



Issue No. 2  
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# F u n t a s t e a s

A Newsletter of Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore

## From the President

Another year has passed and in the modern kids' terms, more achievements have been unlocked.

In this issue, we have article contributions from a Suzuki parent, a Suzuki teacher trainee, and a Suzuki teacher trainer; they will give a better insight to the Suzuki teacher training and Suzuki Student's Concert experience.

It has been an eventful year for STEAS student members. We have put up 2 public performances: at a roadshow in June and at the National Art Gallery in July. We had a violin camp and concert earlier on, in February and our very own (1<sup>st</sup>) Suzuki students marathon concert in June. With the students' graduation system up, there will be more to look forward to next year.

We had the first ever Suzuki Guitar Teachers Training in Asia. STEAS is proud to be the organiser of this inaugural teacher training and is looking forward to more in the future.

A big thank you to all parents, teachers and students who have supported our events in 2016 and this year! We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to Teacher Anthony to editing, writing and putting this 2nd newsletter together.

The association hopes to have even more events to inspire more people, to invoke and to encourage an interest in music with this Method. May we all learn and grow well together, as students, parents and teachers.

The Chinese saying that the forefathers will plant the seeds and the future generations will enjoy the fruits and shade of the grown trees holds true. The future is in our hands and together, with music, let's make the world a better place.

Best Wishes  
Una Lauw  
President  
Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore  
(STEAS)



**steas**

Suzuki Talent Education  
Association Singapore

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'Where love is deep,  
much can be accomplished'

- Dr Shinichi Suzuki



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<https://www.facebook.com/singaporesuzuki/>

# A Suzuki Guitar Teacher Trainer's Experience in Singapore

Zeah Riordan

Suzuki Guitar has now been a part of the international Suzuki community for 30 years. With nine books & recordings of repertoire, the Suzuki Guitar movement is now very strongly established in the Pan Pacific, European and American regions. So it was with great excitement that Asia Region Suzuki Association endorsed and supported the Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore (STEAS) to launch an official Suzuki Guitar Teacher Training programme for the Asia region.

As a Guitar Teacher Trainer, I was both honoured and thrilled to be invited to lead the programme. After many months of planning, the inaugural Book 1 Training took place in July 2017, preceded by a Where Love is Deep Philosophy Course for the participants.

The concept of working with very young children, nurturing the child in a loving environment, with active parent involvement, whilst simultaneously holding high commitment to excellence,

was the big theme for the week. As the week unfolded, we worked on our own sound, each morning starting with tonalisation, and reflecting on how as teachers, our own playing is the model for students. Over the course of the week, the group sound developed and became more full and rich.



In addition, the group watched videos of very young pre-twinkler lessons to see how the very small learning steps support the child to develop ability. Mock teaching practice challenged them; group class experiences reinforced how learning can be fun. Repetition demonstrated how we can strengthen memory. The teacher trainees worked hard, and formed wonderful social connections. These collegial relationships are such a vital support network, and I am very optimistic that the fabric of teacher friendship is being woven beautifully. This is what will sustain and grow Suzuki Guitar in Asia.

The Guitar is such a beautiful instrument – it speaks to people, and cuts through some of the elitist connotations often associated with classical music. For this reason, I believe it has very great potential to be a powerful force for good things in the Asia Suzuki Community. I feel very blessed to be a part of this movement. My sincere gratitude to Ms Una Lauw & Andrew Wee, and to members of the STEAS committee who were so hospitable and welcoming to me on my visit. Thank you!! And thank you course participants for your openness, and hard work. I am excited to see what happens next!

With warmest wishes

Zeah Riordan  
Suzuki Guitar Teacher Trainer (PPSA)  
Melbourne Australia



The 1st batch of ARSA Region Guitar Trainees with Trainer Zeah Riordan and Una Lauw

## Introducing the Asia Region Suzuki Association (ARSA) Board



The regional Suzuki association for Asia was officially registered and approved earlier this year and is now known as [Asia Region Suzuki Association \(ARSA\)](https://asiaregionsuzukiassociation.org/). Click <https://asiaregionsuzukiassociation.org/> for more

ARSA Board of Directors from Left to Right:

- 1) Lan Ku Chen: ARSA Vice-Chair and Secretary, ARSA Representative to ISA Board, ARSA Violin Teacher Trainer
- 2) Hwei Tsu Chen: President of Taiwan Talent Education Association (TTEA)
- 3) Paul Landfield: ISA Committee for Asia Region Oversight and Reorganization, ISA Co-Interim CEO
- 4) Carmencita Arambulo: ARSA Chairperson, President Emeritus of Philippines Suzuki Association (PSA), PSA Representative to ARSA Board, ARSA Piano Teacher Trainer
- 5) Therese Wirakesuma: Chairperson of Suzuki Music Association of Indonesia (SMAI), SMAI Representative to ARSA Board
- 6) Una Lauw: President of Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore (STEAS), ARSA Treasurer, STEAS Representative to ARSA Board

# A Parent's Performance Journey with her Suzuki Daughter

Linda Thia



Alexis with Mummy, Linda

June and July this year were exciting months of new and amazing music experiences for my daughter Alexis. Alexis started learning the violin with Mrs Lauw in 2016. She has participated in two concerts as part of a large ensemble within a controlled concert hall environment last year. We enjoyed those experiences immensely and were expecting similar experiences this year. Boy! Were we in for a surprise! Alexis has to perform solo for the first time at the Students' Marathon Concert organized by STEAS!

As she was busy preparing for her very first solo performance, we were informed that STEAS was invited to perform in the community event promoting the new Seng Kang General Hospital. We jumped at the unique opportunity to perform in a public event, in a casual and stress free environment. In all honesty, it wasn't the most conducive place to play the violin on a small stage and with a challenging sound system. But the kids were resilient and amazing! They were not hindered by their noisy, crowded surroundings and continued to wow the crowd with their focus and obvious love



Alexis plays with an ensemble at a community event promoting the new Seng Kang General Hospital

for playing the violin. Alexis told me she thoroughly enjoyed herself and had so much fun meeting up with her friends. It was a very special day for her as well because she invited her best friend to watch the performance.

When it was time for her solo performance, it was utterly nerve-wrecking for us, especially for me! I was both excited, proud and worried at the same time. After all, this was her first solo, her moment to shine. She had practised intensely but had yet to eradicate some mistakes even on the very morning itself. We wished her all the best and told her that we were very proud of her and left her with the teachers to get ready. When it was her turn, she walked shyly onto the stage and proceeded to play her solo piece. I think I was holding my breath throughout her performance! Bravo my little one! It was the best I have heard her play that piece ever. She was beaming with joy the rest of the day.



Alexis and other Suzuki violin students performs at the National Gallery Singapore

What struck me deeply was the discipline she showed while preparing for this. She was consciously finishing her school work promptly in order to practise the violin. She didn't need reminders or prompting to practise. And her confidence and interest grew visibly after that. It must have been such an accomplishment for her.

## Performance opportunities are aplenty with STEAS!

The following day, Mrs Lauw informed us of the invitation to perform at National Gallery Singapore. 'Resonates with: Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore'. When I asked Alexis if she wanted to participate, she jumped and replied with a resounding 'Yes'!

It was quite a different experience from the previous public performance. Being asked to dress in formal performance attire definitely set the tone. We were looking forward with much anticipation and were so grateful for

yet another opportunity to invite her grandparents and aunt to watch her. It was going to be a joyful family gathering. Alexis really liked that experience. Indeed, it was such an amazing venue for a public performance. I was so thankful she had that opportunity.

At the end of these hectic months, I had some time to sit back and reflect upon these experiences. These are indeed precious and valuable life experiences for her. I watched her grow in

confidence, in discipline and mostly, I observed her love for music and for the violin blossom. Public performances versus solo performance - These bring different types of developmental learning and growing for her. With the two public performances, she had to adapt to the contrasting environments and in the midst of it all, she enjoyed bonding with her fellow junior musicians and learn to play as an ensemble. For her solo performance, it was a huge confidence booster and her love for playing the violin skyrocketed that day.

As a parent, it fills me with great joy watching her grow and enjoy her music. I have watched her struggle through certain pieces and her determination amazes me. All these performance opportunities along with a caring and nurturing teacher are the perfect ingredients to make learning music so fulfilling and enriching - For her, as well as for us.

# A Suzuki Teacher's Training Reflection

Brittany Kubiak

I had the extreme privilege of attending 'Where Love is Deep' (WLID) - An Introduction to the Suzuki Philosophy, and the Suzuki Violin Volume 1 Teacher Training this year from 28 May – 2 June. Both courses were organized by Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore (STEAS) and were conducted by Professor Lan-Ku Chen and Mrs. Hwei-Tse Chen, approved trainers appointed by the Asia Region Suzuki Association (ARSA). They were a phenomenal teaching duo, truly amazing and inspirational.

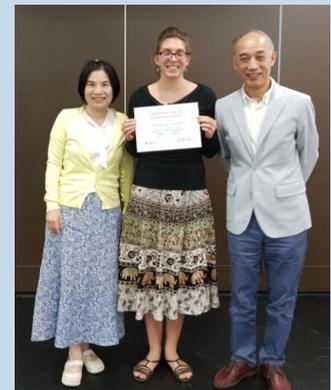
WLID was a one-day course which covered the key points of Dr. Suzuki's philosophy of loving children and creating a better world through children's participation in artistic excellence. I was deeply inspired by Prof. Chen's presentation of Dr. Suzuki's thoughts and philosophy. Dr. Suzuki's mission that music can be a driving force for a positive change in the world highly motivated me to feel that with beautiful music living within the hearts of children, they can indeed be beautiful people and can impact and beautify society around them.

*The teacher must be a competent player*

By raising and nurturing children with love and music, teachers and parents are fostering respect and care through the study of music, creating a more peaceful world with more kindness. The Suzuki philosophy that 'Every Child Can' rings so true in my heart because I really believe that every child really can learn! The Suzuki method behind this philosophy is so systematic, well planned and presented in manageable parts and that every child will succeed.

Prof. and Mrs. Chen's passion for teaching is truly inspiring. The trainers shared vast amounts of amazing ideas to break tasks down so that young children can learn and will succeed! I love that one of the core values of the Suzuki Method is that the teacher must be a competent player. Our students will emulate us, and it is essential that we provide only the best. This method is so detailed, yet easily understood. It's so full of deep and careful thought for execution, that the teaching itself is an art. It's also wonderful that the Suzuki Method requires a strong community of teachers for support and encouragement.

Prof. and Mrs. Chen took time to assess and gave pointers to improve our own playing. We spent time discussing the detailed and intrinsic aspects of musicality and how to present it to young children in a way that they can grasp, master and enjoy. With the tools and teacher mindset, mastered during this course, I believe that I can impart to my students the necessary skills and techniques to be more musical and expressive. And when they have an efficient way to bring the beauty from their hearts to their instruments through music, the world can change! I can't wait to apply all I'd learnt!



Brittany with Mrs Hwei-Tse Chen (Left) and Prof Lan-Ku Chen (Right)

## Upcoming Events in 2018

January 2018  
Suzuki Piano Volume 1  
Teacher Training

March 2018  
Perpetuo Musica 2018

April 2018  
Suzuki Guitar Volume 1  
Teacher Training

May 2018  
Suzuki Violin Volume 1  
Teacher Training

June 2018  
Twinkle Fantasy 2018

July 2018  
7<sup>th</sup> Asian Region Suzuki  
Conference in Manila

# STEAS Activities & Performances in 2017



## Violin Fantasy with Martin Rüttimann



Student Masterclasses



Teacher Workshop



Student Workshop



Violin Fantasy Concert

## Perpetua Musica - Our First Student Marathon Concert Also the first solo performance for many students!



## STEAS Public Performances in 2017

### Sengkang Hospital Community Health Fair 2017 To raise awareness of the opening of Sengkang General Hospital



### Resonates With: Suzuki Talent Education Association Singapore at National Gallery Singapore STEAS is proud to be part of the music series celebrating cultural diversity

