

#### **CCSA Staff**

Libby Meyer, Executive Director Violin & Viola Instructor

Maggie Twining Cello & Violin Instructor Director of Orchestras

Amanda Plummer Piano Instructor Keweenaw Family Music

Katie Pflaum Assistant Violin Instructor

Carla Phillips Accompanist

#### **CCSA Board of Directors**

Maria Bergstrom, President Ann Pace, Vice-President Tim Eisele, Treasurer Lara Neves, Secretary Haley Fredrickson Audrey Liston • Robby Berman Kyung In Huh • Wil Shapton

Special thanks for the continued support of:

Finlandia University

Michigan Tech University

Department of Visual & Performing Arts

### Thanks to Our Donors

James & Alice Boyce Ross R. Grunwald of Keweenaw Copper Co. Keith Johnson of Thermoanalytics Keweenaw Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee Audrey & Wade Liston

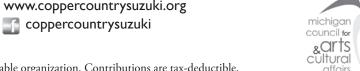
Herb & Michele Meyer Wayne & Laura Pennington Max & Mary Ann Seel Ken Smith

of Copper Range Abstract & Title Pat & Bill Stark

**Stark Family Foundation** 

#### **Copper Country Suzuki Association**

PO Box 161, Houghton, MI 49931-0161 906.487.3606 www.coppercountrysuzuki.org



CCSA  $\cdot$  1971 – 2013 Over 40 Years of Changing Lives through Music

# Musical Musings

Dear Friends of the CCSA,

I was recently asked how many of our students go on to study music in college or become professional musicians. I didn't know the answer. But the question made me think again about the mission of our organization. We have produced many excellent musicians in over 40 years, but I am even prouder of all the outstanding individuals who have graduated from our program. Our students go on to become doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists, writers, teachers, and parents who

share their love of music with their children. The lessons we teach go beyond scales, bowing technique, or finger exercises. We are about developing discipline, poise, and perseverance. Through our ensembles, students learn teamwork, build leadership skills, and experience the thrill of being part of something larger than themselves.

Whether our graduates go on to careers in music, play in community orchestras, or just dig out their instruments to entertain their own children one day, the impact of the CCSA in their lives will, I believe,

continue to be felt. If you want to invest in the lives of today's children to help produce the leaders of tomorrow, I don't think you could do better than to contribute toward programs in music education. Please consider a contribution to our scholarship fund to help make these benefits of music instruction available to even more children in our area.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maria Bergstrom CCSA Board President



Delightful music and imaginative costumes took the stage at CCSA's October Costume Recital at the Bluffs Senior Residence.

Winter 2013 · 2014 Copper Country Suzuki **Association** 

### pcoming I vents

Finlandia University Singers & Pep Band Concert with KYSO

Chapel of St. Matthew · Hancock Nov. 20 · 6 p.m.

Finnish Independence Day Performance Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock Dec. 6 · 6 p.m.

#### **Poor Artists Sale Performance**

Calumet High School Gym · Calumet Dec. 7 · 1 p.m.

#### **Holiday Recital**

Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock Dec. 11 · 6 p.m.

#### Piano Recital

The Bluffs Senior Residence · Houghton Jan. 18 · 2 p.m.

#### KYSO Performance at Heikinpäivä

Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock Jan. 25 · 11:30 a.m.

#### Solo Recital

The Bluffs Senior Residence · Houghton Feb. 9 · 2 p.m.

#### Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly Valentines Day Party Performance

Location TBD Feb. 15 · 12:15 p.m.

#### **UP Chamber Music Festival**

NMU Campus · Marquette Feb. 21 · 9 to 4 p.m.

#### Cellopalooza! & Violapalooza!

A festival celebrating low strings Mar. 7-8 · TBD

#### **KYSO & Preparatory Strings Concert**

Lake Linden High School Auditorium Lake Linden Mar. 26 · 6 p.m.

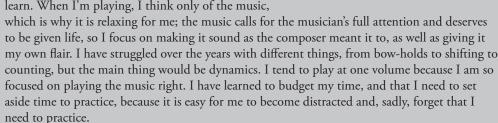


# Student Spotlight

Erin McKenzie

How long have you played the cello? I have played cello for 12 or so years, since I was 5.

What do you enjoy about playing the cello and what do you find most challenging? I enjoy playing the cello because it is relaxing, and there is always something to strive for, always something to learn. When I'm playing, I think only of the music,



Besides playing at recitals and concerts, have you played anywhere else? I have played for many different occasions, such as Solo & Ensemble, Little Brothers lunches, Rotary meetings and parties, talent shows, and even in a quartet competition.

Do you enjoy orchestra? Do you play any other instruments? I love to play in orchestra; it's so different from playing solo music, and it's an important part of music education. I also play the oboe, and have done so for five or six years through Middle and High School band. With both orchestra and band, I like to listen to how the different instruments blend together to make a balanced sound, and how the intricate parts as a whole can make such seamless music.

What is your favorite piece to play or favorite type of music to play? My favorite pieces have changed over the years as I have progressed, from book one to the Bach Cello Suites. I enjoy playing solo, with a piano, or in orchestra, though playing solo is my favorite by a small margin. There's something about the sound of a solo cello that makes it decidedly my favorite.

