

The 2012-2013 musical year in review:

Fall term:

- ◆ Silverwinds began rehearsing a few weeks before the rest of the groups, and prepared a performance of John Lennon's "Imagine" for the new parent class and for the ESFRS AGM.
- ◆ All the groups performed at the "Groups in Review" concert at the end of November. The new uniform T shirts arrived just before the concert, so there wasn't time to wear them at this event, but we were already looking forward to the next concert to see them in action!
- ◆ Silverwinds performed at "Celebrate the Season" in the Legislature Rotunda.

Winter term:

- ◆ Our teacher Leigh-Anne DeVries announced that she was expecting in the late spring. Excitement! Group and lesson schedules were adjusted to accommodate her imminent maternity leave.
- ◆ Shelley Younge, principal 2nd flute and piccolo with the ESO, gave a masterclass for Silverwinds students as part of their mid-winter rehearsal retreat.
- ◆ Everyone played solos at the Winter Solo Recital, and all the new beginners took a bow!
- ◆ The Suzuki Charter School arranged for us to give our "Learn with Love" new parent presentation to ALL the new parents entering the school, not just flute & recorder people.
- ◆ Second term of group classes ended with a groups concert before Spring Break. The group T shirts looked fabulous!!

Spring Term:

- ◆ Our students received a total of \$500 in scholarships and a provincial festival recommendation at the Edmonton Kiwanis Music Festival.
- ◆ Leigh-Anne had a boy! His name is Rowan DeVries.
- ◆ Groups & Grads was the last group concert of the season. Three students graduated from Recorder book 1A, two from Book 1A flute, two from Book 1 flute, one from Book 2 recorder. Book 1A flute was a new level this year, so flutes match the recorder levels in having an earlier milestone to celebrate and prepare.
- ◆ Silverwinds played in the lobby of the Winspear as part of the Musicians in the Making series. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students, as the performances include free tickets to the ESO concert that night!
- ◆ Our teacher Kathleen Schoen attended the SAA Leadership Retreat, where it was announced that she passed the qualifications to become a teacher Trainer in Recorder.
- ◆ Everyone played solos at the Spring Solo Recital.
- ◆ Silverwinds were invited to perform as part of the special summer music at Trinity.

Summer Term:

- ◆ Our teacher Kathleen Schoen attended the Great Lakes Suzuki Flute & Recorder Institute to complete the internship part of her Teacher Trainer qualification.

Plans for the 2013-2014 year:

- ◆ More community outreach performances:
 1. Including recorders, now that there are enough senior students to create a "Sweetwoods" group to match the "Silverwinds"
 2. Pending applications to play at the Winspear before the recorder concerto concert on Nov. 6, and before the flute concerto concert on Nov. 1.
 3. Taking all the groups concerts out into the community, and having the students perform in different venues for each group concert.
 4. Having our groups play with other Suzuki programs that feature different instruments.
- ◆ Receiving the AFA grant will allow us to purchase a bass flute for the Silverwinds group.
- ◆ Incorporating a Summer Institute into our calendar to create a year-round program.

The business of making it happen:

	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014 (projected)
Recorder Students	13	11
Flute Students	26	26
TOTAL STUDENTS (This doesn't add up because some students play both instruments.)	38	36
New Students	6	6
Recorder Teachers	2	2
Flute Teachers	3	3
TOTAL TEACHERS	3	3

Student enrollment is staying relatively stable, with incoming students replacing students who leave the program. There was an opportunity to increase our intake of beginners through demand from the Charter School, but we had to decline and say that we were full this year, as one of our teachers is continuing on maternity leave and only teaching a limited number of returning students, no new ones.

It is important when the program becomes this full to look at our student demographics over several years. If we fill every available space with beginners, then there is no place for new students the following year. Then the program becomes heavily weighted towards one age group or level, and you are faced with a situation where everyone graduates at once and you have to start all over again. In order to maintain a balanced program, growth needs to be gradual, maintaining space for a limited number of beginners each year.

Teachers with Suzuki training are still in short supply. Due to the nature of the music teaching business, many of our teachers also have day jobs or other music freelance occupations. We have to balance the available teaching hours with our student enrollment. In the interest of maintaining program quality, we do not hire new teachers unless they have shown a commitment to the Suzuki teaching philosophy by beginning the teacher training process. Our minimum requirement for teachers is to have passed the teacher trainer level 1 audition and completed the Every Child Can! class. The ESFRS program includes promotion of teacher training through a professional development fund. Our minimum requirement can be completed locally, and the PD fund can help teachers with the necessary travel to obtain further training.

One new development this year, which will make teacher training more accessible and hopefully increase the supply of qualified teachers, is that our Music Program Director, Kathleen Schoen, has passed the qualifications to become an SAA Teacher Trainer and can provide the ECC! and Recorder unit training locally.

Financially, our budget is relatively stable. We had a new large expense this year due to the liability insurance premium, but we also received an Alberta Foundation for the Arts operating grant this year, so we did not have to raise tuition to cover the entire premium. This grant also left us a bit extra for some special projects (see handout of proposed budget). The rent charged by the Charter School has remained stable after the first increase after the move to the new building.

An ongoing problem with the budget process has been the timing of rent increases. Due to the Charter School registration process beginning in February, ESFRS is obliged to set tuition fees for the following year on January. Previous rent increases have been announced after we have set fees, which is awkward when we have not budgeted for increases. We have had some encouraging conversations with the school about this problem, and are looking forward to having a longer time frame for dealing with any rent increases in the future.

We have established separate funds for scholarships, special projects, and operating expenses. Any budget surpluses are divided into thirds and one third is put in each fund. In order to grow these funds, especially the scholarship fund, we want to be able to offer tax receipts for donations. We have yet to apply for the necessary registration number to be able to do so. This is the next long term financial goal.