

COMPOSITION is the focus for the SEMSA GASSHUKU, Nov. 6 & 7, 2009. SEMSA has commissioned Catherine McMichael to write a piece for our students. It will premiere on the workshop's Final Concert. There will be a variety of options to perform this music various instrumentations at other events through the years.

SEMSA teachers always plan to prepare for whatever theme is used at workshops, and such is the case this year. Composers use many different ways to get their music heard and performed by others. SEMSA teachers have several ideas for presenting these possibilities to students. Some students have been recording music on their instruments, others have been writing down rhythms and/or notes – sometimes even though they are not sure how they sound. They work at home and share with teachers at lessons. Remember there is never a “wrong” note in these compositions.

One of the best ways to share music with others is to write it down and that can be a daunting task! SEMSA has chosen to use the downloadable NotePad 2009 program from Finale products. It is easily accessible on the web at finalemusic.com. At \$9.95 it is one of the less expensive programs one can put on a computer and it will allow students to enter musical notation with or without midi input (if you don't know what this means, do not worry!); then listen to it (if you have a sound card on your computer). To get students and parents acquainted with the nuts and bolts of this tool, SEMSA has made arrangements with Kevin Dobbe, multi-media instructor and composer at RCTC. He has agreed to share the piano lab space to familiarize us with the ins and outs of the program. There will be a monitor and keyboard for each individual. Date and time are attached. Ages ranges are somewhat flexible if need be.

This class is appropriate for students who have already started some ideas and for those who have not yet begun. Once our young composers have even eight measures of music, they may send it to Catherine McMichael, our guest composer, who will offer feedback and encouragement from a composer's point of view and possibly ideas and suggestions for continuing the pieces. She will also listen and reply to CDs, tapes, and other sound versions of student creations.

Since the Suzuki repertoire is pretty definitely set, composition offers a great enrichment for students to get into the core of music that comes from within each person. It gives them a contrasting assignment of exploring individual musical ideas rather than a predetermined set of pieces. While the idea of composition may seem formidable or too time-consuming, children are full of curiosity and creativity. There will definitely be some awesome music coming from their wonderful minds and fingertips!

Send class fee of \$10 (checks made out to SEMSA) to: Linda Thompson
1811 Walden Lane SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Questions: minnoh@chartermi.net

Note desired class time: 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

There have been inquiries about friends joining these classes. They are open first to SEMSA students and available to others as space allows.



NOTEPAD 2009 CLASSES



Southeastern Minnesota Suzuki Association

**Special
Event**

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009

RCTC PIANO LAB

**Class fee
\$100**

◆ 12:00 Noon	Books 3-4	Ages 10-13
◆ 1:00 PM	Books 1-2	Ages 5-9
◆ 2:00 PM	Books 4-5	Ages 10-13
◆ 3:00 PM	Books 6 +	Ages 14 +

Park on west side of UCR building

Endicott Building-Room EH 210

There will be a room nearby for parents to wait if they wish.

Classes for Finale NotePad 2009 with RCTC Instructor, Kevin Dobbe

Purchase your copy on the web: finalemusic.com for \$9.95.

User instructions for downloading are on the web; user instructions are included with program. Technical support available by phone at 952 937-9703.

Mr. Dobbe will offer clear and simple guidance for students to begin using this.

- Enter music into the computer
- Print a performance ready copy of each masterpiece

Student compositions may be sent to Catherine McMichael for her comments.

Send questions to Linda Thompson: minnoh@chartermi.net