

# NURTURE

"To promote Suzuki education, service and communication  
Among parents, students, teachers and the community"

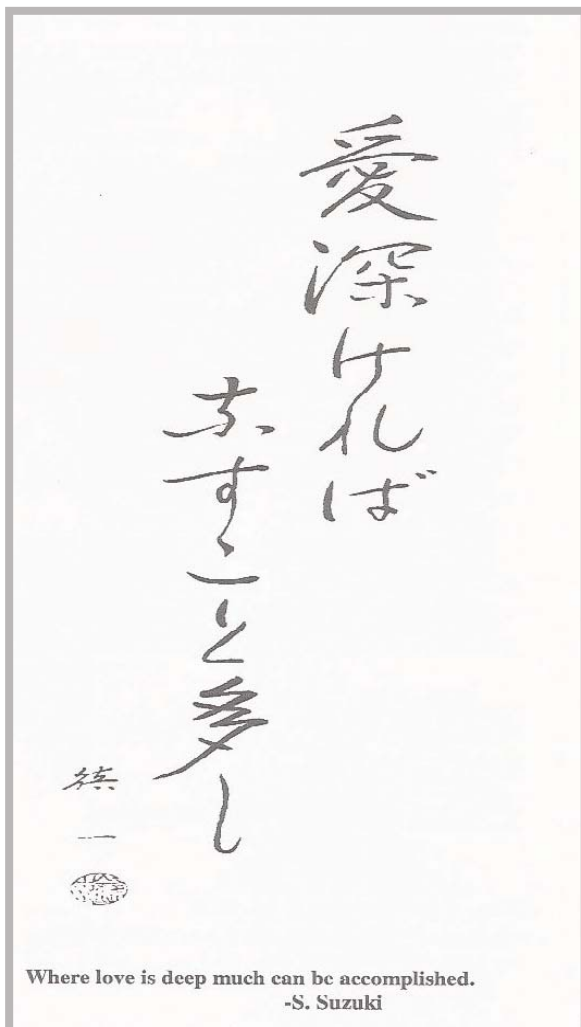
[www.atlantasuzukipiano.org](http://www.atlantasuzukipiano.org)

November 2007



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Friends of AASPA

Listed below are those who have donated monies in addition to their annual membership, hence, they have become a Friend of AASPA.

**\$25 and Under**  
Barbara Brown  
Jina Brown  
Scott & Loretta Carter  
Mr. And Mrs. David Earhart  
Shannon Jensen  
Joslyn McGuire  
The Sato Family  
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Joni Winston

**\$100-\$250**  
Leah Brammer  
The Mahon Family  
Thom and Julie Ray

Friends of AASPA help support the graduation concerts, masterclass workshops, and the scholarship program for both teachers and students. Scholarship money is made available to enable those in need to participate in the graduation concerts, masterclass workshops, Suzuki camps, and the 10 piano concerts in Japan and Sacramento, Ca.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of AASPA, please complete the form and send it with your tax-deductible contribution to the name listed below.

**Become A Friend Of AASPA:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you want your name to appear in printed material:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to donate the following amount (tax deductible) and become a Friend of AASPA!**  
 \_\_\_\$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_  
**other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to AASPA and mail to:**  
**AASPA, c/o Stephanie Hancock, 334 Stoneywick Way, Mableton, GA 30126**

*Nurture* is a publication of the Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association, Inc. It is published three times annually – November, February, and May.

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Membership is open to any interested persons. Dues are \$25 for teachers and \$25 for families. Dues are paid annually in September.

Call or e-mail Robin Blankenship to become a member at [RBJan545@aol.com](mailto:RBJan545@aol.com)

*Nurture* submission criteria:  
 Submission must be in article format and ready for print. Send article document via e-mail to: [lrussell@usa.com](mailto:lrussell@usa.com).

Preferred document format is MS Word 6.0 or text only.  
 All submissions become the property of *Nurture* and are subject to editing.

