

Dear Parents and Students,

We have had the privilege of holding a **Hope Twinkles Play-a-thon** to benefit Puerto Rico, California and the Bahamas. Now, it's our turn.

The tornadoes that ripped through East Brainerd, Ooltewah, Collegedale and Cleveland on Easter Sunday did SO much damage, to people dear to us as well as strangers.

For many of us, there's no real way to grasp the extent of the heartache, or to really do much to alleviate it. But we CAN turn music into money. By God's grace we've done it before. And now, it's time to do it again.

The Samaritan Center (though closed for shopping) is very much open for helping these hurting folks. We've been honored to partner with them in the past, and will do it again this time, too.

We can't gather in person to play for hours on end. But we can still put our music out there "in the air" for people to be blessed by. Here's how:

Sunday, May 3-Thursday, May 7 we will stream (up to) **5 1-hour episodes of Hope Twinkles, Benefit Concert Edition**. We'll be putting together as many solo and family-music videos as you can submit, primarily of Suzuki repertoire (though there's room for other pieces, too!). We'll air them on YouTube Live, each evening, with a banner link to the Samaritan Center's donation page, asking people to donate specifically to tornado relief.

What we need from you:

videos of you playing your best Suzuki repertoire. To make those videos as good as possible, here are the things you need to do:

1) Dress: please wear blue jeans or dark blue pants/skirt, and a nice white top (with sleeves) with no writing on it.

2) Ribbons: We have gray ribbons (for the tornado) and lavender ribbons (for Easter, when it happened) on order. As soon as they arrive, I'll let you know where you can pick them up, or you can ask to have them delivered. Tie them on the scroll of your violin, and add gray/lavender accents to your white shirt, if you like.

3) Specifics of video set-up: **Lighting:** Make sure you aren't in shadows, or in front of a big window. Best, actually, if a big window is in front of you! (see the video link below for ideas)

Background: Please check to see what's in the background! There are some fascinating things we see as teachers in your rooms. . . . As UNCLUTTERED a background as possible, even a bare wall, if you can do that.

Background Noise: Is there background noise? (dishwasher, laundry, fans, siblings, pets. . . etc) No ceiling fans while you play: they are awful for distorting sound!

Balanced sound: If you are playing with family members, or with a digital accompaniment, is the balance good, so we hear the solo more than the accompaniment?

Angle of Camera: PLEASE, no UP-the-NOSE shots! Have the camera just slightly above your face and shoulders, and make sure we can see all of your instrument. Waist-up pics are fine, and full-length is fine. But raise that cell phone or camera, so we actually see you, and not the underside of your chin/nose/instrument :-)
Do a trial run, and send it to a family member or teacher for feedback.

4) Accompaniment: If you have a pianist in your house, *please* play with them! Piece that are accompanied are so much more complete. If you *do not* have a pianist in your home, you can use suzukiaccompanying.com This is a subscription service that is a fantastic deal over hiring a professional accompanist. With a \$10 subscription, you have access to all Suzuki piece accompaniments (for any string instrument), and you can control the tempo! What an incredible practice boost. You can practice with a pianist *any time* at your speed. Professional accompanists usually charge \$30-50 per *half-hour* of work, so you

can see this is a bargain. The full year price is only \$60, and that comes out to only \$5 a month. It's a really fantastic resource. The free trial looks like it is 3 days long, so please look into using this resource as your accompaniment.

5) **How To:** a. Set up your camera (and external mic, if using), in a well-lit, quiet space (see above specs) b. on a different device or instrument, play the accompaniment. **Check sound levels.** c. play with the accompaniment. d. load the video up to Dropbox. <https://tinyurl.com/yc6apmd5> Include the student's name and the piece title in the file name.

Two group pieces: Virtual play-ins: NEXT email will have details about these.

ALL VIDEO SUBMISSIONS NEED TO BE IN BY TUESDAY, APRIL 28. Contact me directly, if you need longer.

Look for more emails with more details. I look forward to hearing all of your wonderful pieces, and raising music together to raise money.

Blessings,

Mrs. Tami King

with Mrs. Ellen Francisco, Mr. William Navalon, and Ms. Janelle Glass