



# The Acorn

Prairie Oaks School of Music - Your Home for Music and Community

[www.pocmusic.org](http://www.pocmusic.org)

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Fall, 2009 Volume III

**Fall (and soon to be Winter!) Greetings from the Prairie Oaks School of Music!** Fall would have been nice, but it appears that winter couldn't wait. How nice to know that music lessons are always warm and inviting, no matter what Mother Nature sees fit to deliver outside. Welcome to the winter season. Stay warm with us!

## From the Director's Desk

by Aaron Marx

### Off and running!

How quickly the beginning of the year becomes the middle of the year, often without us even realizing it... I've been thrilled and delighted by the growth of the Prairie Oaks School of Music from just last year to this one, and if you attend classes with us I hope you have observed this too. In just a few short months both the Stevens Point and Marshfield locations have become bustling and busy with the activity of music education. We're glad to have you along for the ride and very pleased to offer you the quality and convenience that only Prairie Oaks can deliver.

The end of the semester will approach very quickly and it is time to start thinking about the Winter recital if you haven't already.

Please talk to your private studio teacher about the possibility of performing in December.

On Halloween we held our third annual Spooky Suzuki Halloween party, which was a great success and lots of fun. Our faculty members Erin Ribble and Amber Wuttke led guests in 2 hours of music and movement, musical instrument exploration, drama games, food, and prizes, and a delightful time was had by all in attendance. Thanks to those of you who came; we also enjoyed getting to know some new faces and families.

Thanks also to those Prairie Oaks students who brought friends to lessons. We hope your guests enjoyed their time with us.

Thanks again for being part of the Prairie Oaks family. I'm truly excited about the remaining year ahead, and hope you are too. Read on for more exciting news and announcements.

# What's New

## **Student Achievements**

Congratulations to Mya Dailing for her graduation from Suzuki Cello Book 2 Home Recital on October 24.

**Please keep us posted of any events or concerts your student participates in so that we can recognize their achievements!**

## **Spooky Suzuki**

Thanks to everyone who helped to make Spooky Suzuki, Prairie Oaks' annual Halloween party, a success! This year Prairie Oaks held Spooky Suzuki at both our Stevens Point and Marshfield locations on Halloween and we had a great time with familiar faces and some new families as well. Students enjoyed music and movement, drama games, costume prizes, a coloring contest, pumpkin decorating, a musical instrument petting zoo and snacks with cookie decorating. Special thanks to faculty members Erin Ribble and Amber Wuttke for providing music classes and drama classes, respectively. Prairie Oaks offers classes in both music and movement and drama, both of which are filled with fun, community-building activities like the kind experienced at Spooky Suzuki. Thanks again for coming, and we are already looking forward to next Halloween!

## **Fiddle Fest! cancelled**

We are disappointed to announce that Fiddle Fest!, our annual day of fiddling fun and performing is cancelled for this year. We are still excited to offer this opportunity for Prairie Oaks students and community musicians in future years, but this year we will not be able to offer it. Please keep it in mind for next year, especially you violin, viola, cello, guitar, and bass players out there!

## **Holiday Recital**

POSM encourages all students to participate in the recitals that are offered twice a year. Not only is this a great chance to polish a piece or two, but to also see the progress of others and encourage each other. A reception will follow to celebrate your performance, beverages will be provided, but please bring a treat to share.

**Marshfield: Saturday, December 19 at 1:00 at the Chestnut Center**

**Stevens Point: Sunday, December 20 at 1:00, location TBA**



## **Repetition**

One of the most important aspects of practicing is repetition. Dr. Suzuki would often assign his young students hundreds of repetitions for the week, so count yourself lucky if your teacher asks you to do only 20. Or maybe not. Think of how accomplished you would be performing hundreds of repetitions every week! The idea behind repetition is not torture, as you might suspect, but competence. It is your teacher's way of saying, "You can't do this yet, but by the time we're done with these exercises, you'll be able to do it in your sleep!" So when your teacher assigns what seems like an endless amount of repetitive exercises, remember that it means they care a lot about the way you sound and play. As a final thought, another Dr. Suzuki-ism. He said: "Don't practice until you get it right; practice until you cannot get it wrong." In other words, lots of people think it's okay to try until they get it right once. But the odds of getting it right the next time are slim to none, bad news if your next time is in performance. After you get it right, keep playing it until it becomes easy, and you will achieve true proficiency at the skill you are strengthening.

## **Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra**

The upcoming CWSO concert, December 5 and 6, will be a splendid treat for all, but especially cellists (more on this in a bit). The concert will include excerpts from The Nutcracker, complete with dancers from The Point Dance Ensemble, choral selections from the Monteverdi Master Chorale, and some symphonic selections by the CWSO. But the best reason to come to the December concert is your chance to see a highly-accomplished student performance. Chris Peck, a senior at SPASH, and a former Suzuki student who now studies with one of the cello professors at UW-Madison, will

performing the first movement of Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major. For you cello students out there this movement, along with the concerto's two other movements, comprise Suzuki Book 9 in its entirety. Every other year CWSO has a Young Artist Competition, the winner of which solos with the CWSO. If you are interested in acquainting yourself with this piece Heidi, our cello teacher, will be more than happy to provide you with a recording. We will be doing a drawing for 2 tickets to the concert, so if you're interested there will be a jar in the lobby to place your name. The drawing will take place on November 30 and if you are the winner we will call you to see what day you wish to attend. This is also a great chance to see some of the POSM Faculty in action: Erin Ribble, Philip Smyth, Aaron Marx and Heidi Corcoran are all performing members of the CWSO. Again, this is a great, kid friendly concert and we would love to see you there.



## **Flu Season**

As you are no doubt aware many people have and continue to fall ill with any of the number of cold and flu strains currently circulating through our population. Prairie Oaks students and families are no exception, of course, and you may be wondering about our illness makeup policy. We allot two makeup weeks at the end of the year, which will cover illness or school cancellation. To help prevent illness from spreading please wash your hands prior to your lesson and freely use the antibacterial hand gel available in all rooms. A good rule of thumb is if your to sick to go to school, you're too sick to go to music lessons. We appreciate a call so we can notify your teacher. Eat your fruits and veggies, drink lots of fluids, get plenty of rest and **stay healthy**.

## Important upcoming events

Be sure to mark these exciting upcoming events in your calendar:

- December 5 & 6, **CWSO Holiday Concert**  
Dec. 5 at 7:30 pm Dec. 6 at 4:00 pm
- Saturday, December 19th: **Holiday Recital**  
in Marshfield, 1:00
- Sunday, December 20th: **Holiday Recital**  
in Stevens Point, 1:00
- December 22nd - January 1st: **Winter Break**  
No Classes
- Monday, January 4th: **Classes resume**

## Practice tip of the season

**Balance long and short-term goals.**

Remember that each day is part of a week, a month, and a year. Set longer goals, like weekly or monthly, and make each day a step on the road to completion. If you get frustrated, remember that you're working for something bigger, and you'll get there if you keep going!

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**Winter Wishes**

from the

*Prairie Oaks  
School of Music!*

