

## **Marilyn Kesler**

Marilyn Kesler, retired after forty-two years as a teacher in the Okemos, Michigan Public Schools teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade strings and three high school orchestras. She continues to be the director of the Okemos Community Education Suzuki Program where she also teaches Suzuki cello lessons.

Ms Kesler began her teaching career as a general music teacher in Alton, Illinois; while there, she earned a Masters Degree in Music Education at Southern Illinois University where she specialized in the adaptation of the Suzuki Violin Method for the cello with then professor, John Kendall. Her undergraduate degree in Music Education was from Indiana University where she studied cello with Janos Starker and Leopold Teraspulsky.

She is presently the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Suzuki Association of the Americas, a member of the Teacher Development Advisory Committee and a Suzuki Cello Teacher Trainer. Past offices include President of Michigan Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, Secretary of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, Chairman of the SAA Cello Committee, the SAA Public School Committee, and Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Vice-President of Orchestra Activities.

This coming summer will be her 38<sup>th</sup> year as director of the Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp. She is often asked to be a guest conductor across the country for festivals and institutes and an adjudicator for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

In 1990, she was the first recipient of the ASTA National School Educator Award which is presented to the outstanding public school music teacher in the US. In 1998, she received the “Distinguished Service Award” from SAA. Other honors include, MSBOA, MASTA, and Indiana University Alumni “Teacher of the Year”.