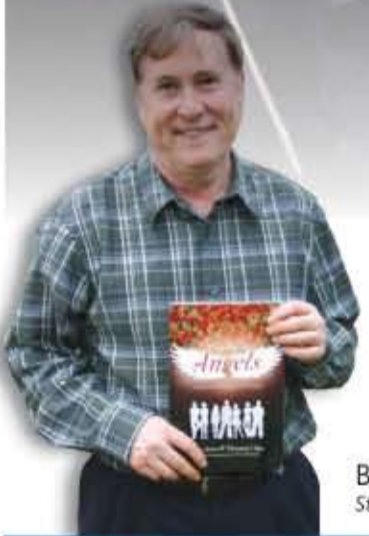




## Purpose through Music

*Suzuki instructor, Thornton Cline, encourages passion in music*



By April Stilwell  
Staff Writer

**“Follow your passion!”**  
Students in Thornton Cline’s music classes learn his mantra early and hear it repeated often. “Passion is what you could do every hour of the day without receiving a dime,” Cline said in a recent interview. “What is your genuine passion? In other words, find your gift. It can take some time to discover what your gifts are. Don’t do it for the money alone.”

**M**any of Cline’s students have followed their passions as their hard work and dedication has landed them full scholarships in music to major universities. One student is a professional recording artist with Arista Records and touring with Aerosmith. Others have toured globally, played for royalty and even had the great honor of performing at Carnegie Hall.

“If you do it with all your heart, passion and soul – and you do it 24/7, what happens is people will jump on your bandwagon and will be your biggest fans,” he adds. “They will love it, and you will become successful. It may take time, but it will happen.”



Photos Submitted | THE STANDARD

Pictured at top left is Thornton Cline holding a copy of his new youth musical, “Band of Angels” which was released worldwide in March. At top, The Nashville Suzuki Players appear as guests on “Tennessee Morning Show” with Charlie Chase on Fox 17. Above, Cline is interviewed on “Good Day Atlanta” on Fox 5 TV in Atlanta, Ga.

Cline, director of the Nashville Suzuki Players and instructor at Sumner Academy, has over 20 years in teaching this unique and flourishing method. He attended Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Studying under the late Anastasia Jempelis, pioneer of the Suzuki Method in the United States and assistant to Dr. Suzuki, Cline became a certified Suzuki violin instructor through the Suzuki Association of Americas.

The Suzuki Method recognizes that the first three years are critical for combining music experiences with learning for youngsters, as this period is optimal for brain development. The method takes advantage of this adaptability.

Established in 1947 by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, it is an effective method of teaching young children as early as one or two-years-old on how to play by imitation or repetition as if they were learning a native tongue. Students learn first to train their ear before they successfully move on to reading music. Music over the years has been a strong facet in improving children’s listening skills, intuitive responses, strengthening aural traits and memory function.

Seeing a need for the Suzuki Method in 1986, Cline opened up his studio in Hendersonville, teaching the method in violin, piano and guitar. He formed the Nashville Suzuki Players, which has created an outlet for young children to use their gifts, express





# Fashion Fridays

with Erin Brown / Photo courtesy Amy Rich Photography

## DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT YOUR LOOK; GO GREEN

Kelly green is popping up EVERYWHERE in the world of fashion and shopping. The color feels so current and so...undeniably **now**. Whether you choose to flash your fashion flair in a kelly green day-dress, or simply dip your toe in the trend, accessorizing with a great kelly green bag, green is the way to go!

I love the way actress Julianne Moore carries her kelly green bag, while wearing black on NYC Streets. *Stylist tip:* the green against a neutral background, really makes the color pop.



### Erin Turner Brown

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# Music

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their talents and share it with the public. They have recorded multiple CDs and DVDs and made countless television appearances across the Southeast. Recently, the group filmed "Honor Air Documentary," a musical salute to World War II veterans, to air on the History and A&E Channel. Half of the members are from the Hendersonville and Gallatin area.

Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Cline moved to the Nashville area to follow his passion in music. In 1986, he served as the director of the Sumner County Youth Orchestra. Drawn to Hendersonville, he purchased a home with his wife in 1989. Cline describes, "I

was charmed by how nice the town was and how friendly the people are. They are unbelievably sincere and down to earth."

Cline discovered his talents when he was a young child at the age of three. Diving into his creative side, he would sing nursery rhymes and start making little songs. At age five, he studied piano. From there, at age eight, he ventured into learning violin. Cline shares, "I was so enthralled with music that my parents had to tell me to stop playing because I would practice late into the night when it was time for them to go to sleep. I would keep playing and playing, and sometimes they would tell my teacher that I was making up tunes and being real creative. They thought I was goofing off and not practicing. My teacher said to leave him alone and let him be creative. It turned out to help me in all areas of my life in music from the creativity of writing, teaching and performing music." In total, Cline plays seven instruments.

Cline has founded several Suzuki violin programs across Middle Tennessee. He is an avid performer of the violin and has been apart of various orchestras across the nation, and currently concertizes his own string quartet. He has performed and recorded at numerous locations such as Grand Ole' Opry Studio A Hall, Gaylord Convention Center, The Krannert Performing Arts Center in Illinois, Miami Convention Center, Ryman Auditorium, Opryland USA, The Palace Theater and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He also has had the opportunity to work alongside recording artists such as Chris Golden and William Lee Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys and Bill and Gloria Gaither of The Gaithers.

Cline explains who has inspired him, "God put the drive and inspiration in my heart. I also had a teacher-mentor, Dr. Everett Gates, Eastman School of Music Professor. He was a man of many gifts and talents. I was always in awe of him. He was a conductor, a well-known violist,

played many instruments and composed music for the famous company Boosey & Hawkes out of New York City. He took me under his wing and helped me as a friend-mentor. What amazed me is he wasn't just a teacher, he would continue to stay in touch with me and other students over the years by mail. He would encourage me in all my endeavors. It is a major blessing if you can find a mentor like that."

Last month, Tate Publishing published "Band of Angels," Cline's new youth musical. This summer, Cline will be releasing his new teaching book, "Practice Personalities: What's Your Type?" Cline is consistently working on instructional books, DVDs and student performances.

For further information, contact Thornton Cline through his website at [www.cline-telmusic.com](http://www.cline-telmusic.com), by email [clinetel@bellsouth.net](mailto:clinetel@bellsouth.net) or directly 573-4880.

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