performing



on both baroque cello and viola da gamba with the BCOC and has

collaborated with nationally and internationally acclaimed early music artists as well as members of the Broken Box Mime Theater, local hip-hop artists, poets, and writers. She

can be heard on BCOC recordings including Corelli’s Circle (2018) and Resounding (2020).

A Suzuki parent for over 14 years, Sandy understands the critical importance of community and parental support in nurturing the whole child through their musical journey. She is pleased to be joining the West Denver Suzuki Strings team in the Fall of 2023.

Spring Celebration!

Congratulations to all who played in the Spring Celebration! It was so fun, and your teachers had a blast! We hope you did too! You all sounded great! [Click here](#) for a video of the concert! The video is unlisted on YouTube and will be shared only among friends and family of WDSS and Primavera Place students. Special Thanks to Christopher Haws and Wook Ju for their help!

Beginning Violin Camp

It’s not too late to sign up for WDSS Beginning Violin Camp with Mr. Zach and Ms. Crystal! Open to Violin Students from Pre-Twinkle to Late Book 1! July 10-14 at St James. 9-12! \$265. More information and register [Here!](#)

Faculty Fundraiser Recital!

On behalf of all of the WDSS faculty, we want to thank our wonderful community for supporting us at the Faculty Fundraiser Recital! Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$1,450 to be used for continuing education for our teachers. We are all so

excited to use these funds to grow and serve our WDSS community even more.

If you missed the recital, you can check it out [here](#). We shared music from across 5 centuries and multiple genres. If you'd like to donate, you can give a check or cash to your private lesson teacher or find us on Venmo (@westdenversuzukistrings) or Zelle (info@westdenversuzuki.com).

It was so fun getting to make music with the other WDSS teachers. Special thanks to Will Claxton for recording the concert and thanks again to the WDSS community for supporting us!

- Ms. Gill

A Student Review of the Faculty Recital

Our student reporters, **Tavia**, age 10 and **Oaken**, age 8 were impressed by all the work that the WDSS teachers put into the recital! You can read their full review [here!](#)

Summer Tips from Mrs. B!

Think about it and decide:

How do you want your summer violin/viola/cello to go?

There is really no right or wrong answer.

The key is to do some thinking and chatting with your student, family and teacher to DECIDE! You could go SUMMER 'LITE' or SUMMER INTENSE! The amount of practice, the depth of adventure, up to you.

Here are some ideas:

SUMMER 'LITE'

1. Take all your lessons in one month even if you do 2 or three a week. Then decide to take the rest of the summer off. It's OK. Let your teacher know and they will plan a great month that will help to set you up for the Fall Semester.

2. Choose and set aside just one day a week to be MUSIC DAY. On MUSIC DAY, you take your instrument with you EVERY WHERE! The dentist, the park, the pool, the grocery, the

backyard, the deck, by the creek, camping, at Grandma's and to your playdate. Play a piece at each place. You'll be amazed at how cello at the pool goes down. Just remember that if you are hot your instrument is too!

3. Have a FIDDLE ONLY summer. Ask your teacher if they can teach you just fiddle songs for the summer. They'll know some great ones which are fun and can help you along with your playing skills.

SUMMER INTENSE!

1. Find a STUDY BUDDY, someone in WDSS who will help you to practice. It could

be an older student who you could pay to be a practice helper a couple times a week. We can recommend an older student. How about a practice swap



day? Our Annie and Eliza used to do a practice swap where Tuesday practice was either at the Barnette's or at the Freyburger's. The girls would be guided through their practice list by the parent and then when they finished, they dashed outside to play. We can help you find your Buddy!

2. 2-A-DAYS- When high school football teams are preparing for the Fall season they do a week of 2-A-DAY practices, one in the morning and one in the evening. Choose several weeks this summer for your 2-A-Days. You will be amazed at your progress.

3. Take as many lessons as you can with your teacher and put the icing on your summer music cake by going to an outdoor concert. Jefferson Symphony, Vail Bravo!, Aspen Music Festival.

Solo Recitals!

We are looking forward to hearing you all play in the solo recitals on May 20th! For later recitals, please arrive 10 minutes early. Please arrive quietly as the previous recital may still be finishing up! We also will have a photographer taking photos!

April 23rd Symphony Outing!

James Ehnes playing the Beethoven Violin Concerto. Also on the program was Bruckner's 7th Symphony. Mr. Zach, Mrs. B, and Ms. Autumn accompanied the kids and parents, and all had a blast!! **Samara**, age 10 said "The symphony was very good and James Ehnes was so amazing to watch. He is so good at violin.

The last part kind of sounded like Star Wars! It reminded me of the colors



red, yellow and some blue. James's solo reminded me of yellow and the whole orchestra was some blue and red. The conductor must be very good at dancing. The trip was very enjoyable, and I would do it again!"

Need Something New to Listen to over the summer?

Ms. Crystal has a [Spotify Playlist](#) to listen to! Also available on [Apple Music](#)!

Student and Parent Reporters!

Do you have a great idea for our newsletter? Would your student like to review a musical themed book? Favorite recording? Practice ideas that might be helpful for others to read about? Contact Ms. Crystal at

rosecrystal1018@gmail.com to find out when the next newsletter is coming out!

Tentative Dates for Fall/Spring 2023/2024 School Year!

Group classes will be held on Wednesdays and Mondays. Performance Class will be Tuesdays. Start times TBA!

Week of August 21 - Fall Lessons/Group Classes Begin

Saturday, November 11 – Fall Solo Recitals
10:30/12:00/1:30/3:00

Wednesday December 6 – Fall Group Class Concert

Wednesday May 1 – Spring Group Class Concert

May 18 – Spring Solo Recitals
10:30/12:00/1:30/3:00

