



**Please Note:**

**This Parent Handbook is based on pre-covid procedures. In keeping with the times we have had to make changes to our programming and delivery that are not reflected in this handbook. However the information provided here still provides a good starting point for understanding our school's goals and plans for the year, our policies and procedures, and for learning about the Suzuki Method and tips on how to nurture your child's musical journey. We are looking forward to a productive and musical year.**

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## **SuzukiMusic Directory 2020-2021**

### **General Manager / Collaborative Pianist**

Liko Yamane

[info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca)

### **Assistant General Manager/Volunteer Coordinator**

Susan Wooltorton

[volunteer@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:volunteer@suzukimusic.ca)

### **Artistic Director**

Keite Gularte, Violin and Viola Faculty

[artistic@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:artistic@suzukimusic.ca)

### **Board President**

Graydon Miles

[president@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:president@suzukimusic.ca)

### **Outreach Coordinator**

Chela Escudero, Guitar Faculty

[chelaescudero@gmail.com](mailto:chelaescudero@gmail.com)

## SuzukiMusic Faculty 2021 - 2022

### Violin and Viola

<p><b>Keite Gularte</b> Nepean 613-804-0420 <a href="mailto:keitemg@gmail.com">keitemg@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Carol Deaville</b> 403 Viewmount Dr., Ottawa, ON, K2E 7P1 613-221-9389 <a href="mailto:caroldeaville@hotmail.com">caroldeaville@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Judy Olmstead-O'Regan</b> 1823 Belval Cr., Orleans, ON, K1C 6J3 613-824-4706 <a href="mailto:judy@judyolmstead.com">judy@judyolmstead.com</a></p>	<p><b>Janice Mah</b>  <a href="mailto:janiceymah@gmail.com">janiceymah@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>John Pohran</b> 7098 Quinfield Way, Greely, ON, K4P 1B6 H. 613-821-2016 <a href="mailto:jpohran@gmail.com">jpohran@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Sonya Matoussova</b> Gloucester, ON <a href="mailto:sonya.matoussova@gmail.com">sonya.matoussova@gmail.com</a></p>

### Cello

<p><b>Emma Grant-Zypchen</b> 38 Gilchrist Ave Ottawa, ON K1Y 0M6 514-746-8523 <a href="mailto:emma.grant.zypchen@suzuki-music.com">emma.grant.zypchen@suzuki-music.com</a></p>	<p><b>Margaret Tobolowska</b> #10 – 407 Montfort St. Ottawa, ON K1L8G8 613-261-6968 <a href="mailto:margarettobola@yahoo.ca">margarettobola@yahoo.ca</a> <a href="http://www.enchanten.com">www.enchanten.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sonya Matoussova</b> Gloucester, ON  <a href="mailto:sonya.matoussova@gmail.com">sonya.matoussova@gmail.com</a></p>	

## Guitar

<p><b>Graciela (Chela) Escudero</b> <a href="mailto:chelaescudero@gmail.com">chelaescudero@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Daniel Srugo</b> 39 Bentworth Cr, Ottawa, ON, K2G 3X1 613-680-1680 <a href="mailto:daniel@suzukiguitar.ca">daniel@suzukiguitar.ca</a></p>
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## Flute

<p><b>Tamara Zea</b> 906 – 89 Rue Vaudreuil, Gatineau, QC, J8X 4E8 613-276-8265 <a href="mailto:tamarabogunovic@hotmail.com">tamarabogunovic@hotmail.com</a></p>
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### **3. General Information & Policies**

#### ***3.1 Office***

SuzukiMusic maintains an office in Ottawa's Arts Court facility. If you require assistance from our General Manager Liko Yamane, please contact her by email: [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca)

#### ***3.2 SuzukiMusic Year***

The SuzukiMusic year is comprised of 36 instructional weeks. These weeks are grouped into 4 terms of 9 weeks each. During the year, each student attends 36 private lessons, 14 group classes, solo recitals, ensemble and/or group concerts and other special events. Parents are encouraged to participate in the Parent Education sessions throughout the year.

#### ***3.3 Payment of Fees***

At the time of registration, all fees must be remitted by post-dated cheques. SuzukiMusic registration fees are non-refundable.

#### ***3.4 Late Registration Fees***

Returning students who return registration packages after the posted deadline are subject to a late fees. More information can be found on your studio teacher's webpage.

#### ***3.5 NSF Fee***

A fee of \$25 is levied for each NSF cheque.

#### ***3.6 Bursaries***

Families experiencing temporary, short-term financial difficulties may apply, in confidence, for bursary assistance. Application forms, criteria and additional information may be obtained from the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca)

#### ***3.7 Withdrawal***

All notices of intention to withdraw from the school at any point during the school year must be provided in writing by email to Liko Yamane, the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca). Notice of withdrawal must be received at least two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of the next term and must contain the date on which the student will formally cease being a student of the school.

In the case of withdrawal from the school after the start of a term, the fees for the remainder of that term will not be refunded. Any subsequent term fees will be returned provided the required notice of withdrawal has been given. If insufficient notice is provided, you shall remain liable for all fees payable for the term immediately following the notice of withdrawal, and all subsequent term fees will be returned. In all cases, registration fees will not be refunded.

Upon withdrawal, all property of the school must be returned to either the faculty or General Manager on the last day of such student's group classes or private lessons, whichever is later.

### **3.8 Switching Instruments and/or Faculty**

Any changes to the instrument which any student plays or change to faculty from which the student receives private lessons must be done at the end of any term. Any change of faculty or instrument will be subject to approval from the new faculty member from which the student will receive private lessons.

If a student desires to change instruments or faculty at any point during the school year, notice must be provided in writing by email to Liko Yamane, the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca). Notice of change must be received at least two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of the next term and must contain the date on which the change will take effect.

