

THE SCHOOL FOR STRINGS MISSION ((written by Louise Behrend in 1980's):

The School for Strings was founded upon, and operates according to a set of closely held ideals and principles:

- \* We are passionate in our dedication to the highest standards of excellence in instruction and performance. It is our conviction that every student, whether avocational or professionally oriented, is entitled to the advantages of instruction at the highest possible professional level, leading to accomplishment which comes as close as possible to realizing the student's potential. In this regard, we view competence as our minimum goal, artistry as our ultimate destination.
- \* We believe, with Suzuki, that there can always be a better way, and are dedicated, in our instruction of children and of teacher trainees, to a constant exploration of improving what we do and how we do it. To quote the legendary violin teacher, Leopold Auer, we aim for ever-higher levels of perfection.
- \* We feel that, as a school dedicated to ever-improving methods of education, it is of inestimable value to us that our administration has always been made up of working musicians and teachers, whose own lives and activities are dedicated to the experiences we are offering our students.
- \* It is our strong conviction that our standards can be maintained, our goals can be raised, and our methods can constantly be improved only within a school whose size permits personal overview of every student, with regular evaluation of each student's progress by the administration in cooperation with the faculty.
- \* We view our Teacher-Training Program as the heart of the School, the forum in which we not only offer guidance and instruction to prospective teachers, but where we also explore, through constant exchange of ideas, new, contrasting, and expanding views of how best to educate children, not only for their future musical activities, but for a lifetime in which humanitarian virtues inform all their areas of activity and enlighten their success.
- \* We believe in the obligation to reach out to our community. Our first, and continuing outreach, is through our Teacher-Training graduates, who bring to an ever-widening community of children and parents the beneficence of the Suzuki ideals and the advantages of Suzuki study. We also believe in bringing programs of exposure, introducing the joys of classical music, to those who otherwise might not encounter them. And we believe in encouraging, through instrumental instruction, personal involvement in music to all who apply, regardless of race, religion, ethnic background, or ability to pay.
- \* We subscribe wholeheartedly to Shinichi Suzuki's conviction that every child can be educated, endorsing his view that this education will be successful only in the proper climate, one which includes his mandated atmosphere of mutual respect amongst all concerned: children, teachers, parents, and, in our case, administration, and Trustees; one in which the education is conducted with informed encouragement and nurturing, parental commitment and active involvement, and the irreplaceable ingredient of hard work.
- \* We are convinced, with Shinichi Suzuki, that through the study of music, as organized according to his principles, we can help create better human beings and, through them, a better world in which to live.