

WDSS NOTES

WDSS, a Growing Musical Community

HELP WANTED!

WDSS needs help updating our website! Is there someone in our community that would be willing to help us reformat pages, edit content, and streamline our intake form?

Everyone in WDSS is doing such amazing work and we would like our website to be a reflection of that. Many of our new students find us through the site, meaning it is a great outreach tool.

Our current westdenversuzuki.com site is hosted on *square-space*. If you are willing to volunteer, contact Ms B (lbarnette@me.com).



A present for you!

Holiday Music for all instruments of various levels for you to print out. Happy holidays and have FUN!

[Print music here! \(PDF\)](#)

Congratulations!

on three wonderful solo recitals and a fabulous group class concert



Your preparation and attention made the music into a rich and sparking gift for everyone. What a great way to begin the holiday season.

Thank you! 🎁



Dates to Remember

Second Semester Group Classes

Please consult the calendar linked below *and* your private teacher for your group class assignment and schedule!

Jan 9 Orange classes begin

Jan 11 Green classes begin

Jan 18 Blue classes begin

Jan 23 First Performance class

May 5th, 5:00pm

Dress Rehearsal for Spring Celebration with Primavera Place

Denver South Seventh-Day
Adventist Church
2675 S. Downing St.

May 6th, 4:00pm

Spring Celebration with Primavera Place @ same location

May 9-13

Piano Rehearsals @ St. James

May 21, 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30

Spring Solo Recitals @ St. James

August 7-11

Chamber Music Camp

For more information about chamber camp, talk to your private teacher.

**Complete WDSS Spring 2023
Calendar (PDF)**

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR:

Super Power Saturday Practice
April TBD

WDSS Faculty Recital
May TBD



Meet WDSS's Newest Teacher, Zachary Ragent

Zachary Ragent is a violinist based in Denver, CO. Originally from San Mateo, CA, Zach now maintains an active and varied career as a performer and educator. He is currently a member of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the Britt Festival Orchestra (OR), and the Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra (WI), and was formerly a member of the New World Symphony.

While embracing his role as a performer, Zach is also a dedicated teacher and a firm believer that music should serve and strengthen the community around it. He completed his Suzuki training with Andrea Yun and Mark Mutter, and has taught for el Sistema based programs in both California and Michigan. Zach loves working with students of all ages and skill-levels, and hopes to guide them to be curious and adventurous on their journey with the instrument.

Zach holds both a Master's and a Specialist's degree in violin performance from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's in violin performance from the University of California, Santa Cruz. When not playing the violin, Zach enjoys running, cooking, reading, and most anything related to the outdoors.

"I'm excited to join the WDSS community and look forward to sharing my love for music (and the violin) with students, families, and colleagues." —Mr. Zach

A Practice Idea From Ms. Gill's Cello Studio

Check out the cello studio's Candy Land-themed 100 day practice challenge: Cello Land! Students picked a famous cellist to be their game token which moved around the board each time they practiced. Instead of Peppermint Forest or Lollipop Woods, there Gavotte Gulch and Twinkly Star Observatory. Each section of the board represents one piece from each of the 10 books, which students are encouraged to listen to as they pass through.



Students researched and listened to their famous cellist and shared presentations in group class.

Special thanks to the Stewart family for illustrating the game board. Check out Willie's tattoo shop, [Ananda Tattoo](#), to see more of his work!

Begin your own 100 day practice journey by clicking the link below and printing out your own game board.

Which performer will you choose?

[Music Land Game Board PDF HERE!](#)

Ms Lannie answers some questions...

Why do I love music?

...because it's healing. It's meditative; there's no time for thinking when you're playing. It's an international language. It is self-expression. I love knowing that the word for *music* and *dance* are the same in some languages. I love it because it's beautiful and raw. I love knowing that the beat of music originated out of the concept of mimicking the human heart beat. Music expresses life.

Why do I love to play music?

...because, again, it's healing! Plus, I get to meet people. In fact, I find making music to be an opportunity to be very present with people, especially when performing improvisational music since everyone on stage is listening extra carefully to one another.

What hooked me?

Apparently I was so fascinated with a guest violinist when I was in preschool that a teacher called my mom to let her know about my wide-eyed interest in violin. I do not remember this moment but I'm glad it happened because I never looked back— well, except I do remember one specific memory of not wanting to go to my violin lesson when I was young!



What keeps me going?

As a teacher, I really love the personalities and imaginations of my students. Also, I learn new things about the repertoire, the learning process, and the students themselves at every lesson. As a performer, what keeps me going is musical improvisation— I deeply love it even though it's very scary to me. Currently, most of my current gigs involve improvisation!