## **4 Private Lessons**

### **4.1 Lesson Scheduling**

Each child and parent will receive one private lesson per week. Lessons vary in length from 15 minutes to one hour. Your teacher will advise you on the length suitable for your child. Private lessons are normally scheduled during school hours, although some teachers offer lesson times during the evening. The Ontario School Administration Act states: *"A child is excused from attendance at school if he/she is absent from school for the purpose of receiving instruction in music and the period of absence does not exceed one-half day in any week."*

### **4.2 Lesson Substitutions**

Your teacher may set aside one lesson annually for a parent-teacher conference. Your teacher may substitute coaching with an accompanist or attendance at your child's performance in Kiwanis Festival or an RCM exam for scheduled lesson time. These substitutions are at the discretion of your studio teacher and will be announced in advance of the special event.

### ***4.3 Missed Lessons***

Your lesson time is reserved for you and your child. Lessons missed or cancelled by the student will not normally be made up. Lessons cancelled by your teacher will be made up at a mutually convenient time.

### ***4.4 Holiday Policy***

Lessons that fall on statutory/legal holidays (ex. Thanksgiving, Good Friday) will either be given on these days or be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time. Holiday lesson schedules are at the discretion of the teacher. Lessons scheduled on holidays, non-statutory/legal holidays (ex. Heritage Day, Professional Days) will occur during the regular lesson schedule.

### ***4.5 Instruments***

All students are expected to acquire their own instruments. Your private lesson teacher will assist you in selecting an instrument of the appropriate size and quality. The SuzukiMusic program has some cellos, flutes and violas available as part of our instrument rental program. All rental fees are waived for the first year of study.

All instruments must be kept clean and in good repair at all times. Your teacher will advise you of any routine maintenance or repairs that need to be made. We recommend that instruments be insured against fire, theft and damage. The SuzukiMusic program is not responsible for any damage to your instrument.

### ***4.6 Recitals***

The SuzukiMusic program provides the opportunity for each student to participate in two solo recitals during the year. Your studio teacher will announce the date, time and location over the course of the year.

## **5 Group Classes**

Each student will attend fifteen group classes and musicianship classes during the academic year. All group classes (except Pre-Twinkler groups) participate in the Kiwanis Music Festival in April.

Each year, the faculty spends a great deal of time placing students in the appropriate group class level. After the first 3 group classes, if you believe your child has been misplaced, please discuss the situation with your private lesson teacher. Your private lesson teacher will then discuss your child's placement with the group class teacher and the Artistic Director. You will be notified of the resolution as soon as possible. Under no circumstances are parents permitted to unilaterally make this decision.

### ***5.1 Attendance***

Group class is a mandatory part of the SuzukiMusic program. Students are expected to attend all group classes. If more than two group classes are missed, your child's participation in group class performances (ex. Kiwanis Festival, Viva Suzuki) will be at the discretion of the group class teacher. If a student misses 3 or more group classes, this is considered extreme absenteeism. In consultation with the Artistic Director, private lesson and group class teacher, your child may be removed from the group class program.

Please do not intentionally register your child for other activities that conflict with their group and musicianship classes.

### ***5.2 Disruptive Students***

In the case of a continually disruptive student in group class: After every effort has been made in collaboration with the student, parent and group class teacher to adjust the behaviour, the student will be removed from group class in consultation with the group teacher, private teacher, parent, Artistic Director and Board of Directors.

### ***5.3 Musicianship, Ensemble Skills and Orchestra***

SuzukiMusic offers a comprehensive musicianship and Orchestra program to enhance each student's musical experience. The musicianship program begins for students 5 years of age. Ensemble Skills (on-instrument reading, aka OIR) and Orchestra are offered for more advanced students.

#### ***5.4 Senior Ensembles***

There is a senior ensemble for the most advanced students of each instrument. These ensembles and students participate in additional performances and community outreach events.

#### ***5.5 Group Class Performances***

All students participate in our final performance, Viva Suzuki. Group classes of all levels (except Pre-Twinkle) participate in the Kiwanis Music Festival. Our Junior Ensembles and Orchestras are featured in our Junior Ensembles Concert, and all Senior Ensembles perform on the Senior Ensembles Concert.

#### ***5.6 Workshop Series***

During the year, guest clinicians are invited to visit our program, teach groups and offer parent education lectures.

#### ***5.7 Special Recitals and Community Concerts***

Students have the opportunity to participate in special recitals (ex. Family & Friends Concert) and at various community events. Senior students are invited to participate in many community events as part of the SuzukiMusic Outreach program. This program is coordinated by Chela Escudero, Guitar Faculty.

## **6 Parent Education**

The SuzukiMusic program strives to provide continuing education for all parents in our program. Being a Suzuki parent is a noble and challenging task. All parents are encouraged to seek out Suzuki resources to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Suzuki philosophy.

### ***6.1 Orientation***

SuzukiMusic holds two 1.5-hour orientation sessions for all new families in September. There is an additional orientation session in January for all families who entered the program after the initial orientation sessions. Orientation sessions are for parents only.

### ***6.2 SuzNews Parent Education Corner***

Each SuzNews has a relevant parent education article to add to the Suzuki parents' repertoire of knowledge, tips and support for a successful parent child Suzuki journey.

### ***6.3 Resources***

Included in this Parent Handbook are several articles and a list of suggested Suzuki reading materials. Additional resource materials can be found on the [Suzuki Association of the Americas](#) and the [Suzuki Association of Ontario](#) websites. If you are looking for material relating to a specific topic, your private lesson teacher may be able to assist you.

