

Honorary President - Martin Rüttimann Sue Wimpenev

From SUZUKI™ child and student, to SUZUKI™ Teacher and Teacher Trainer, Martin Rüttimann has lived and breathed the SUZUKI™ Method and philosophy all of his life.

Appointed to the Board of the European Suzuki Association (ESA) first as Country Director for Switzerland, then Honorary Secretary, Deputy Chairman and finally Chairman (2011 to 2020), his contribution to the ESA has been enormous and he will certainly be remembered as one of the most accomplished leaders in the history of the ESA.

As Chairman and leader, Martin has been the inspiration and director of action for change and continual development in the pursuit of the goals of the organisation. He has a strong understanding and vast knowledge of the organisation regionally and worldwide and of the goals, processes and procedures.

As Chairman, Martin was always decisive, but took time to listen and allow debate. The integrity he showed in doing what is right, no matter how difficult, earned him the trust and respect of all of his colleagues.

As a leader Martin had faith in his ability to train and develop people and because of this, he was willing to empower those he led to act autonomously. At the same time, Martin has charisma, he is approachable and friendly and shows sincere care for others. He also has a great sense of humour!

It is, therefore, particularly pleasing that Martin will maintain a presence in the ESA as Honorary President and a member of the Governance Committee so that the organisation might continue to benefit from his skills and knowledge in years to come.

**Martin Rüttimann, Chairman
2011-2020**

2011

Appointment of the **new national Suzuki association for Germany** Suzuki-Musik Deutschland 2011 e. V. (SMD) replacing Deutsche Suzuki Gesellschaft e.V. (DSG) which had been an ESA Board Member since 1983 and in conflict with the ESA since 2000. The new association has been in-line with the



ESA requirements ever since and has been growing steadily since its foundation.

The **SECE Development Committee** was formed to further research what is necessary for the development of ECE in the ESA region.

2012

After many years of experimenting, the ESA agreed to use the revised edition (now '**International Edition**') of the Violin core material also for the Vivaldi Concertos. Long debates which had also produced more division than unison finally came to an end.

The ESA Board took steps to review the role of the **Administrator** starting a long process which, in the end, recognised this as a full-time job.

The **Governance Committee** was formed to ensure the organisational structure and management of the

ESA remains relevant to the main aims of the organisation and effective in its performance.

The ESA delegated the organisation of the **2014 European Suzuki Teacher Conference to Belgium**.



The ESA delegated the organisation of the **2015 European Suzuki Children's Convention to Switzerland**.



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2013

The **Austrian Suzuki Association** was appointed a Country Member.

AUSTRIA

A clearer definition of Practicums was introduced to enable the **recognition of SAA trained teachers** more in line with ESA Teacher Training Courses.

The **Latvia Suzuki Association** was appointed a Country Member.



2014

A **new ESA website** with a **central member database** was introduced and the exam procedures were centralised. Rather than issuing signed empty examination papers on the request of individual Teacher Trainers, the ESA issues certificates directly after checking whether the procedures have been met.

Instrument Committees were founded to deal with all applications of Instructors and Teacher Trainers as a separate entity to the ESA Board. The ESA Teacher Training panel and the Instrument Directors were disbanded.

Continuous Professional Development courses were formalised.

The **Russian Suzuki Association** was appointed as a Country Member. The ESA is expanding to the East.



The ESA delegated the organization of the **2016 European Suzuki Teacher Conference** to Poland.

Living and Working in the spirit of
Dr. Suzuki's Philosophy



2015

The **Harp Development Committee** was formed to formulate a 5-year plan for Teacher Training courses for Levels 3-5, future appointment of Instructors and launch of Teacher Training Courses in countries other than Italy.

Independent Teacher Training Courses were formally accepted as an alternative to the Teacher Training Courses run by the national Suzuki associations.

The position of **5th Officer** was introduced.

2016

The **Zimbabwe Suzuki Association** was appointed a Country Member.



The ESA delegated the organisation of the **2018 European Suzuki Teacher Conference** to Iceland.



2017

Teacher Trainers do not have to sit in two consecutive examinations but still cannot be more than four times in a row in the same examination panel.

A **Nomination Committee** was founded to ensure a high calibre of individual and level of performance is maintained within the team of Officers and the Governance Committee

The **Czech Republic Suzuki Association** was appointed as a Country Member.



The ESA hosts a **European Teacher Trainer Conference** in London, UK.



European Suzuki Association
Teacher Trainers Convention 2017

Training New Teachers
Investing in our Future

Saturday 30 September & Sunday 1 October 2017
Holiday Inn Express London Heathrow T5

2018

Chapter Membership was introduced where national Suzuki associations in Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe can together form a 'Chapter' and share the country fee amongst the members. Only one representative can attend the ESA annual meetings per chapter.

The ESA delegates the organization of the **2020 European Suzuki Teacher Conference** to Denmark.

2019

The ESA hosted the **2nd International Teacher Trainer Conference** in Madrid, Spain.