Letter from the President



When I was growing up my mother listened to music all the time. She listened to Artur Rubenstein playing Chopin on the piano. I remember hearing Dave Brubeck Take Five, Charlie Parker, The Beatles, and Tristan and Isolde by Wagner. She would buy a record and play it over and over again for days and weeks at a time, if she really loved it. I heard Lili Kraus playing Mozart and Dinu Lipatti playing Bach. The Suzuki Method for piano did not exist in those days of the 0's and 60's. Since hearing music from the day of my birth, when I was five years old I begged for piano lessons. Every time I saw a piano at a friend's house it attracted me. She loved to tell people that she never made me practice. I wanted to sound like the music I heard at home.

When my mother was growing up, her grandparents lived with her. She told me that her grandfather loved to listen to music and she would listen to the opera with him every Saturday afternoon.

My mother knew the name of every piece played on the public radio music station. I was amazed and realized later it was because she listened to classical music her entire life.

My mother had excellent taste in music. As I developed my own listening skills and appreciation for music I knew that if my mother liked a particular recording or pianist that it would be good. One of my mother's favorite quotes was from jazz artist Duke Ellington. "If it sounds good and feels good, then it IS good!"

Thanks, mom for giving me the gift of listening. I cannot imagine my life without music.

**Robin Blankenship**

*In memory of my mother,  
Jacqueline Richards,  
July 25, 1930 – December 24, 2006*



*"Man is a child of his environment"*  
Shinichi Suzuki

*"What is music to you? What would you be without music? Music is everything. Nature is music (cicadas in the tropical night). The sea is music, the wind is music. The rain drumming on the roof and the storm raging in the sky are music. Music is the oldest entity. The scope of music is immense and infinite."*

*Duke Ellington*

*"The most important thing I look for in a musician is whether he knows how to listen."*

*Duke Ellington*





**Congratulations Students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Suzuki Piano Graduation Concert 1**

**Graduation Level I**

Aydan Mufti, age 8  
Student of Robin Blankenship

Amy Doneff, age 9  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Jake Nigro, age 7  
Student of Nancy Lewis

Aliya Shecter, age 9  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Aaron Baca, age 9  
Student of Laurretta Russell

Katherine Davis, age 10  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Alicia Martinez, age 10  
Student of Pamela Smith

Rylee Hafitz, age 10  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Savannah Entrekin, age 11  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

**Graduation Level II**

Charlie Lu, age 11  
Student of Tony Winston

Samantha Claire Long, age 9  
Student of Brian Parks

Alex Vannier, age 12  
Student of Pamela Smith

**Graduation Level III**

Hugh Alexander Goodwin, age 14  
Student of Stephan Lipham

**Graduation Level IV**

Anusha Ravi, age 13  
Student of Kathie Sheeley

**Graduation Level V**

Mallory West, age 16  
Student of Barbara Brown

**Graduation Level VI**

Emily Reese, age 16  
Student of Tony Winston

**Graduation Level VIII**

Sydney Sewell, age 15  
Student of Robin Blankenship

**Graduation Level IX**

Lisa Belk, age 16  
Student of Robin Blankenship

Andrew Loo, age 16  
Student of Robin Blankenship



**Congratulations Students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Suzuki Piano Graduation Concert 2**

**Graduation Level I**

David Choi, age 8  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Gwendolyn McManus, age 8  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Erik Tischer, age 8  
Student of Brian Parks

Savannah Ratcliff, age 11  
Student of Amanda Castillo

Taryn Bledsoe, age 12  
Student of Barbara Brown

Rohitha Baskar, age 9  
Student of Rebecca McKeown

Devin Mashman, age 11  
Student of Joslyn McGuire

Abigail Silverman, age 11  
Student of Rebecca McKeown

**Graduation Level II**

Cassidy Ray, age 8  
Student of Brian Parks

Ryan Forrest, age 9  
Student of Barbara Brown

Symone Imani Williams, age 10  
Student of Brian Parks

Allison Memmler, age 13  
Student of Nancy Lewis

**Graduation Level III**

Frances Voll, age 17  
Student of Barbara Brown

**Graduation Level IV**

Sabrina Huang, age 9  
Student of Robin Blankenship

**Graduation Level VI**

Claudia Cheung, age 13  
Student of Tony Winston

**Graduation Level VII**

Hansol Kwon, age 13  
Student of Nancy Lewis

**Graduation Level VIII**

Marjorie Saviano, age 15  
Student of Robin Blankenship

**Graduation Level IX**

Peter Carter, age 14  
Student of Robin Blankenship

**Graduation Level X**

Katie Loh, age 18  
Student of Brian Parks

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*AASPA Presents  
A Core Education Workshop  
with Leah Brammer*

