

SEMSA News

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SEMSA Calendar

2018 dates

- January 19, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- January 21, 2pm:** Honors Recital at CC
- February 2, 7pm:** Young Musicians Recital at UUC
- February 16, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- February 19,** SEMSA Fiddler Workshop
- February 23, 7pm:** Honors Recital at CC
- March 9, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- March 23, 7pm:** Young Musicians Recital at UUC
- April 13, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC
- April 14, 3:45-10:30:** SEMSA Spring Outing via motor coach for Twin Cities Dinner and Music Program
- May 5 times TBD:** Ensemble Recital at UUC
- May 11, 4pm-6pm:** group lessons at RCC

- RCC is: Rochester Covenant Church
4950 31st Ave NW in Rochester
- UUC is: Unitarian Universalist Church
1727 Walden Lane SW in Rochester
- CC is: Congregational Church
974 Skyline Drive in Rochester
- SAM is: Suzuki Association of Minnesota

SEMSA Board President Letter

Happy 2018, SEMSA members. I hope that you found time over the holiday break to enjoy the company of friends and loved ones, and I also hope that your students found the time to practice their repertoire!

SEMSA exists to enrich your Suzuki experience. To that end, we are already planning next fall's Gasshuku. Anyone interested in helping with the planning, please contact me. We are also pleased to announce a group outing to the cities this April that will include coach bus transportation, dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory, and a Bernstein celebration by the University of Minnesota Orchestra, featuring dance by Keigwin & Co. It is our mission to provide affordable musical opportunities like this to our members, so be sure to sign up early for this upcoming day trip.

SEMSA group lessons return on Friday, January 19th. In the event of inclement weather, we will notify you using TeamSnap. If you have a smart phone and have not yet added the TeamSnap app, I highly recommend it.

Stay warm and practice daily!
Best Wishes,
Tim O'Neill
SEMSA Board President

SAVE THE DATE!

SEMSA Spring Family Outing - Saturday, April 14, 2018

Keigwin and Company Celebrate Bernstein
Carlson Family Stage at Northrop Auditorium
Featuring the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra

ABOUT THE TRIP:

SEMSA families are invited to travel by motor coach to Minneapolis on Saturday, April 14, 2018. We will leave Rochester at 3:45, arrive for dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory about 5:30 and then travel to Northrop Auditorium for the 7:30 program. We return to Rochester about 10:30pm.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The University Orchestra takes center stage under the direction of Mark Russell Smith and treats us to Bernstein's quintessential melodies. The evening showcases the choreographer Larry Keigwin's refreshing vision of dance - a blend of Broadway and club styles with wit, heart and theatrical flair. With music and movement on stage together, this delightful program pays tribute to Bernstein's impact on American dance and culture.

Ticket prices, including transportation, dinner and the performance are as follows:

Adult : \$45.00

Student age 12 and under: \$30.00

Student age 13 and over: \$37.50

Reservations and payment must be made by March 9, 2018.

Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Reserve early so your whole family can come along!

More information will be coming soon.

Questions: Contact Barbara Bartleson (bwbartleson@gmail.com)
or your SEMSA teacher

Your trip is subsidized by your SEMSA membership.



Studio Updates

DeAnn Spencer Violin Studio



DeAnn Spencer's violin studio will have its winter concert on Saturday, March 17 at Peace United Church of Christ, [1503 2nd Ave NE](#) at 4:00 pm. The theme is **Music Around the World**. DeAnn's students come from many different countries and are excited to share their music! We will have a parade of nations and a potluck dinner with food from many countries. Here are the students and their countries - it looks like the United Nations!

China: Jamie Zheng, Breanna Shen, Charlie Liu, Richard Xiong

Germany: Max Kantor-Gerber, DeAnn Spencer

Guatemala: Amaliya Benjamin

Iran: Arman Wilson, Arsalan Wilson

Japan: Ayano Ebihara, Cherie Sekiguchi

Malta: Ethan Warrington

Pakistan: Sofia Chaudrey

Scotland: Elaina Robertson, Ava Robertson, Fiona Robertson, Thomas Robertson, William Robertson

Uganda: Chloe Munis

United States of America: Oliver Argue, Simon Argue, Phillip Bransford, Emma Bransford, Sarah Brewer, Seth Brewer, Lizzie Brewer, Adam Brewer, Charlie Burket, Emma Crockett, Clara Fletcher, Greta Mae Glowacki, Thomas Gorman, Suzanne Gorman, Olivia Haddock, Anna McGeeney, Nora Pristash, Aidan Pristash, Madilyn Ross, Evan Schuman, Grant Schuman, Natalie Tricarico, Leah Wieneke, Mina Wimmer

