### How to Produce A Suzuki Drama: Janet Fantozzi and Mattie Banzhaf (retired), Union School, Farmington, CT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Simple Version</th>
<th>Complex Version</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Script</strong></td>
<td>Buy a script and adjust it to your needs</td>
<td>You can write a Fractured fairy-tale or a story about a composer.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If you buy a script, you can begin immediately.</td>
<td>Start 6 months to a year in advance.</td>
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<td><strong>Lyrics</strong></td>
<td>Not necessary but they add to narration of the story</td>
<td>Write lyrics to enhance the story</td>
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<td><strong>Dance</strong></td>
<td>Not necessary but children love movement</td>
<td>Teach your string players how to dance the Minuet or Rigadoon, make up the dance steps</td>
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<td><strong>Costumes</strong></td>
<td>Keep it simple. The first year we just used hats or crowns depending on the character. We asked parents to have the students dress up.</td>
<td>Sew costumes: capes for King or Queen or Emperor. Sew animal costumes: bears, tortoise, rabbit, cat, etc. No-sew costumes: use sweat suits and add bunny or dog-ears. Ask parents to provide a “fancy” dress or a suit for a boy character</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sets/Props</strong></td>
<td>Keep it simple. Use cardboard to paint a backdrop.</td>
<td>Parents, art teacher, former students who are now in high school who would like to work on sets can be asked to help. We have had parents who are terrific painters provide backdrops.</td>
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<td><strong>Schedule</strong></td>
<td>Put this project at the very beginning or the end of the school year.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rehearsals</strong></td>
<td>8 in-school rehearsals and 2 after-school rehearsals will get the job done</td>
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<td><strong>Volunteers</strong></td>
<td>Having good parent volunteers is key for an elementary program.</td>
<td>Parent volunteers, former students for tuning, retired teachers might help.</td>
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<td><strong>Invitation/Program</strong></td>
<td>We sent the invitations out and typed and printed our programs for years.</td>
<td>Parents like to volunteer to do this job and now we let them.</td>
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How to Write your own Script

1. Select your fairy-tale (I do this in May and write the week after school is out)
   a. put a musical twist to it but add lots of humor
   b. teach some musical concept, e.g. whole note=4 beats, half notes=2 beats, legato-staccato, etc.
   c. teach the nomenclature of the violin: have students sing D Major scale stating the parts of the violin

2. From your string roster decide who will be:
   a. narrator(s)
   b. main characters
   c. secondary characters
   d. ensemble players (but give them identities so every child feels important)

3. Assign every child a musical stage name
   Berlioz Bass
   Kreutzer Knight
   Handel Hunter
   Mozart Magical Lady
   Popper Cello
   Pachelbel Pirate
   Pleyel Peg
   Stradivarius Strings

4. Decide what pieces will be in the drama
   a. Lightly Row for when the main characters need to be rowed across a river, The Happy Farmer when the main characters walk past a farm, etc.
   b. Solos for advanced players. Usually you can let them play their most polished piece, unrelated to the story.

5. Decide who will play or sing the literature you are using to promote the story
   a. Solo
   b. Duets
   c. Groups

6. Prepare a page with each student’s name and stage name and costume

7. Prepare a page of props and set(s) for the parent volunteers