*by Joslyn McGuire*

We are thrilled to have former Atlanta teacher Leah Brammer coming to Southern Keyboards, Thursday through Sunday, November 8-11, 2007, for our fall Piano Basics Workshop. She will be teaching students from level 1 to level 9. Leah has taught students in Atlanta, the University of Louisville and now resides in California where she is continuing to teach students and teachers.

For the first time, Leah will be discussing education at the beginning of every hour of lessons. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enrich your own playing, but also your student's playing. Please come at any time to observe one of Piano Basics best teachers.

There will be a parent talk on Core Education on Saturday from 1-2 p.m. The talk is free for all members of AASPA. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

The workshop and talk is being held at Southern Keyboards which is located on Leland Drive. This is right off Windy Hill exit off of I-75. (770-953-0938).

More complete information is available on our website [atlantasuzukipiano.org](http://atlantasuzukipiano.org).

***Please mark your calendars for Dr Karen Hagberg who will be coming to Atlanta Thursday-Sunday March 27-30, 2008.***

*Letter from the  
Graduation Director*



Dear Parents,

The upcoming graduation concerts are on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at Spivey Hall. This is a rare opportunity to hear many fine performances from the Suzuki repertoire. Listening to one excellent live performance can make more of an impression on a young student than listening to the CD 100 times at home or in the car. Though it is a requirement only for a level one student, being in the audience as one prepares for the next level is highly recommended.

There have been many moments of electrifying excitement and rarified beauty in past concerts. I'm sure this winter's concert will be no exception.

**Please note that our June concert will be held on May 31, 2008 at Spivey Hall.**

See the [atlantasuzukipiano.org](http://atlantasuzukipiano.org) website for details.

*Tony Winston*

Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association



Parent Talk with Leah Brammer

Core Education  
Piano Ability is Life Ability

Saturday, November 10, 2007  
1:00 – 2:00 pm  
at Southern Keyboards

Parent talks are the highlight of our workshops.  
Parents attending gain insight into the Suzuki Method  
And renewed enthusiasm for practicing with their children.

Directions: [www.southernkeyboards.com](http://www.southernkeyboards.com)  
770-953-0938

Babysitting and Lunch must be advance ordered by **Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**

Boxed lunches are:  
Moroccan Chicken with fennel, watercress and red onion salad for **\$12**  
or Sesame noodles on a bed of greens for **\$9**  
All lunches include iced tea, brownies and sour dough baguettes.  
Please make checks out to **Gail Henry** and indicate choice(s)

Mail them to Joslyn McGuire at 518 Oakland Ave, Atlanta, Ga 30312  
Phone: 404-524-5880 email [wind\\_song@abraxis.com](mailto:wind_song@abraxis.com)



# Access to Great Artists through the Web

by Leah Brammer

Imagine being able to watch, listen and learn about the very best pianists including those from the beginning of the 20th century to the current day, performing music by the greatest composers of all time.

It is now possible! Imagine how happy Dr. Suzuki would be to know that children can watch and listen to the best musicians with such relatively little effort! There is so much “out there” on the web it’s hard to know where to begin. This article is about that-where to begin.

On the web you can watch great videos, research lots of information about composers and artists, search for music by listening for free, buy a new or used (collector items) CD, or download a MP3 file directly onto your ipod or computer.

## Websites/access points

Following is a short list of reliable sources for your research:

1. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) –research pianists and composers, Wikipedia is one of the references that will come up with information.
2. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) - There are more incredible videos by the day on this site. Search by pianists name, filter by the composer/piece. You may want to include local Atlanta favorites such as Andrew Loo and Katie Loh who have posted their Graduation concert links.
3. [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) – search by pianist and then choose disc which have the composer you are looking for. Go to the classical section and use “advanced search.”
4. [www.arkivmusic.com](http://www.arkivmusic.com) –great site for hard to find discs.
5. iTunes – you can buy single pieces to download directly to your ipod/computer.