## **7 Volunteer Commitment**

SuzukiMusic is a non-profit organization. We rely on volunteer support and donations to supplement our operational costs, and keep our term fees as low as possible. For questions or feedback relating to volunteering, please contact our Assistant Manager, Susan Wooltorton: [volunteer@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:volunteer@suzukimusic.ca)

### **7.1 Commitment Fee Policy**

As part of the registration package, each family must submit a post-dated cheque for \$100 as a Volunteer Commitment Fee. This cheque will be returned to all families who contribute at least 6 hours of volunteer time to the school during the academic year. For those families unable to volunteer, your Volunteer Commitment Fee cheque is remitted as an alternative means of supporting the SuzukiMusic program.

### **7.2 Volunteer Positions**

There are many positions which require volunteers throughout the year. Please see the complete list on the SuzukiMusic website. Follow the [Volunteer Information](#) tab on the Current Students page.

### **7.3 Vulnerable Sector Check**

All participating parents are asked to submit a vulnerable sector check. Please email Susan at [volunteer@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:volunteer@suzukimusic.ca) to request a volunteer letter which will allow you to get the check done at the volunteer rate. Recently the application process has been streamlined by the Ottawa Police Services and the vast majority of individuals can apply online. <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Types-of-Records-Checks.aspx> We require the level 3 Vulnerable Sector check for volunteering with minors.

### **7.4 Log Sheet**

To keep track of your volunteer hours, you may print your own log sheet from the SuzukiMusic website or pick up a copy at the front desk during group class. It is your responsibility to fill in the form to record your volunteer hours. Upon receipt of the completed log sheet by the post-date for the Volunteer Commitment Fee, your cheque will be returned.

### **7.5 Website Links**

The SuzukiMusic website has a direct link to the Volunteer Information page. All families are able to sign up for tasks, print forms and access additional volunteer information.

## **8 SuzukiMusic Parent Guide: Asking Questions**

In an effort to keep parents well connected to our program, our General Manager will send periodic emails to keep you informed of group class reminders, upcoming events and concert information. Any important information regarding group class events (ex. Kiwanis Festival, Viva Suzuki) will be posted on our website: [suzukimusic.ca](http://suzukimusic.ca). At any time, if you require additional information or assistance, please contact the person most suited to your question.

### **8.1 SuzukiMusic Administrative Matters**

If you have administrative questions about registration, financial matters, term fee dates, etc., please start by checking our website, [suzukimusic.ca](http://suzukimusic.ca). If you are unable to find the answer to your question, please contact Liko Yamane, the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca).

### **8.2 Studio Recitals**

Please contact your private lesson teacher regarding any musical or logistical questions relating to recitals.

### **8.3 Studio Special Events**

If your child is participating in an event that includes only students from your private teacher's studio, please contact your private lesson teacher or the designated studio representative for additional information.

### **8.4 Group Classes and Viva Suzuki**

Please contact your group class teacher for all information regarding your group class and their role in large group events. Group class dates and concert information will be posted on the Calendar Page of our website: [suzukimusic.ca](http://suzukimusic.ca).

### ***8.5 Group Class Special Events***

If there is a special event involving students from your child's group class only, please contact either the group class teacher or their designated representative for additional information.

### ***8.6 Workshop Series***

Check the website: [suzukimusic.ca](http://suzukimusic.ca) for general details regarding special events. Details may be posted on the home page or on the [Calendar page](#). If your question is more specific, please contact the faculty member organizing the event for more detailed information.

## **9. SuzukiMusic Parent Guide: Problem Solving**

If at any point you have a problem, it is important that you find the right person so the situation can be resolved as quickly as possible. In most circumstances, your private lesson teacher will be able to help you with the issue or, at the very least, guide you to the person who will be able to help you. If you are unable to discuss the situation with your private lesson teacher, please contact our General Manager, Liko Yamane at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca) or our Artistic Director, Alexandria Givens at [artistic@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:artistic@suzukimusic.ca)

### ***9.1 Private Lesson***

Generally, any questions or concerns with respect to your child's weekly lessons should be addressed with your private teacher directly. This is particularly true if you are concerned about the lesson dynamics or your child's behaviour towards the teacher. The Suzuki triangle of Parent-Teacher-Student depends on open communication between all three sides. Your teacher will want to know about any question or concern as soon as possible.

If you feel that you are unable to raise a specific concern with your teacher directly, please contact our Artistic Director, Alexandria Givens at [artistic@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:artistic@suzukimusic.ca). Confidentiality will be respected.

### ***9.2 Group Class***

If you have a question or concern with respect to your child's group class, you should discuss this with your child's group class teacher. This is especially important if you are concerned about your child's behaviour, general group dynamics or repertoire. Your child's group class teacher will want to know about any of these questions or concerns as soon as possible.

If your concern is about your child's group class placement after the first 3 group classes, please discuss this with your private lesson teacher. Your teacher will then address the issue with your child's group class teacher and the Artistic Director. You will be notified as soon as a resolution has been reached.

If you feel that you are unable to raise a specific concern directly with your child's group class teacher, you may discuss the issue with your private lesson teacher or contact the Artistic Director Alexandria Givens at [artistic@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:artistic@suzukimusic.ca). Confidentiality will be respected.

### **9.3 Musicianship, Ensemble Skills and Orchestra**

If you are concerned about your child's placement in their musicianship, ensemble skills or orchestra class, please discuss your concern with your private lesson teacher. You may also contact Alexandria Givens, the Artistic Director at [artistic@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:artistic@suzukimusic.ca)

### **9.4 Special Events**

If you have any problems or concerns with respect to a special event, please contact the coordinator of that event directly. If you are unsure who that might be, please contact Liko Yamane, the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca) for additional information.

