

# Ottawa Suzuki Strings

Annual General Meeting

Nov 21, 2016

John Royle, President

*john.royle.1@gmail.com*

## *Ottawa Suzuki Strings: main themes*

- Nurturing individual excellence in our children, through Suzuki education
- Learning from private lessons, group classes, and the experience of live performance
- Quality and continuous improvement in teaching
- Creativity in programme initiatives
- Responsible, effective, efficient administration

## *Finances and enrollment – last year*

- Decline in enrollment from previous year.
  - The current year's enrollment is stable, relative to last year (101 group-class students)
- Net loss of 8.2K vs. net loss of 8.9K the previous year.
  - The current year's budget is balanced.
- Small senior group class – 14 students.
  - This year we have 21 students in Stellae Boreales
  - This year we have fewer PreTwinkle students than last year

## *Group-class Enrollment*

- Sept 2014: 120 students registered
- Sept 2015: 107 students registered
- Sept 2016: 101 students registered
  
- Ongoing initiative: enrollment outreach
  - community concerts
  - social media
  - word of mouth, parent and student testimonials
  - (advertisement)

## *Some highlights of last year*

- Monday night playdowns, recitals, Kiwanis
- Community Concerts
  - thanks to organizing volunteers!
  - James Ehnes birthday
  - welcomed the Stratford Suzuki school, in a special NAC event
- Stellae Boreales welcomed a new coach: Lance Elbeck
- Fine Tuners fiddle workshop
- Guitar program continued to grow
- Added Intermediate Rudiments theory course
- Special voice project: Wizard of Oz
- Stellae Boreales Tours (China, Stratford)

## *Changes in Group Classes for this year*

- New faculty member: Megan Graham (violin, viola)
  - Megan has been a life-long Suzuki student and teacher
  - Authored a research paper published in the spring 2016 American Suzuki Journal on practicing
- No viola or cello group-classes this year, so far, due to insufficient enrollment
  - We continue to look for creative ways to diversify our programming, with Voice, Viola, Cello

## *Faculty and Visiting Teachers leaving us*

- Faculty members no longer with us this year:
  - Iain McPherson, Erin Macdonald
- Visiting teachers of group-classes for last year only:
  - Olivier Philippe-Auguste (viola)
    - (there is no viola group-class this year)
  - Kiri-Christina Hauk (violin)

## *Stellae Boreales Tours*

- The SB China tour took place during July 2015
- In the spring, 2016, SB visited Stratford
- Special thanks to all the SB parents who volunteered on the Tour committee



## *Administration*

- Last year's team was led by Judy Ginsburg (Administrator), with Maria Balakrishnan (School Coordinator), and Deanne Donohue (Volunteer Coordinator)
  - Deanne has taken over Maria's responsibilities as School Coordinator for this year
  - Thanks to Maria, for many years of great work!
- Board members Renate Harrison, Anna Katra, and Johanna Jochumsdottir comprised the Board Enrollment Outreach Committee
- Thanks to Anna Katra and Adam Cicchillitti for maintaining the FB site

## *Balanced budget this year*

- We believe we have an excellent faculty team.
- Group class enrollment is key to financial planning for the school
- Give us feedback on how we're doing – is your child benefiting from enrollment at OSS?
- If you are happy, tell your neighbours and friends
- Write or email to the administrator or the Board if you have specific overall school issues or concerns

## *Last Year's Board of Directors*

- John Royle, (President, acting Treasurer)
- Francine Schutzman (Vice President)
- Renate Harrison (Secretary)
- Meenakshi Gupta
- Duncan McCallum
- Ammar Gharbi
- Anna Katra
- Johanna Jochumsdottir
  - [plus one vacant position, which remained unfilled]
- Advisory Board members (non-voting)
  - Elaine Klimasko (Artistic Director)
  - Jerry Csaba

## *Nominated Board Members*

- Renate Harrison stepped down, after 3 years on the Board.
  - Renate's consistent energy and ability, including legal experience, was a valuable contribution to the Board
- Randi Karstad is a new candidate for Board Member
  - parent of Book 4 student
  - brings expertise in government advocacy, international affairs
- All other Board Member candidates are continuing from last year
  - including one vacant Board Member position