

Happy June! In this newsletter you'll find information about:

1. Poydras House Performance July 12 at 2:30
2. GNOSF 2013 Summer Institute reminders
3. Introductions for our Summer Institute Faculty
4. "How to Practice Smart: a scale/technique class" taught by Melody Brock
5. Private lessons with Institute Faculty guidelines
6. T-shirt drawing winner Max Hickman!
7. Encouragement Corner- how to beat the summertime slump

1. Poydras House Performance

Poydras House has invited GNOSF students to perform for their residents on July 12 at 2:30. This performance will not be in a group; rather it is a chance for students to play their solos for an audience. Especially good for students that will attend the Institute. All levels are welcome and encouraged to apply. Please RSVP with name, instrument, and piece to gnosuzukiforum@gmail.com with Poydras House July 12 in the subject line

2. GNOSF 2013 Summer Institute

Planning is in full swing! Registration is ongoing. We are anticipating a wonderful week this year. Information and registration forms are online at <http://www.gnosuzukiforum.com/summer-suzuki-institute-2013.html>.

You may submit your registration online or print and mail with your check.

3. Summer Institute Faculty

We have a fantastic faculty lined up for our Institute! Returning faculty include [Ronda Cole](#), [Melody](#) and [Tim Brock](#), and [Vincent Phelan](#). New faculty include [Rodney Farrar](#) on cello, [Janell Lemire](#), harp, and [Julia Hardie](#) on violin and viola. Click on the name to read their bios.

4. "How to Practice Smart: a scale and technique class"

Melody Brock will be teaching a practice technique class concurrently with the Institute. Points to be covered are: how to develop a technique routine for both right and left hands, posture- tricks to get a beautiful tone easily, making a practice grid, intonation- how to master it!, vibrato- control and use of different speed/widths. This is sure to be an invaluable class for intermediate and advanced students!

Details are still being worked out, but to sign up, email Melody Brock directly at melody.brock@me.com.

5. Private Lessons with Institute Faculty

The GNOSF is excited to be able to bring such great faculty to NOLA for our Institute. We understand that not everyone is able to attend as a full time student

but would still like to take a private lesson with visiting faculty. If you would like to take a private lesson with Institute faculty there are a few guidelines set up:

1. You must arrange the lesson with the faculty member yourself.
2. Payment to the faculty member is your responsibility
3. If the lesson will take place at the UNO facilities, a \$25 registration fee is required to be paid to the GNO Suzuki Forum. This helps cover the building and opening fees. This is separate from any fee the instructor might charge.

To set up a lesson with visiting faculty, please email your request to gnosuzukiforum@gmail.com. Your request will be forwarded to that faculty member.

6. T-shirt Design Contest Winner Max Hickman!

Congratulations to Max Hickman, who submitted the winning T-shirt design for our Institute shirts! Look for it at the Institute. Max will receive a special prize at the Institute!

Have a great idea for a design? Please send it to us for next year's shirts!

7. Encouragement Corner- sent in by Gina Collins

String Chat

Avoid The Summertime Slump!

by Emily Wright

For many kids, the last month of school is spent gazing longingly at the calendar, just waiting for summer to arrive and the days to fill with swimming, sleeping and long stretches of nothing to do.

While this is one of the wonderful facets of childhood, it makes the first month back at school a challenge if students have spent the better part of three months completely away from any kind of study.

In a [review of 39 other studies](#), the American Educational Research Association found that the phenomenon anecdotally known as "summertime learning loss" causes students to academically regress a full month over the course of the long vacation. This means that they largely forget substantial portions of what was taught from May onward.

The same is true of musical aptitude, which begs the question: What can be done to keep casual students interested in maintaining their playing over the course of the summer without depriving them of much-needed time to relax?

Go see some live music in a casual setting

Summer is ideal for outdoor concerts, where big names come through town and tend to play more accessible music that is perfect for listeners of all ages. While there is something to be said for the formality of dressing up and going to the symphony hall, some kids can feel stifled by the close quarters and "no talking, no fidgeting" type of rules. Pack a picnic basket and enjoy some music as a summer evening draws to a close. Staying connected to music should be a pleasure, not a chore.

Rent an instrument

If your child plays an instrument that belongs to their school, rent an instrument over the summer. If you're not close to Bethesda, we can send a rental for your convenience. Keeping an instrument around the house all year long is the easiest way to encourage them to stay interested in playing.

Find a local music camp

You don't have to send your student to an audition-only intensive camp in order to give their musical inspiration a shot in the arm. Local music schools, Suzuki institutes and community colleges tend to hold week or weekend-long day camps designed for players of all ages and abilities. These frequently consist of private and sectional instruction, playing in groups, and an element of standard summer camp fare like dedicated time to swim and play games. Not only does this keep your young musician in great shape, but it can also take their enthusiasm for playing to the next level.

Take some private lessons

While some private instructors only take on students for the long haul, many others will happily do "touch-up" sessions designed to keep a player in shape over the summer. You can also take a series of weekly lessons

in the month leading up to the start of the school year. Individualized attention can be really helpful for a student who has played for a while but hasn't had the chance to address their technique in an in-depth way. Fixing problems can be a huge motivator to keep practicing. Think of it as a running start into the school year!

It makes sense that keeping your kids involved in music throughout the year is good for their musicianship. Something else to consider: there is a growing body of work suggesting that the kind of learning that happens specifically during [music making improves social and academic factors, too](#). This is not the controversial "Mozart Effect," where some students had better test results after listening to classical music -- this phenomenon is referred to as 'transfer' in educational circles, where skills acquired in one discipline enhance the learning process of an unrelated subject. Investing a little time during the summer can make returning to school a lot less painful.