SEMSA News

Suzuki families record fiddling CD

Mina Wimmer and **Charlie Burket** started Suzuki violin with DeAnn Spencer in 2005. Mina's dad Gerard and Charlie's dad Tom were already playing music together, and since parents of new Suzuki students play with their kids to get started, it didn't take much extra energy to add fiddle tunes to a growing repertoire of Happy Farmer, Lully's Gavotte and the Bach Bourrée. The two families started attending the annual Bluff Country Gathering together in Lanesboro, and soon Gerard's brother Greg was dancing with the group when they played at the Rochester Farmers Market. They called themselves the **Young & Old-Timers**.

In 2016, with a growing awareness that the younger members of the band weren't so young anymore, the band decided to capture the moment. The result is a new CD with 21 fiddle tunes that almost always get played during public performances. Some are old-time music standards. Others are a little more obscure and were picked up from other musicians over the years. It's a collection of hoedowns, waltzes, polkas, schottisches and more.

Why the title? So many influences shaped each person's growth as a musician and the collective experience of five people becoming a band. Countless people at the farmers market have stopped and wondered aloud what it takes to make something like this happen. They want to know the secret. Some probably suspect a Jackson 5 level of training and practice. No, just a perceptive and patient teacher, a great learning methodology, high energy music, family support, friends to play with and a lot of fun times playing together. Truly, a confluence of positive influences.

The **Young & Old-Timers** are selling the CDs for \$10 each, and you can contact Tom at tomburket@icoud.com or Gerard at gwimmer@bevcomm.net for more details.



Linda Thompson Violin & Viola Studio

An early November recital went super well, in part because of the practice recordings students did with their parents. An evaluation sheet asked for three positive points as they viewed and listened. They also determined one item they wanted to polish or perfect, followed by a recording of that specific idea. After doing this for three weeks, spot work brought improvement to recital pieces (and sometimes other music).

Since it was such a successful and powerful tool, families repeated this preparation for graduation recordings. There are so many techie ideas that can be applied to the study of music. It's helpful to embrace them and find new ways to gather feedback for self-evaluate from Twinkles through more advanced repertoire. Finding recordings and videos on the internet shows us that there are many different ways of techniques and playing styles.

December is a busy month so rather than spotlighting how many new notes could be learned, the focus was on finding three things that went well in practice each day. Those lists will be compiled and shared so that others can try those points to use for progress and advancement as we step into 2018!

Fiddle Workshop with Zack Kline

Sponsored by the Southeastern Minnesota Suzuki Association

What: SEMSA Fiddle Workshop

Who: Instructed by Zack Kline, of the Orange Mighty Trio

Where: Peace Church, [1503 2nd Avenue, NE | Rochester, MN 55906](#) - Fellowship Hall

When: Monday, February 19, 2018

Why: Because fiddling is fun!

How: Students will attend select hours based on Suzuki Book level - Check the registration form for specific class level times -- workshop hours between 9:00am and 5:00pm

Informal concert for all students will be at 4:00pm

Cost: For SEMSA students in: Book 1 - early Book 2 is \$30; late Book 2 and up is \$35

SEMSA string players are invited to attend a fiddle workshop on Monday, February 19, 2018. This is President's Day and Rochester Public School students do not have school.

Minneapolis based musician, **Zack Kline** will be the instructor for the fiddle workshop. This workshop will include all string students -- violin, viola, cello, and string bass.

For the last two years, **Zack Kline** has instructed the summer Fiddle Strings Camp in Rochester, which has been sponsored by the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras (SEMYO) and Rochester Community Education. The fiddle camp has included students who play the **violin, viola, cello, and string bass**. Kline is a Twin Cities area multi-instrumentalist who specializes in playing the fiddle. He studied classical violin at Macalester College, and now performs professionally and teaches. Kline performs often with his lively chamber/fiddle group, The Orange Mighty Trio, as well as teaches lessons, camps, and workshops. With a focus on music from Bach to Celtic, jazz and bluegrass, he composes original works and movie scores, and has authored a book called "Super Tonic Man: Music Theory in Comic Form".

<http://www.orangemightytrio.com/OMT/Home.html>

Registration forms will be emailed out to students through their SEMSA teachers. Enrollment in class levels will be limited, so SEMSA families are being asked to register for the fiddle workshop by January 28 to receive priority placement.