

# 2009 Fall SAGWA celebration

A SUZUKI MOM'S PERSPECTIVE- BY JUDITH MOSELY



*Tara & Gabe  
June, 2009*

*Not familiar with Gabriel Bolkosky? Well, in a word he is phenomenal! Gabe will be one of the violin clinicians at the SAGWA Fall Celebration. He is in demand across the country as an instructor and teaches at Harvard, Dartmouth, and Princeton. You don't want to miss this fabulous opportunity. For more information about Gabe visit his website at [www.gabrielbolkosky.com](http://www.gabrielbolkosky.com)*

I am a Suzuki mom of two little budding violinists, McKenna age 8, and Tara age 7. McKenna and Tara began studying Suzuki violin when they were 4 years old. I must confess, my first year of twinkles was rough. I don't think I completely understood the immense amount of dedication and commitment that is required of both Suzuki students and parents when I originally signed on even though I had been warned by our instructor. I remember thinking at the end of our first year "What do you mean, no summer break?" I silently wondered if I actually had what it took to be a Suzuki parent.

It was about that time that McKenna and I attended our first SAGWA event. Until then, we hadn't attended any workshops, festivals, or institutes so I really didn't know what to expect. What a fabulous experience it was! I credit that SAGWA event with saving my Suzuki soul and renewing my commitment to our violin study. McKenna loved every class she attended. The clinicians were so talented and engaging. She had great fun while practicing the repertoire with the other kids. Imagine that. Fun while practicing. McKenna connected immediately with this group of kids that she had never met before and yet had so much in common with nonetheless. Those friendships have continued to blossom and grow over the years with each new SAGWA event we attend as we often see the same group of kids from one event to the next.

Since then we try to attend as many of the SAGWA events as possible. These workshops and festivals are a valuable supplement to our private violin instruction. They inspire us and renew our sense of commitment to our study and I am continually impressed with the superior instruction of the clinicians.

We are very excited about the upcoming SAGWA Fall Celebration October 9 - 11. If you haven't registered to attend this event yet, I cannot recommend it highly enough. This will be an enriching weekend where the students will be completely immersed in violin, cello, or piano study with their friends, making new friends and establishing new relationships that will likely last for years to come. A weekend full of instruction from highly gifted instructors that I personally would not have access to if it weren't for these type of SAGWA events. Not only are the clinicians superior, but I have found that we, as a Suzuki family, are beginning to establish relationships outside of our private violin studio within the extended Suzuki community. These events help build a sense of connectedness and facilitate a sense of belonging within the local musical community. My kids love going to these events and are looking forward to the Fall Celebration. In fact, McKenna's birthday is October 9th -the first night of the event- and we are attending the Celebration regardless. We wouldn't miss it for anything and I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity too.

[www.sagwa.org/Community/  
Fall\\_Celebration.html](http://www.sagwa.org/Community/Fall_Celebration.html)

