

DOGS AND KIDS

by John Madura



Dogs on break at noon in Lapland

Last month in *String Notes*, David Holmes included in his *Succinct Sayings for the Studio...*

“Brains are fast and smart, but fingers are like dogs that need obedience school. If you don’t put those dogs on a ‘leash’ there is no telling what they might do.”

My wife and I have been on two dog sledding trips in the past three years. First was a 3-night dog-sledding camping trip into the Boundary Waters in February, and in January of this year, a dog-sledding trip in Finland on the Arctic Circle; we were struck by parallels and metaphors of sled dogs and young musicians!



Let’s go!

- There is always a lead dog
- The hard worker
- High energy
- Team player
- The good follower
- Have great stamina
- Great anticipation
- Follow instructions
- Performs at a high level
- Friendly
- Assists others
- Enthusiastic about their work
- Super prepared
- Anticipates change
- Loves praise
- Works well as a team member
- Knows position on the team or in the group
- Few complaints about conditions
- Loves to make music (howl)
- Stays in shape
- Performs with gusto



Working on the part

especially stop! All must respond!!

- Sometimes something may be scary, trust your leader.
- The trail you are on may seem long, but the beauty you will experience on



The performance

- Complains only when necessary
- Works hard when it’s time to work
 - Plays hard when it’s time to play
 - Rests well when it’s time to rest
 - It takes only a leader or two, but it takes many to make a team and each member of the team is not only important, but vital!
 - When the leader indicates slow down or

the way is well worth the effort!

- The leader may snap, growl or make forceful gestures, but only for the good of group.
- Congratulations all around at the completion of a well done performance!
- Even if you are scolded for doing something wrong, you are always forgiven.
- Never stop your training!

John Madura is a retired string educator. John taught at Mounds View for 44 years and presently teaches with his wife Kathryn Christie and with Ingrid Koller at St. Peter’s Catholic school (the Early Bird String Academy), in North St. Paul. He also has a cello studio in his home. †