### **9.5 Miscellaneous Issues**

Administrative issues, problems or concerns will be addressed by our General Manager, Liko Yamane. Please contact her directly at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca) for assistance with these matters.

If your problem or concern does not fit into any of the previously listed categories, please feel free to contact any member of our Board of Directors. These dedicated parent volunteers are always happy to help. You can find their contact information listed on our website [www.suzukimusic.ca](http://www.suzukimusic.ca) or by emailing Liko Yamane, the General Manager at [info@suzukimusic.ca](mailto:info@suzukimusic.ca).

## **10. SuzukiMusic: Understanding your Group Class Experience**

Group class plays a key role in Suzuki programs and is a distinct feature of Suzuki pedagogy in comparison to traditional music teaching.

### ***10.1 Fundamental Objectives***

#### ***10.1.1 Strengthen mastery of common Suzuki repertoire***

Children take pleasure in activities where they do well. Consequently, considerable group class time is allocated to review of their existing repertoire, which provides students with the opportunity to take pleasure in their skillful performance of pieces they have already mastered. Once the notes are mastered, children are free to experiment by adding new techniques and polishing these pieces by adding new musical ideas.

#### ***10.1.2 Repetition of technical skills***

Dr Suzuki developed a simple mathematical equation for the acquisition of technical skills: Ability = Knowledge + 10,000 repetitions. To develop the ability to execute a new technical skill, it takes time and many repetitions. Group class is a wonderful place for some of these repetitions to take place. It is also the time for parents to pick up a new way to practice a technical skill at home. The more ways you can practice a skill, the easier it is to complete those first 10,000 repetitions!

#### ***10.1.3 Develop Ensemble Skills***

Musicians almost always play as part of an ensemble. Emphasis is placed on learning to play with others, developing the ability to follow the leader, breathe as a group and communicate with eye contact and body language. Group classes develop ensemble skills from the very first Mississippi Hot Dog! Regular participation in group classes allows students to develop ensemble skills at a very young age and continue to refine their skills as they progress to more advanced levels.

#### ***10.1.4 Reinforce Performance Skills***

Excellence in performance requires thoughtful preparation. Group class is a safe environment for each student to refine their individual performance skills within the safety of a group performance. Group classes will frequently explore different ways of communicating musical ideas with the audience. Through imitation and experimentation, students begin to develop their own musical ideas.

### ***10.1.5 Musical Peers and a Learning Community***

Practicing a discipline like music is hard work! It is more rewarding if you can share the challenges and successes with musical peers. Group class provides students with the opportunity to form friendships with other students at a comparable stage of musical development. Most importantly, group class provides models of success to inspire your child.

### ***10.2 Group Class Fun!***

Group class is an opportunity for students to share in the fun of achieving excellence in performance and making music together. Sometimes this looks and sounds like hard work and sometimes this looks like games. Group classes can take on a number of forms in pursuit of making beautiful music. For each student to have the most enjoyable group class experience, it is important that you devote time at home to an active review program and the preparation of group class assignments.

### ***10.3 Parental Role At Group Class***

Parents are expected to be an active part of their child's group class experience. Group class is an important part of the Suzuki philosophy and should be approached with the same type of respect afforded to the private lesson. To ensure your child receives the maximum benefit from their group class experience, parents are expected to assist their child in the following capacities:

- Arrive 5-10 minutes before the beginning of class. Classes start on the hour, and end after 50 minutes (Pre-twinkle classes may end after 40 minutes). If you arrive late, your child may be asked to observe until it is convenient for the teacher to stop and tune your child's instrument.
- Pay close attention to the activities taking place in class. Some of these activities may be familiar, and some may be new ideas you could use to spice up your home practice routine.
- Make note of any home practice assignments. It is important to devote a few minutes of practice time to their preparation. Your group class teacher is depending on each student to prepare individually so the entire class can work towards the next goal together.
- Don't coach your child from the sidelines! Although it is tempting to remind your child about their posture or something else you have been working at in home practice, group class is not an appropriate time or place. It is important that your child have the opportunity to fully engage with the group.

- If you are attending a Parent Education session during your child's class, take a moment to check in with your child's group class teacher so you are aware of any home practice assignments.
- If your child is attending group class on their own, it is still important that you are aware of any home practice assignments or special activities your child's group class has in the coming weeks.
- Attend all group classes. Demonstrate the same commitment and discipline to the other students, parents and group class teacher that you would to the members of a sports team. To assist you in planning your family's activities, SuzukiMusic publishes group class dates prior to the start of the academic year. Please visit the calendar page on our website [www.suzukimusic.ca](http://www.suzukimusic.ca) for the most up to date information.

#### **10.4 Mandatory Supervision**

**Be Advised:** SuzukiMusic does not have the authority or the capacity to screen visitors to Canterbury High School during our group class days. At all times you are responsible for the safety of your child. Please ensure that your child does not damage the school or instruments.

*Please note:* Canterbury High School demands that we observe the following restrictions.

- No eating or drinking in any classrooms
- No touching equipment belonging to Canterbury High School
- No children in classrooms without adult supervision.

It is expected that you will be observing your children in pretwinkle to book 4 classes. Once they are in the senior performance groups you are welcome to observe, but it is optional as the students are transitioning to more independent study.

All children must have a parent contact in the school at all times. If the child's parents are not in the building they must designate another student's parent to be the child's contact during the class - leave your cell phone number with the parent and inform the teacher which parent you have made arrangements with for that class.

