

Suzuki
Piano
Basics
Foundation News

To facilitate, promote, and educate the public on the way of teaching and playing the piano taught at the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, Japan by Dr. Haruko Kataoka

**Piano Basics
Foundation News**

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Impressive
Versus
Heartfelt

By Haruko Kataoka

From the Matsumoto Suzuki Piano Newsletter
Vol. 9 No. 9, February 1, 2000
Translated by Chisa Aoki and
Teri Paradero
Edited by Karen Hagberg

I was listening to the radio in the car to Asei Kobayashi, a composer of popular music and enka-ballads (Japanese melancholic song), who was speaking about popular music.

He said, "In this day and age, a popular song hits the top charts and millions of copies of the recording are sold. Many of them are so 'well-made' with great composition and lyrics that are very impressive. However, there is an absence of music that truly moves the soul. It is obvious that the writers of the lyrics are highly intelligent, using their left-brain knowledge to choose truly impressive vocabulary. The composition is done in the same way. It is purposely produced with left-brain to "pop & hit," to stay on the charts for one or two months, and it actually happens that way. This process is very profitable. However, in two to three months time, the songs are all but forgotten. No trace of

them left in our hearts. Why is that? It's because the songs were written with the left brain. Music written from the heart, using the right brain, speaks to people. Such music does not hit the charts and suddenly become famous. Little by little, such music touches and speaks to the heart and, therefore, becomes everlasting. There is such a world of difference between something that is impressive versus something that is heartfelt."

Not having listened to popular music or ballads, I was not aware of this and was totally surprised. The world of popular music has the same problem as the world of classical music!

Money makes the world go 'round. In an era where materialism is rampant, does everything have to go in the same direction? Will everyone forget the matters of the heart? Even if there are those who are still aware, will they get swallowed by the vortex of the world's mass movement and finally lose what is most important for human beings in matters of the heart? If we just watch idly and do nothing about it, the 21st century will be doomed. Those of us who are aware must do something about the matter of the heart however gradual, however small.

Neither money nor material possessions can make humans happy. What sort of things would have to happen for a human being to be happy? This has been an ongoing question in my mind for a long time. I have concluded that absolute happiness is achieved when something has deeply moved us. That truly evocative moment, it is a wonderful thing! It is the sensibility of the right brain that enables us to experience deep, heartfelt emotion. This is

the sudden reward that comes when you live your life to the fullest. Once we encounter such emotion, this will be what sustains us with vigor in our lives, perhaps for at least two to three days, perhaps for several months, or possibly even for many years to come.

Last year, at the graduation concert, a high school student who had started taking piano lessons at the age of three performed the entire Mozart Coronation Concerto accompanied by another piano. She played quite well with great concentration and effort. She had truly practiced very hard. Due to conflicting work schedules, her parents were not able to attend, so her grandfather had accompanied her. In lieu of her parents, he came up to greet me after the concert. He shared with me that he had not had the opportunity to see his granddaughter perform in a quite a long time. He said, "The image of her as she played with such focus...I was so moved by how she has developed and grown." The image of him holding his head high and so refreshingly conveying his feelings...it was my turn to be swept away with emotion. I have a feeling that, as he watched her performance of Mozart, he was overcome with feeling as he recalled her playing the Twinkles not so long ago when she was a little girl and how she had flourished over the ten years that had passed in a blink of an eye.

Perhaps it is because Japanese people typically do not praise family members, but the sheer beauty of the grandfather's pure heart expressing unflinching admiration of his granddaughter was for me a truly joyous and evocative moment.

Matsumoto 10-Piano Concert to Host Foreign Teachers and Students

The 10-Piano Concert in Matsumoto on Sunday, April 28, 2013 will include eight students from California, one from Arkansas, one from Utah, one from Florida, and one from Washington State. Six teachers from California (Rita Burns, Mei Ihara, Fumi Kawasaki, Linda Nakagawa, Jo Shannon, and Rae Kate Shen); one from Washington State (Ben Smith), one from Arkansas (Pam Werner), one from Florida (Bruce Anderson), one from Holland (Huub deLeeuw), and one from Oakville, Ontario (Chisa Aoki) will observe rehearsals for the two weeks preceding the event.

This year's concert will open with a performance of the Turkish March of Beethoven (arranged by Anton Rubinstein and Sergei Rachmaninoff), followed by the Bow. Pieces from Books 1-7 of the Suzuki repertoire will be included, along with Debussy's Golliwog's Cakewalk, Chopin's Minute Waltz, the Adagio from Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata, and Mendelssohn's Rondo Capriccioso.

For the first time, proceeds from the concert will not benefit UNICEF, but rather will be donated to the rebuilding fund for Harmony Hall, the concert venue that was damaged in the 2011 earthquake. The concert was delayed a year because the hall was condemned until the renovations were completed.

The 10-Piano Concerts in Matsumoto and in Sacramento (August 2014) and the August workshops with Japanese teachers and students (Rochester, New York August 1-5, 2013 and Sacramento, California August 8-12, 2013) continue to carry on Dr. Kataoka's legacy of international exchange through music. All members of Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation are welcome and encouraged to attend these events to continue their education in Suzuki Piano Basics.

TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS

Your Thoughts: Please Share Them!

This newsletter exists to promote the teachings of Dr. Haruko Kataoka, the founder of the Suzuki Piano Basics Method. To that end, her writing is featured in every issue.

Otherwise, this is a place where we teachers and parents (and students too) may share our experiences, joyful, difficult, challenging, with each other: a place where we can process our thoughts as we pursue this love of music together.

Do not be shy about setting your thoughts down on paper and submitting them for publication. Lately the number of family members has grown significantly, and we welcome the submissions of parents and students. Possibly you have something for our *Overheard* column? Maybe you have a lightbulb-experience during a lesson, a recital, a workshop or an institute? If your child says something profound, encourage him/her to write it down and send it in.

Teachers, you have much to share as you accumulate experience. Let's hear from you so we can all feel part of your world. Our job is to continue improving our teaching for the sake of all our students. You can all help us do that. Send submissions to Karen Hagberg kh@hagbergsuzuki.com.

Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation General Membership Meeting

Meeting will be held during the Louisville Suzuki Piano Basics Institute (July 22-26, 2013), exact day and time to be determined. Please send agenda items to our Secretary, Hannah Hall correctthecause@gmail.com.

Present officers of the Foundation are running for re-election. Additional names may be entered for consideration by contacting our Nominations chairperson, Ann Taylor ann@anntaylorstudio.net.

Welcome, New Members!

(Refer to the hard copy for addresses, emails, and phone numbers)

Karyn Lawrence-teacher

Erica Corbo-teacher

Julia & Alexander Aue Family

Jennifer Clements Family

Pilar Colon-Lopez Family

Devrey Cunningham Family

Demiryol Family

Carol Breton Felix Family

Alan E. Gomez Family

Parshawn Hojatie Family

Zoe Jenkins Family

Chong Koh Family

Amaury Lopez-Hernandez Family

Penelope Nguyen Family

Rosemund Peng Family

Brenda Garcia Sosa Family

Yang Sum Family

Amal Tamim Family

The Nature of Education (or: Why We Teachers Have the Best Job in the World)

By Karen Hagberg

In her article in this issue, Dr. Kataoka describes an encounter with a grandparent that I am sure we have all experienced. I have had such encounters numerous times over the course of my teaching career. A grandmother has approached me with tears in her eyes to thank me for everything I am doing for her grandchild. A grandfather from another country, who cannot speak English, has come up to me with heartfelt words in a language I don't understand but words that convey gratitude and pride in his grandchild's accomplishments. An uncle from another city welled up with emotion upon hearing his nephew, my student, performing in a concert. Encounters such as these give me the will to go on. They are the great rewards of teaching. As Dr. Kataoka wrote, they are truly heartfelt moments in a world obsessed with glitz and shallow values. They are moments that sustain me, moments I do not forget.

Dr. Kataoka always reminded us that we have the best job in the world for many reasons. We can spend our work hours in the environment of music and with children. We can feel that we contribute to the development of the hearts and souls of the generations to come. Our work can be viewed as worthwhile. It does not harm the planet. We may consider ourselves, therefore, very, very lucky.

How easy it is, however, to get bogged down in the drudgery of piano teaching, don't you think? We have to deal with the same children, week after

week, with their weaknesses, their laziness, their various home environments, their over-committed schedules. Don't we all think that our students would be doing much better if they were "perfect" students; if they practiced everything we ask them to; if their parents diligently helped them every day; if they never missed a lesson; if they listened to their recordings daily, etc. etc.? Isn't it sometimes discouraging that nobody seems to be "perfect"?

It is difficult for both parents and teachers to see the miracles that are happening in the midst of the day-to-day drudgery of teaching. We adults who are part of the weekly process tend to see only those things that the student cannot do, despite our efforts. The progress, being very gradual, is not always evident. It is the same as noticing a child's physical growth. Those who see the child every day or every week are so much less aware of physical change than those who see the child once or twice a year. We have to remind ourselves that we are living and working in an environment of miracles.

It is the grandparents, or anyone who experiences the child's progress only infrequently, who immediately see the miracles, and are so struck with them that they can't help but brim over with emotion. When we are fortunate enough to be there when this happens, we become fully aware that we have the best job in the world.

*Refer to the Hard copy for
Email Address/Phone Number
Changes:*

**Jeanne Beegle
Diane Densmore**

**Jill Duralde
Karolyn McGladdery**

**Karen Nalder-Kazarick
Rosalie Rawlings**

Eloise Sanders

Workshops with Teachers from Japan

Five-day **Suzuki Piano Basics Teacher Research Workshops** with Keiko Ogiwara and Keiko Kawamura will be held this **August** in **Rochester, New York** and in **Sacramento, California** and in **February 2014** in **Atlanta, Georgia** and **Phoenix, Arizona**. See Upcoming Events on page 8 for dates and contact information. Come to one or both. Bring students!

Students planning to participate in the Sacramento 10-Piano Concert in August, 2014 are especially encouraged to attend a February workshop.

If your area wishes to host a workshop in February or August 2015, please issue a request to Karen Hagberg kh@hagbergsuzuki.com. Decisions regarding workshop venues are made over a year in advance, so it is not too soon to be thinking about hosting. (Please note that the workshop deadline mentioned in the previous newsletter was for February 2015. We regret the error.)

To Members New and Old:

Please be reminded that a major benefit of membership in the Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation is the ability to purchase educational materials at a discounted price and with no mailing fees. See our list of materials available on page 7 and use the order form (enclosed) to place your orders.

Refer to the Hard copy for address Changes:

Alba Caballero

Richard Coff
Suzuki music Academy

Jamie Hanselman

Cheryl Kraft Waide

Amy Williams

Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation Educational Materials

Compact Discs

<u>Artist</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Member Price</u>	<u>Non-member Price</u>
Dr. Haruko Kataoka performs	Suzuki Piano Repertoire volume 1	\$14.00	\$17.00
Dr. Haruko Kataoka performs	Suzuki Piano Repertoire volume 2	\$14.00	\$17.00
Dr. Haruko Kataoka performs	Suzuki Piano Repertoire volume 3	\$14.00	\$17.00

Additional Discography

Seizo Azuma, piano	Currently out of stock: Schubert Four Impromptus, Op. 90/ Beethoven Sonata No. 8, Op. 13, c minor, "Pathétique" / Beethoven Sonata No. 26, Op. 81a, Eb major, "Das Lebewohl"	\$24.00	\$29
Seizo Azuma, piano	NOW AVAILABLE! La Campanella óF. Liszt "Favorites" La chasse, 4 Valses oubliées, no. 1/ Consolation No. 3/ Au bord d'une source,/ Ballade No. 2/Sposalizio/ La Campanella/ Sonetto 104 del Petrarca/ Ungarische Rhapsodie No. 2/ Liebestraume, no. 3	\$17.00	\$20.00
Mineo Hayashi, cello Seizo Azuma, piano	Fun Classics, 12 Pieces:The Swan/Après un Rêve/Clair de Lune/Prayer from "Jewish Life"/Song of the Birds/ Paraphrase on a Japanese Folk tune Sakur, Sakura/ Song without Words in D major Op. 109/ Etude, Op. 8 No. 11, Bb minor/ Songs my Mother taught me Op. 55 no. 4/ Elegy Op. 24 / Adagio und Allegro in A-flat major Op. 70/ Polonaise Brillante, Op. 3, C major	\$20.00	\$25.00
Mineo Hayashi, cello	Six Suites for solo cello, by J. S. Bach	\$28.00	\$30.00

DVD

Suzuki Piano Basics International 10-Piano Concert, 2007 Sacramento(DVD)	\$50.00	\$65.00
April, 2010 Matsumoto 10-Piano Concert	\$50.00	\$65.00

Books

<u>Author</u>			
Dr. Haruko Kataoka	Sensibility and Education, 2 nd printing	\$12.00	\$14.00
Dr. Shinichi Suzuki	Nurtured by Love	\$13.00	\$16.00
Dr. Haruko Kataoka	Thoughts on the Suzuki Piano School	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00
Dr. Haruko Kataoka	My Thoughts on Piano Technique	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00
Dr. Haruko Kataoka	How to teach beginners	\$13.00	\$15.00
	Full color edition of Memorial Piano Basics Foundation Newsletter	\$ 3.00	
	NEW ! Print of pencil portrait of Kataoka Sensei, 6" h x 4" w, drawn in Matsumoto in 1992. Drawn and donated by Huub de Leeuw. (Proceeds to benefit the Memorial Fund.)	\$20.00	\$25.00
	NEW! 10-Piano Poster: 1999,2001, 2003, 2005	\$10.00	\$15.00
	NEW! 10-Piano Poster: 2001 Autographed by Dr. Kataoka and Juri Kataoka	\$25.00	\$30.00
	NEW! 10-Piano Poster: 2003 Autographed by Dr. Kataoka	\$25.00	\$30.00

For a Limited Time Only: For the membership only

Starter Pack #1 \$50.00	CD's: Kataoka recordings of Books 1-3 Books: Nurtured by Love, by Shinichi Suzuki Sensibility and Education, by Haruko Kataoka How to Teach Beginners (Books 1-2), by Haruko Kataoka
Starter Pack #2 \$25.00	Books: Nurtured by Love, by Shinichi Suzuki Sensibility and Education, by Haruko Kataoka How to Teach Beginners (Books 1-2), by Haruko Kataoka

Piano Basics Foundation

Upcoming Workshops/Events

April 13-28, 2013

Matsumoto, Japan

International 10-Piano Concert
Contact Karen Hagberg 585-244-0490
kh@hagbergsuzuki.com
Registration deadline past

August 8-12, 2013

Sacramento, California

Suzuki Piano Basics Workshop
with Keiko Ogiwara and Keiko Kawamura
Friendship Concert featuring students from Japan
Contact Linda Nakagawa 916-422-2952
g.nakagawa@comcast.net

July 22-26, 2013

Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Suzuki Piano Basics Institute
University of Louisville
Contact Bruce Boiney 502-241-5921
boiney@suzukipiano.com
www.suzukipiano.org

January 30-February 3, 2014

Atlanta, Georgia

Suzuki Piano Basics Workshop
with Keiko Ogiwara and Keiko Kawamura
Contact Pam Smith 770-457-5144
pamelaspianostudio@gmail.com

July 26-29, 2013

Tacoma, Washington

Suzuki Piano Basics Festival with Rita Burns
University of Puget Sound
Contact: Jacki Block 253-759-7213
jblock@ups.edu

February 6-10, 2014

Phoenix, Arizona

Suzuki Piano Basics Workshop
with Keiko Ogiwara and Keiko Kawamura
Contact Gloria Elliott 623-466-7447
gelliott50@aol.com

August 1-5, 2013

Rochester, New York

Suzuki Piano Basics Workshop
with Keiko Ogiwara and Keiko Kawamura
Friendship Concert featuring students from Japan
Contact Karen Hagberg 585-244-0490
kh@hagbergsuzuki.com

August 2014

Sacramento, California

International 10-Piano Concert

The events listed above are for the information of Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation members and others. Suzuki Piano Basics Foundation does not endorse, sanction, or sponsor events.

To add or change items on this list and on the Suzuki Piano Basics website, contact
Karen Hagberg (kh@hagbergsuzuki.com, 585-244-0490).

Suzuki Piano Basics Web Site and discussion group:

<http://core.ecu.edu/hist/wilburnk/SuzukiPianoBasics>