## Pianists

When looking for good piano music, the most important basic is the best pianist! Dr. Kataoka always made it clear that there was a huge difference between the “good” pianist and the “best” pianists. After you listen to the best pianist it is much easier to tell when the quality is not as good. This is how we educate children-with the very best as their model.

Of course, you can listen to many different pianists on the web, especially on Youtube! Following is a list of five pianists considered by most to be in the best category along with the type of recordings that are available and that they are known for:

1. Glenn Gould known for his performances of J. S. Bach. There are many recordings.
2. Arthur Rubenstein well-known for performances of Chopin, wonderful videos available on Youtube and for purchase
3. Alicia de Larrocha best for Mozart and Spanish music-large collection, videos too including Emanuel De Falla’s Ritual Fire Dance on Youtube
4. Frederich Gulda complete Sonatas of Beethoven, videos on Mozart Concertos
5. Martha Argerich- considered by many to be the greatest living pianist, the Debut recital disc is a must have, the Bach recordings are unmatched for quality, everything is top.

It works well to use the pianists name as the primary search. Then you can choose the composers/pieces according to what’s available.

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## Composers:

This is your second search criteria. You may want to choose a composer that your child is studying, or naturally a specific piece they are working on. Following is a short general list based on the composers which are the most well-known, have the largest amount of literature published, and are included extensively in the Suzuki piano literature.

1. J.S. Bach
2. Ludwig van Beethoven
3. W.A. Mozart
4. F. Chopin
5. Many many more options here

## Notes on the process:

When you google the pianist or composer for general information Wikipedia will come up in the first entries and is a good fairly reliable quick access place to start. There are so many sites!

In your search on Youtube, there will be a lot of videos that get pulled on your search. It takes time as there is no filter that really helps pull the best videos. Still, it is an adventure.

In your search to buy disc/videos, some will be live performances of several composers and others will be a collection such as the Chopin Nocturnes. Both kinds of listening experience are useful. The live performances have great energy. The collections make it easier to understand a particular style or sound.

Also, often recordings go on and off the market. Recording companies will repackage CD's with recordings off several different CD's put together with a new title. So, collectors (like me) might have to buy a whole new CD to get one new piece for example. As long as you are getting the pianist and the piece/composer you are looking for, the name of the CD doesn't really matter. If you want only a single piece, try using iTunes and download directly to your computer/iPod.

Go to any of the listed websites. Enter the pianist as the search. Check for the composers that they have recorded. Maybe look up information on the composer. Compare buying a MP3 version to used discs, to new discs, to different collections that may be on another site. Listen to a sample, watch videos, read, enjoy, learn, support, buy, and save your bookmarks/ favorites for the next time.

If you find a great video/disc, send me the link!

[lbrammer@mindspring.com](mailto:lbrammer@mindspring.com)

**\*\*Check on the [Atlantasuzukipiano.org](http://Atlantasuzukipiano.org) website for direct links and updates.\*\***



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*A 10 Piano Concert Experience in Sacramento*  
*by Marjorie Saviano*

The 10 piano concert in August, 2007 was a wonderful experience! I became extremely close to my room mate, Claire, as well as my homestay mom, Anne. I did not know Claire before I met her in Sacramento, but by the end of our stay, we grew to know each other remarkably well. Claire and I performed the same piece, Six Ecossaises by Beethoven, in the 10 piano concert, so we were able to help each other improve the piece to an even more advanced level. Our homestay mom, Anne, was considerably kind and welcoming. She has a daughter in college, who also took Suzuki piano, so she had experience with teenage girls. She actually sat with us while we practiced, and counted our spots for us! By the end of our stay, Claire and I had become great friends with Anne. She even offered me a place to stay if I ever wanted to come back to Sacramento, whether it be for a 10 piano concert or just a vacation.



As well as meeting new people and making new friends, such as my room mate, I was also able to reconnect with friends I had made in Japan the year before, in April 2006. Also, in addition to the social joy of this trip, performing on stage with nine of your peers by your side is an indescribable experience. All ten of you, walking onto the stage, playing the same song in unison, and making a grand tone that can not be described in words, is an absolutely amazing feeling in itself.



For those of you who have never performed in a 10 piano concert, I encourage you to jump at the next opportunity. I can assure you, that you will not regret it.

I'd also like to thank AASPA for the \$100 scholarship and the opportunity to participate in this life changing event.

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*A 10 Piano Concert Experience in Sacramento*  
*by Andrew Loo*

Going back to Sacramento for my second 10-piano concert there was a blast. The expected long practices and scheduled group practices with the Japanese senseis were small sacrifices. Being with my Suzuki piano friends was memorable and priceless.

It was challenging to learn the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 (by Liszt), especially for the 2 piano arrangements. Our “Liszt-group” practiced on our own together, usually before our scheduled group practice with Kawamura sensei. Our practices can be intense and long, but Ryota, with his fun and cheerful personality, always managed to turn it around.



I stayed with the Costa family while in Sacramento. Their son Taj and I stayed with the Hayashi family last year when we participated in the 10-piano concert in Matsumoto. His family was very warm and friendly. I always look forward to discussing aeronautics and listening to Mr. Costa’s aviation experiences. Their daughter, Samantha, reminded me of my Mercado sisters (my home-stay family in 2005). It is always sweet to attend to little sisters.

One thing that I missed was riding my bike. Dr. Peter Hewitt (my sister’s home-stay family in 2005) took time to show me his bikes and talked about his many bike races. He shared with me a lot of (road) biking techniques, tips, and bike maintenance. The best time was when we tandem-biked along the American River to the Sacramento Convention Center for my scheduled practice. Motoki Hayashi took me by surprise when he handed me the fisherman’s glass ball that I gave him last year. I got the glass ball for my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday; evidently, the glass ball floated from Japan and was found on a beach in Alaska. His family wrote me a note to invite me back to Japan and that it is now my turn to take the glass ball back to Japan. The “Friendship Glass Ball” now sits in our living room awaiting its next journey.

Concert day was hectic but fun. I was nervous, but excited. My nervousness went away once we



walked out on stage. I felt immersed in the piece and the performances from the beginning cue, to the glissando, the coda section, and, finally, the grand finale. The roar of the audience’s applause finally broke me from my reverie after sounding the last chord. It was a great feeling to receive the standing ovation the audience gave our group. I remember looking into the audience and seeing the happy and satisfied faces of my fellow Liszt group – we did it!

I would like to express a big and hearty thank you to AASPA for the scholarship; to my teacher, Robin Blankenship, whose patience and dedication made learning the Hungarian Liszt possible; and to my parents for their love and support.

Pianist Garrick Ohlsson Performs with the ASO



*From left to right - Laura Sato, Kiyoshi Woolheater, Garrick Ohlsson, Kathie Sheeley, and James Sato*

Mr. Garrick Ohlsson's experience and repertoire of Chopin's masterpiece was evident throughout his appearance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. His brilliant interpretation of Chopin's F Minor Piano Concerto was so charged with electricity that it kept me spellbound from the first bracing chord to last. His imposing stature made him a sight to watch. I was surprised to learn that he has a 13 key stretch in his left hand and a 12 on his right. His clear and powerful tone made me feel like I was sitting among the orchestra members even though I was seated in the audience. My 5<sup>th</sup> row seat provided me a superb view of Mr. Ohlsson's posture and his flawless technique.

I watched the same Chopin Piano Concerto performed by the formidable Martha Argerich on YouTube, and found that Mr. Ohlsson presented a very different interpretation of the piece. While Martha Argerich was definitely more emotionally involved, Mr. Ohlsson played the concerto true to the music as it was written. This was my second time I attended Mr. Ohlsson performing with the ASO, and both experiences were extraordinary and inspiring.