## 10.5 The Purpose of Group Class

AMERICAN SUZUKI JOURNAL

### SOME THOUGHTS ON GROUP CLASSES

*Teri Einfeldt*

**T**raveling around the country for weekend workshops, it seems quite apparent to me that one thing lacking in many programs is a disciplined atmosphere for learning within the group class. I know for myself that my creative abilities are directly proportionate to the amount of discipline and attentiveness within the group. Younger, less advanced students seem to have an edge over the more experienced group class participants. They are alert, bright, and eager, making it easy to capture their imaginations. More advanced students can easily turn into non-blinking, outer-space aliens because of either lack of review or reviewing constantly without a purpose.

Musicianship can be worked on effectively, and efficiently in a group situation, if there is follow thru at home. This falls into the hands of the parent. Attendance at group lessons, with notebook and pen in hand, is necessary in order to receive the maximum benefits from the classes. Unfortunately, as the group classes become more advanced, and the students more independent, parents seem to have more and more errands to run. This is fine, and even desirable, if your child is in his/her teen years and is responsible and responsive towards their involvement with music.

Since the "perfect hour" for group class has not yet been invented, students are usually tired, hungry, hot, and/old cold. We have all heard the complaints. Consequently, if left to their own devices, follow thru of group class instruction will probably not occur.

Parent Education is an on-going process. Even though I have been teaching for many years, I am still learning new things every day. It suddenly occurred to me that perhaps what I expected to happen in a group class had not been communicated to the parents in our program. On a recent

flight from Hartford to Atlanta, a pen jumped out of my purse along with a piece of paper and the following

thoughts found their way to the page. I would like to share them with you.

#### SOME THOUGHTS ON GROUP CLASSES

##### PURPOSES

1. TO work on and reinforce techniques and musical concepts learned in the private lesson.
2. TO learn more advanced techniques through review of previously learned materials.
3. TO become musically flexible by accepting and reacting to differing interpretations.
4. TO improve direction following skills.
5. TO instill discipline in following the leader (orchestral preparation).
6. TO become a better audience.
7. TO learn to work together as a team.
8. TO learn to offer constructive criticism in a positive environment.
9. TO provide a social and educational environment for motivation.
10. TO prepare for performances.

##### ROLE OF THE PARENT

1. TO actively review with your child every day, concentrating heavily on the current review list.
2. TO attend group lessons and take notes on techniques and musical concepts stressed.
3. TO practice with your child the ideas worked on in class.
4. TO arrive in plenty of time for class. Late arrivals mean stopping the entire class for tuning.
5. NOT to distract your child with gestures and threatening looks.
6. TO discuss with your child the purposes of group class and what the appropriate behavior should be.

##### MISCONCEPTIONS

1. To play through as many pieces as possible. (That is a Play-In.)
2. A good time to review.
3. A time to exchange the latest gossip for both parents and students.
4. A time for parents to run errands.
5. A time for perfecting chalkboard writing.
6. Another opportunity for show and tell.

##### ROLE OF THE STUDENT

1. TO be well reviewed.
2. TO practice at home what was presented in the group class.
3. TO show respect for students, parents and teachers.
4. TO listen to the teacher and react quickly to instructions.
5. TO remain in rest position while the teacher is talking.
6. TO sit and watch attentively while more advanced students are playing.
7. TO line up for tuning as soon as the instructor enters the room.
8. TO sit quietly on the floor after being tuned.
9. TO have all snacks consumed before group class tuning begins.

### ***10.6 Understanding the Purpose of Musicianship, Ensemble Skills and Orchestra***

In addition to your child's instrument-specific group class, your child will also participate in a music enrichment class. Enrichment classes introduce you and your child to the fundamental concepts of rhythm, musical notation, pre-reading activities and on-instrument reading. Students progress through musicianship classes at their own pace.

#### ***10.6.1 Musicianship Classes***

Musicianship classes introduce elementary concepts of music, including the musical alphabet, the staff and different types of notes. The goal of these classes is to introduce some basic pre-reading concepts to enhance each student's ability to learn note reading skills on their instruments, when they are ready. Musicianship classes are dynamic and use primarily class activities to introduce concepts. Students will be placed in musicianship classes when they are 5 years of age.

#### ***10.6.2 Ensemble Skills***

Ensemble Skills is a multi-instrument class that focuses on developing each student's on-instrument reading skills.

#### ***10.6.3 Orchestra***

Orchestra is a multi-instrument class that focuses on refining student's on-instrument reading and ensemble skills. In addition, students will be working towards polished performances of selected pieces at the Junior Ensembles Concert as well as an additional special event during the year. It is expected that all students in orchestra will devote time in their home practice to the preparation of orchestra pieces. Students will require their own music stand and pencil for each class.

## **11 Suzuki Music Parent Guide: Resource Material**

### ***11.1 History of the Suzuki Method***

#### ***11.1.1 The Legacy of Shinichi Suzuki***

Shinichi Suzuki was a violinist, educator, philosopher, and humanitarian. Over the past fifty years he had a profound influence on music education in his own country and throughout the world. Suzuki based his approach on the belief that, "Musical ability is not an inborn talent but an ability which can be developed. Any child who is properly trained can develop musical ability, just as all children develop the ability to speak their mother tongue. The potential of every child is unlimited."

Suzuki's philosophy and the method he developed have now reached thousands of teachers, children and families in many nations. When he died in January 1998, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki was mourned around the world. His belief in the marvelous capabilities of all human beings and the importance of nurturing these capabilities with love has left a lasting legacy.

#### ***11.1.2 Origin of Suzuki's Talent Education Method***

Born in 1898, Shinichi Suzuki studied violin in Japan for some years before going to Germany in the 1920's. After further study there, he returned to Japan to play and teach. He taught university students, but became more and more interested in the education of young children.

Suzuki realized the implications of the obvious fact that children of all nationalities easily learn their native language. He began to develop a method for teaching violin modeled after the way in which children learn language and called it the Mother-Tongue Approach or Talent Education.

#### ***11.1.3 Development of the Method***

Suzuki's work was interrupted by World War II, and after its end he was determined to bring the beauty of music to the bleak lives of his nation's children. He began teaching at a small school in Matsumoto, working to develop a sequential repertoire that would present musical and technical points in a logical manner. Within a few years Suzuki's students were amazing listeners with their abilities.

The Talent Education movement grew as other teachers studied with Suzuki and began to teach throughout Japan. The program expanded as teachers of different instruments became interested in Suzuki's approach, and materials were developed for cello, piano and flute. Over the years, thousands of Japanese children have received Suzuki training at the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto or one of the branch schools in other cities.

#### ***11.1.4 The Suzuki Method Today***

Dr. Suzuki did not develop his method in order to produce professional musicians but to help children fulfill their capabilities as human beings. As he has said, "Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens, noble human beings. If a child hears fine music from the day of his birth, and learns to play it himself, he develops sensitivity, discipline and endurance. He gets a beautiful heart."

Through his life and work, Dr. Suzuki inspired thousands of parents and teachers in more than forty countries in Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa and the Americas to nurture loving human beings through the mother-tongue approach to music education. In the supportive environment fostered by the Suzuki method, children learn to enjoy music and develop confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, concentration, and the determination to try difficult things-qualities that are sorely needed in our time. As Pablo Casals remarked through his tears after hearing Suzuki children play, "Perhaps it is music that will save the world."

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### ***11.2 The Suzuki Philosophy by Alice Joy Lewis***

The Suzuki Method was started shortly after World War II by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, violinist, educator and humanitarian. Dr. Suzuki referred to his system of training Talent Education, or Mother Tongue Method. He believed that every young child who is capable of learning his/her native language is capable of developing a high level of ability-talent-in other areas as well. The conditions that he saw as necessary for the development of talent are as follows:

1. Begin as early as possible.
2. Create the best possible environment.
3. Use the finest teaching method.
4. Provide a great deal of training.
5. Use the finest teachers.

Beginning as early as possible may actually mean starting as soon as 'age zero' by establishing an environment in the home which is conducive to the child's learning. In the case of music training, this simply means exposure to good music in the home by means of C.D.'s, tapes, T.V., radio and attendance at concerts. Just as a child speaks his/her first word after hearing thousands of repetitions, so the Suzuki musician learns to play after hearing much music at home.

The children's lessons - in the studio and at home - should be handled with positive encouragement and should be kept short. Formal training at an early age is desirable because children's brains are developing at an explosive yet continually descending rate. They are eager to learn, receptive to new information, and their young muscles are still most flexible.

The method itself is a carefully constructed sequence of skills based on LISTENING and REPETITION, the steps by which a child learns a native language. Gauged to the speed of the individual child this sequence adds a new skill only as previous skills are completely mastered, thus assuring a child's success at every step in a process as natural as learning to speak. Training is provided by private and group instruction and by daily listening and practise at home.

One of the especially exciting features of the Suzuki Method is the use of the finest teachers. If we look again at the analogy of language learning, we note that it is the parent who is usually the first and best teacher. With Dr. Suzuki's Talent Education, parents serve as teachers even if they have no musical background. The Suzuki teacher actually serves as mentor to both parent and child, teaching the child at the lesson and guiding the parent in developing techniques of teaching the child in

home practise. The parent and the child are then in a position to work together toward a common goal.

### **How to make the most of Suzuki Education for your child**

Successful Suzuki education depends heavily on the teamwork of teacher and parent working in the best interest of the child. The co-operative relationship has often been described as a triangle.

Listed below are some specific ways in which you contribute to make Suzuki Talent Education a successful experience for your child:

#### **1. Listen daily to the assigned music**

Not just once or twice but many times. The listening can occur in many settings- while your child is playing quietly, at mealtime, during travel time in the car at bedtime, etc. The value of repetition is certainly obvious as it is seen as part of language learning. Think about how many times your child heard "momma" or "daddy" before saying them. Dr. Suzuki told us that there is a direct relationship between the number of times a child hears a piece and the speed and ease with which he/she learns to play it.

#### **2. Continue to provide rich listening experiences as your child advances through the repertoire.**

It is important for the advanced student to listen faithfully just as it is for the younger ones. Comparative listening should be encouraged. For example, several different recordings of a particular sonata or concerto give the student a perspective about tone and interpretive possibilities that are extremely helpful.

#### **3. Practice Daily**

There are three aspects of practice that affect your child's progress:

- Regularity
- Amount
- The Child's knowledge of his/her own results

Regularity is actually a more important aspect of practice than the amount of time put in. A few minutes of practice daily produces better results than several days without any practice followed by several hours crammed in just before the lesson! Dr. Suzuki's own recipe for beginning students' practice is "Two minutes of joy, five times a day." Note the emphasis on joy and the repeated activity rather than the amount of

time. Again, there is a direct relationship between how often your child practices and how he/she progresses.

The amount of time spent in practicing gradually increases as the child's ability to concentrate grows. As students advance in the repertoire, their musical material makes increased practice time necessary. It becomes easier, though, to practice more as the complexity of the material and the amount to do increases.

A student's knowledge of his/her own results in practice is important to progress. Bill Starr writes in *To learn with Love* that psychologists recognize three phases in skill acquisition:

**1. In the first phase the learner understands what he is supposed to do.**

(Ex. For a practicing Suzuki student it might be to play with "straight" bows, i.e. with the bow parallel to the bridge or to play with a relaxed, curvy bow hold, etc.)

**2. The second phase consists of meaningful practice with appropriate feedback.**

Knowledge of results, or feedback, is considered by psychologists studying skill learning to be one of the most significant factors in practice. Most children do need help in learning to focus their own awareness on what they are doing as they play. It is possible, and so easy for them, to be a sort of "middle man" between teacher and parent. Teacher tells parent what must be done; parent sees that child does it. Bill Starr describes the child in such a situation as a passive, non-observer, totally uninvolved. Passive, uninvolved practice impedes progress! (E.g. It is much more helpful to the students progress if he/she is asked to watch to see if a bow is straight, to stop to see if he/she sees it crooked, and to see how few stops he/she needs to make during the song to be played, etc.)

**3. The third and final phase of skill acquisition is automatic execution.** When the notes, bows, and movement patterns are largely automatic, the musician can concentrate on interpretation.)

**4. Show That You Value Your Child's Practice Time**

Try to set aside a time (or times) each day that you and your child know is (are) just for practice. You might consider turning off the TV, turning on the phone answering machine (or taking the receive of the hook), having alternative activities for potential distracting siblings, and doing

anything else possible to give your child's practice your undivided, calm, attention. Enjoy your child's practice. It can be precious time shared!

Allow time enough to arrive promptly (maybe even early) to your child's private and group lessons. Siblings are welcome and may listen while they engage in quiet activities. Refrain from doing knitting or needlepoint, reading a book, or any other activity however worthy - that demonstrates some inattention to your child's lesson.

### **5. Take notes at your child's lessons:**

As we listen to a lesson, we may think that we can remember exactly what the teacher is asking for in daily practise; reality teaches us that in the complexity of daily living, we have so much to remember in so many areas that having written notes to jog our memory is helpful. Refer to the lesson notes during the week. Sometimes the use of the teacher's terminology in practise situations at home can help the student remember "how it felt" at the lesson.

### **6. Record your child's lessons**

Recording the lesson does not replace note taking; however, it can be extremely helpful. In some situations, the lesson recording should be heard by the student once or twice during the week between lessons. This is particularly helpful for more advanced students who are moving toward increased independence in their lessons.

### **7. Follow the teacher's instructions carefully**

Not because the teacher is an infallible expert, but because the teacher can only gauge how well his/her ideas work for your child if the instructions are followed exactly. Let the teacher know if there are things that you do not understand or that you have trouble implementing. Keep your teacher informed of what works well for your child.

### **8. Remember Suzuki's rule - One teacher at a time, please.**

You are the teacher at home; the teacher is the teacher at lessons. There is sometimes a fine line between being attentive and responsive to your child and distracting from what the teacher is doing. During lessons, try not to indicate displeasure by frowning, gasping, groaning or commenting on your child's performance. Remain calm. Let the teacher establish a working relationship with your child. Enjoy.

## **9. Include review as a part of daily practise**

After your first child learned to say "Mama" you didn't say, O. K., now that you can say that, we'll put it aside and learn something else. You built on continued repetitions of their first words to develop new vocabulary. So it is with Suzuki violin. New skills are built on the foundation of skills learned in the first few pieces.

## **10. Appreciate each small success.**

Dr. Suzuki preferred not to use the word patience in referring to our working with the children, because he felt that it implied controlled frustration. Learn to genuinely enjoy the accomplishment of each step rather than to just be patient with your child. Each skill in the method is purposely broken down into its smallest components; what seems like a minute step to an observer may be a MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT for a small child. You can expect some steps to take what seems like an agonizing amount of time. The more success your child feels at the first small steps, the more courage he/she will have to take on big ones later.

## **11. Do Not Compare Your Child with Others**

This goes for comparisons among siblings, classmates and friends. DO NOT COMPARE, PERIOD! Because each child is a unique individual, you do your child a grave injustice by comparing his/her progress to Patty's quickness or Peter's slowness. Not only will each child learn at a different rate, but that rate will change from time to time with each child. Some children start slowly and speed up; some start like meteors and slow down. Some start at a snail's pace and stay that way; some move like lightening the whole way. Some children move like bumper cars - now slow, now fast, now slow. Your two criteria for child's progress should be:

1. Is my child working to capacity without feeling undue pressure?
2. Does he/she feel good about his/her progress?

If you see a problem in your child in one or both areas mentioned above, make arrangements to talk with your teacher when the child is not present.

## **12. Special Features of the Suzuki Method**

### **Parent Involvement**

When a child learns to talk, parents function very effectively as teachers. Parents also have an important role as "home teachers" as a child learns an instrument. In the beginning, one parent often learns to play before the child, so that s/he understands what the child is expected to do. The parent attends the child's lessons and the two practice daily at home.

### **Early Beginning**

The early years are crucial for developing mental processes and muscle coordination in the young child. Children's aural capacities are also at their peak during the years of language acquisition, and this is an excellent time to establish musical sensitivity. Listening to music should begin at birth and formal training may begin at age three or four, though it is never too late to begin.

### **Listening**

Children learn to speak in an environment filled with language. Parents can also make music part of the child's environment by attending concerts and playing recordings of the Suzuki repertoire and other music. This enables children to absorb the language of music just as they absorb the sounds of their mother tongue. With repeated listening to the pieces they will be learning, children become familiar with them and learn them easily.

### **Repetition**

When children have learned a word, they don't discard it but continue to use it while adding new words to their vocabulary. Similarly, Suzuki students repeat the pieces they learn, gradually using the skills they have gained in new and more sophisticated ways as they add to their repertoire. The introduction of new technical skills and musical concepts in the context of familiar pieces makes their acquisition much easier.

### **Encouragement**

As with language, the child's efforts to learn an instrument should be met with sincere praise and encouragement. Each child learns at his/her own rate, building on small steps so that each one can be mastered. This creates an environment of enjoyment for child, parent and teacher. A

general atmosphere of generosity and cooperation is also established as children are encouraged to support the efforts of other students.

