



# COPPER COUNTRY SUZUKI NEWS

## February 2009

### CALENDAR

- Feb. 1 Workshop with the Members of the Irish Traditional Music Group, Chulrua. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Finnish American Heritage Center. CCSA Students are free.
- Feb. 13 Recital rehearsal with Accompanist – Rozsa 120, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18 **Viola and Cello Recital – The Bluffs, 6:30 p.m. “A Low strings extravaganza!”**
- Feb. 20 Performance at Our Lady of Mercy in Hubbell, 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 21 Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra Concert Featuring the Music of Evan Premo, Rosza Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23 Term 3 Begins
- Feb. 23 Parent class beings, 208 Rosza, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 28 **KYSO and Reading Orchestra Concert, Finnish American Heritage Center, 7:30 p.m.**

### Why do we have to play scales?!?!?!?

As music teachers we often are asked this question, generally with a sigh of resignation from bored children (and exasperated parents). I am sure that many of you who took music lessons as children were given an unsatisfactory answer to this question. Something probably equal to “because I said so” or “because that’s just what a musician has to do”. This is unfortunate because there are genuine reasons for studying scales. Mike Irish, Professor of Jazz Studies at MTU, explains it like this: “Scales are the skeleton that holds together a piece of music”. Scales allow us to learn patterns in different keys, they improve intonation and technique. Music is a language and in order to learn that language we need to understand how it is constructed. It is the same reason that we study grammar. The music that we play is tonal, it has a key center and requires different patterns depending on the key in which we play. We don’t have the luxury of playing every piece in the same key. If your child ever wants to play jazz or improvise or fiddle it is necessary to know scales. Knowing the scales and patterns allows us to play many different types of music. With the right attitude, scales can even be fun. The best argument I have ever heard for playing scales came from Carrie Dlutkowski a few years back, “I love scales because they sound so beautiful when you play them just right!” Make scales part of your child’s regular practice. See if you can find ways encourage your children to play scales, make a game out of it; make it fun. Playing scales doesn’t have to be tedious. Like everything else we do, it’s all about attitude. If you’re having fun, so will your child. Happy Music Making!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Welcome New Students – Several new students have joined our CCSA family in past few months: Wonyoung Choi, RJ Kraly, Desiree Wilkinson, Madison Thomas, Wyatt Olson, Ruth Archer, Aiden Martin and Molly McKenzie
- Parent violin class: The parent violin class will be held on Monday evenings from 6:00-6:30 in the Rozsa Band room (208 Rozsa) beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The class is free for parents of children enrolled in lessons with the CCSA. If you need to rent an instrument, the cost is \$29.00. Please call the CCSA office to register.
- KSO Concert featuring Evan Premo and Whitewater: \$3.00 Tickets are available for CCSA students and their families for the February 21<sup>st</sup> KSO concert featuring Evan Premo and Whitewater. To take advantage of this greatly reduced price you need to purchase your tickets in advance. Please call the Rozsa box office at 487-3200 to purchase tickets.
- On February 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-3:00, the CCSA will be sponsoring a workshop on Irish music with the Traditional Irish group Chulrua. The workshop will take place at the Finnish American Heritage. The cost is \$15.00 for community members, **CCSA students are free.**
- If you would like to subscribe the CCSA emailing list, please do the following: Send an e-mail message to majordomo@mtu.edu. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message write: subscribe suzuki-l.
- *Musical Musings* is our bi-annual newsletter that provides information about what the CCSA is up to for friends, families of the CCSA. If you know of anyone who might like to receive our newsletter please give us their name and address. Thanks!
- New Board Members – We have two new board members! Tammy Donahue who will soon be taking over as our treasurer and Hayley Fredrickson. Our other board members are: Susan Dlutkowski, Ann Pace, Lisa Meyer, Maria Bergstrom and Kelly Luck. A very big thank to Kelly Luck who has been our treasurer for over 8 years! The CCSA Board of directors is vital to keeping the CCSA going. We really appreciate all the work that this group of volunteers does.