*James Sato, age 13, student of Ms. Kathie Sheeley*

After I found out that I was going to attend Mr. Ohlsson's concert with the ASO, I did some research and came to realize that Mr. Ohlsson commands an enormous repertoire. He is famous for his performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven, and especially Chopin. He has at his command some 80 concertos. How amazing that someone could master so many concertos!

I found out that he has recorded all of Chopin's solo piano music, and no Ohlsson recital is complete without a Chopin encore. And wouldn't you know it, he played Chopin's Nocturne in D-flat, Op. 27, No.2 during the encore. That was my favorite piece, and it was beautiful and most impressive. He made my evening especially memorable when I met him backstage, and he was very friendly. He is an inspiration to me to continue practicing on my piano.

*Laura Sato, age 11, student of Ms. Kathie Sheeley*



## Vivaldi's Virgins

by Barbara Quick

Book review by Nichelle Mathur

The title implies that this historic fiction will give us a window into the life of the great composer. Unfortunately, it falls short of that.



We learn of him through the eyes of the story's main character, Anna Maria dal Violin. She is an orphan raised in the Ospedale della Pieta. At the age of 8 she is chosen to be a student of the great Vivaldi. Through her we learn of his gifts, his faults, and maybe his

greatest sin. But, only those visible to a young girl stuck within the walls of the church orphanage.

I kept waiting to warm up to this book but it never happened. Scene after scene seemed more fitting for a teenage romance novel than one meant to take us back to 18<sup>th</sup> century Venice. More attention is given to the coming of age frustrations of the motherless Anna Maria than to her art or that of the times.

Ms. Quick's attempt to tell the story of the real life Anna Maria and Vivaldi left me hungry for more details about both subjects. She failed to shine any new light on what it must have been like to grow up as a female orphan during those times.

In the end, I marveled at what a treat it must have been for Vivaldi to have access to such a pool of well-trained students – the young female orphans of the Ospedale. Within walls echoing the sounds of beautiful music, they must have made exceptional students.

## Music Tech Teacher

by Laretta Russell

Check out this website for a fun way to help your students with music theory. There are over 120 quizzes, puzzles and games about music. These Music Information and Theory pages will help you learn the names of music notes, rhythms, terms and the names of famous musicians and composers.

You can play hangman or play an interactive game with the computer to analyze your music reading skills. There are also lots of worksheets that you can download. They can be used to help your students and in many cases the parents, in assisting with music theory proficiency.

Visit this site today, [musictechteacher.com](http://musictechteacher.com), and start brushing up on your music theory with this engaging, interactive website.





# Children's Corner

## Music SUDOKU Puzzle

#	Fa	Ti		Mi		Re	b	
								Fa
		Sol				Mi	La	
	Do			Sol	b		#	
b	Ti	Re		#		Fa	Sol	La
	La		Ti	Fa			Do	
	Re	Mi				Sol		
Fa								
	Sol	b		Do		La	Re	#



# Calendar

November 8-11	Workshop with Leah Brammer at Southern Keyboards
November 10	“Core Education” – Parent Talk with Leah Brammer 1:00 pm at Southern Keyboards
November 16	Teacher Meeting , Southern Keyboards 10:00 - 12:00 <b>VIDEO DEADLINE FOR JANUARY GRADUATION</b>
December 14	Board Meeting – Laretta Russell Studio 10:00 am
January 12	Graduation Concert Dress Rehearsal at Spivey Hall
January 13	22 <sup>nd</sup> Graduation Concert at Spivey Hall (Sunday)
February 1	Board Meeting –Barbara Brown’ Studio
February 15	Newsletter Mailed
March 7	Board Meeting – Tony Winston Studio
March 17	Studio Application Due for June Graduation
March 27-30	Workshop With Dr. Karen Hagberg at Southern Keyboards
April 24	Teacher Meeting 10:00 am – 12:00 noon <b>VIDEO DEADLINE FOR JUNE GRADUATION</b>
May 2	Board Meeting - TBA
May 12	Newsletter Mailed
May 30	Graduation Dress Rehearsal at Spivey Hall times TBA
May 31	AASPA 23 <sup>rd</sup> Graduation Concert at Spivey Hall (Saturday)



AASPA  
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Roswell, GA 30075