#### What do you like to do when you're not playing cello? How do you fit practicing in?

When I'm not playing cello, I like to do many things: I play hockey, run cross country, go horseback riding, dance, read, and, of course, study. I take things one at a time, so I can focus fully on whatever the activity is. To fit in practicing cello, I work it in around my other activities, sometimes only fitting in 15 minutes. I've practiced at odd times, from before school to 10 at night. When I am stressed from everything else I do, I make time to play my cello because it is a stress-reliever for me.

Is the rest of your family musical, do you play together? My father plays the bagpipes and has played the banjo, piano and trombone. My siblings both played in the CCSA when they were younger, my brother on violin and my sister on viola. Neither stuck it out, though my brother now plays the classical guitar and my sister plays the flute. We usually don't play together, due to the differences in our instruments and the lack of musical literature we have.

Any memorable "musical moments"? I have many memorable "musical moments," though for a favorite, it's best to ask my mother, Lisa McKenzie, or Libby Meyer. They can tell the story much better than I, and it's truly funny. Also, I would like to thank Maggie for instructing me for many years, and for putting up with my early refusal to learn. I couldn't ask for anyone better to teach me, or those in the program!

What are your plans after high school? After high school, I plan on continuing to play while I attend Michigan Tech in pursuit of a pre-medicine degree so I can, in the future, attend medical school. I will play, I hope, in the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and in the community, and continue to take lessons, because there is always something to learn!

## Meet New Instructor: Katie Pflaum

Katie is very excited to work with CCSA and KYSO this season and share her passion for music with the community. Katie began playing viola as a 4th-grader in her hometown of Rapid City, SD. She graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN in 2012 with a B.A. in Dance. Throughout high school and college she has had the opportunity to play in symphonies, chamber orchestras, string quartets, and pit orchestras for musicals, as well as private study on viola. She



With an eye on technique, Katie teaches the violin group class.

moved to the Keweenaw just over two years ago and immediately fell in love with the area. She has worked at Isle Royale the past two summers and is in her second season playing with Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. Through teaching, Katie hopes to bring out the best of her students' technique and artistry on their instruments and integrate music theory and history into lessons. She believes it is very important to help each student develop their own sense of musicianship, and she is sure that she will continue to learn much of value through teaching.

## Milestones

Erin McKenzie, Elise Cheney Makens, and Margaret Ensminger participated in masterclass with Nathan Jasinski, attended Strings Festival at MTU, and played with Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in their October concert.

Vi Wusirika is finishing Suzuki Book 1. Megan Messner finished Suzuki Book 1. Erin Mckenzie and Elise Cheney Makens finished the complete Bach Suite No. 1

William Shapton received his first term report card with the only "4" (highest rating) in his class, the subject being music.

#### **Welcome New Students:**

Layan Aboudah Noran Aboudah Indrek Seigel Manny Trewartha Russ Trewartha Inseo Yoon Seojun Yoon Rosemary Eisele Maren Pietila Michael Keller Daniel Lyle

# Catching Up with CCSA Grad



#### What is your background with the CCSA?

I started with Suzuki when I was in kindergarten, and continued to play with the CCSA until 8th grade. At one point or another, I took advantage of everything CCSA had to offer: private lessons, group lessons, orchestra,

fiddle, and of course all of the performances. It gave me a great jumpingoff point for who I have become as a musician and a person.

#### Where are you now and what are you up to?

I am currently in Ann Arbor studying Sound Engineering in the Performance Arts Technology Department at the University of Michigan. The program is within the School of Music, so it involves a lot of creativity and music, but also has a large focus on engineering and math. I'm also working on recording my first album!

#### How has your Suzuki music training influenced you?

Suzuki was where I got my start. I learned to read music and play by ear, which is the cornerstone of most of the classes I'm taking and the music I make every day. And, of course, I still pick up my fiddle from time to time and I've used it as a live element to some electronic compositions.

Even though I left Houghton almost four years ago, every time I see Libby she gives me a hug and asks if I'm still fiddling. It's really nice to know that the connections you make through programs like this are lasting.

The Copper Country, as many rural areas, doesn't have many music and arts programs. CCSA and the wonderful instructors it has brought to our community give so many kids a place to start exploring something new. There are many people like me, who started with Suzuki and ended up somewhere totally different, but wouldn't have got there without the exposure to music or friendships CCSA gave them.



Over the summer CCSA moved into the new studios upstairs in the E.L. Wright Building. There are three separate teaching studios and a large space for rehearsals and group classes. Beautiful with lots of natural light, it's a great space for making music. We celebrated the move in September with an open house.



PO Box 161 Houghton, MI 49931-0161 906.487.3606 www.coppercountrysuzuki.com

wish to support the <b>Copper Country Suzuki Association</b> and help
nake high-quality music instruction available and affordable for
children in our community.
Enclosed is my gift of \$

☐ This gift is **In Honor Of** or **In Memory Of** (circle one):

☐ I'd like this gift to be anonymous.

🛮 I'd like to sponsor a scholarship at t	the 🖵 \$500 🕻	<b>」</b> \$250 <b>□</b> \$	100 level.	
☐ Check here if you would like a rece	ipt.			
Your name				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Phone	_ E-mail			

Please make checks payable to CCSA. Contributions are tax-deductible. CCSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization