



Viola

Revised Suzuki Viola Books

by Annette Caruthers

If you haven't looked at the Suzuki Viola Method Books recently, you will be pleasantly surprised when you get your hands on the newly revised edition.

One of my students seemed ready for the Handel *Concerto in b minor*, which I have counted on finding in the Suzuki books. When she looked for the *Concerto* in Book 6, it was not there and we started searching for another source. I discovered that when the Suzuki Viola books were revised recently, a Book 7 was added, which now contains the Handel *Concerto*. The only other source available is Editions Max Eschig of Paris, at a price of \$67.00, which makes the Suzuki books even more attractive than they have ever been. Books 6 and 7 state that they have been assembled and edited by Doris and William Preucil Sr., of Iowa (the same as earlier Suzuki Method Book editions). William Preucil Sr. performs on the recordings of these books, and as usual, the Suzuki recordings are the most easily available recordings of the pieces in the books.

When you take a careful look at Books 6 and 7, the first thing that stands out is the number of technical exercises these books contain. There are complete major and minor scales in three octaves, with two-octave scales for those beginning on the G string, practice suggestions, exercises in octaves, sixths and thirds, vibrato exercises, and shifting exercises. I love having all this in the same book as the repertoire for this level.

These books fill out many of the gaps that existed previously in the Suzuki viola repertoire; and there is now a more continuous progression in the materials offered. This revision and filling-out has also been done on most of the earlier books and is very helpful for all viola teachers.

Annette Caruthers teaches viola and violin at her private studio in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. She is a former member of the Minnesota Orchestra and currently serves as principal violist with many organizations including the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and the Plymouth Music Series. †

www.viola.com

is a great web site for violists. It has wonderful links, chats, and is an excellent resource for all things viola. The links include:

Viola Email Lists <http://www.viola.com/menu-lists.html>.

Viola Society Web Sites <http://www.viola.com/menu-societies.html>.

Viola Events, Competitions and Scholarships <http://www.viola.com/menu-events.html>.

Viola Resources <http://www.viola.com/menu-resources.html>.

About Violists <http://www.viola.com/menu-about-violists.html>.

Publishers of Viola Music <http://www.viola.com/menu-publishers.html>.

Articles on Viola and Violists <http://www.viola.com/menu-articles.html>.

Pictures of Viola Pioneers <http://www.viola.com/menu-pictures.html>.

Other Viola Sites <http://www.viola.com/menu-viola-sites.html>.

Books and Other Products for Violists <http://www.viola.com/menu-books.html>.

Other Music Sites <http://www.viola.com/menu-music-sites.html>.

The home page quotes Myron Rosenblum, "The Viola Mailing List is proving itself to be a valuable, pragmatic and musicological tool for all violists — professionals, students, teachers and non-professionals — in their quest for knowledge and practical ideas of how to improve their playing and an overview of all aspects of viola life. There is nothing quite like it for any other musical instrument and violists can take pride in the enthusiasm, commitment of its members and the abundance and variety of topics that fill the mailing list from day to day."

Another web site I love is: <http://www.nathansviolin.com>. This one comes from Nathan Cole, of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and is really violin-oriented, but contains great information for parents of students, and amusing anecdotes and pictures that appeal to students. A favorite is the picture of Nathan playing while standing on someone's roof!! A real "gig" he did once, where he was asked to play selections from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Poking around on the Internet can be fun and informative. Try these for starters, and find more when you have time.