### **Learning with Other Children**

Music promotes healthy social interaction, and children are highly motivated by participating in group lessons and performances in addition to their own individual lessons. They enjoy observing other children at all levels-aspiring to the level of more advanced students, sharing challenges with their peers, and appreciating the efforts of those following in their footsteps.

### **Graded Repertoire**

Children do not practice exercises to learn to speak, but learn by using language for communication and self-expression. With the Suzuki method, students learn musical concepts and skills in the context of the music rather than through dry technical exercises. The Suzuki repertoire for each instrument presents a careful sequence of building blocks for technical and musical development. This standard repertoire provides strong motivation, as younger students want to play music they hear older students play.

### **Delayed Reading**

Children are taught to read only after their ability to speak has been well established. In the same way, Suzuki students develop basic competence on their instruments before being taught to read music. This sequence of instruction enables both teacher and student to focus on the development of good posture, beautiful tone, accurate intonation, and musical phrasing. (Ed. Note: At SuzukiMusic, pre-reading and beginning reading skills are often introduced at an earlier stage.)

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### ***11.3 Thoughts About Creating A Musical Environment***

Dr. Suzuki devised his philosophy of talent education by observing one simple, yet incredibly complex fact; ‘All Japanese children learn to speak Japanese’. The Suzuki philosophy of talent education begins with ‘Every child can learn if given the proper environment’. As a Suzuki parent, the most important, and very often the most forgotten element of the Suzuki method is listening. Since all students are learning through an aural model, it is crucial that each student listen to their Suzuki CD as often as possible.

#### ***11.3.1 Bulldozing Barricades: Using Listening to Make Practice Easier by Debbie Hammond***

##### **Suzuki Philosophy to Remember:**

Creating a musical environment means surrounding your child with all sorts of music, for as much of the day as possible. Suzuki CDs are an essential part of your child’s musical education. Listening is the glue that holds the practicing together. Barricades in practice can often be bulldozed by increasing, and targeting your listening routine.

##### ***Passive Listening Strategies:***

1. ***Breakfast and Dinner Music***- Turn on the CD while eating your breakfast and dinner. Chances are you will be at the table for at least 15 minutes. That’s long enough to listen to most of a Suzuki CD, especially Book 1-3.
2. ***A Little Night Music***- Turning the CD on quietly while your child is falling asleep can be a great opportunity for listening.
3. ***Homework Underscore***- Most children have a little bit of homework. Listening quietly while this is being completed can be a good time.
4. ***Travel Music***- Most families spend at least 20 minutes a day in the car. Turn on that Suzuki CD, your children are a captive audience. As a bonus, you are there too, and can learn a lot from joining in on the listening.
5. ***Computer/Videogame Replacement***- Electronics time can be filled with a different soundtrack. Turn on that Suzuki CD.

##### ***Active Listening Strategies:***

1. ***Keep the Beat***- Turn on a working piece, and find some physical way to keep the beat. Try clapping, marching, tapping knees, etc.
2. ***Air Bow***- For violin, violists and cellists, air bowing with the recording can give your child a chance to practice one side of the piece. The ultimate in ‘divide and conquer’

3. **Follow Along-** Get out the music, point and follow along with the CD. This is best for students who already read the music, however, it can also be fun for students not yet reading.

### **Creating a Successful Routine**

1. **Get Your Whole Family On Board-** Making sure your whole family understands the purpose of listening can make the daily event a little easier. Adding in other classical or a higher level Suzuki CD can offer a little variety into your listening diet, and remind you of where you are going.
2. **Schedule Your Spots-** Look through your schedule, and decide where listening fits in. It takes about 3 weeks to form a habit, so do your best to be consistent, and this process will become a less conscious process.
3. **Always Be Prepared-** The best plans don't always work out the way you think they will. Be prepared to adapt by having additional copies of the CD in the car, in your child's bedroom, in your main stereo, etc.
4. **Have Fun-** Enjoy your listening time. Seek out other recordings, radio broadcasts, and video performances.

### **Building Your CD Library**

#### **Dr. Suzuki's Favourite Pieces List**

#	Title	Composer
1	Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach
2	Minuet from L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2	G. Bizet
3	Waltz from Serenade in C Major	P.I. Tchaikovsky
4	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, 1 <sup>st</sup> movement	W. A. Mozart
5	Turkish March	W. A. Mozart
6	La Primavera, 1 <sup>st</sup> movement	A. Vivaldi
7	Silent Night	F. Gruber
8	Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah	G. F. Handel
9	Clair de Lune	C. Debussy
10	Autumn, 2 <sup>nd</sup> movement	A. Vivaldi
11	Ave Maria	F. Schubert

#### **Debbie's List of Favourites**

#	Title	Composer
1	Nocturnes	F. Chopin
2	Carmen	G. Bizet
3	The Four Seasons	A. Vivaldi
4	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	W. A. Mozart

5	Symphony No.3 and Symphony No. 5	L.van Beethoven
6	La Mer	C. Debussy
7	Variations on a Theme of Paganini	S. Rachmaninov
8	The Rite of Spring	I. Stravinsky
9	Nessun Dorma from Turandot	G. Puccini
10	Don Giovanni	W. A. Mozart

### **Artists to Look For In The CD Store**

<i>Living Canadian Artists</i>	<i>Other Possibilities</i>
James Ehnes- Violinist	Joshua Bell- Violin
Ben Heppner- Tenor	Time for Three- 2 Violins and Bass, jazz inspired
Gryphon Trio- Piano Trio (violin, cello, piano)	Michael Bubl� or Frank Sinatra- Jazz vocalist
Canadian Brass- Brass Quintet	Winton Marsalis- Trumpet
St. Lawrence String Quartet	Turtle Island String Quartet- New Music
Measha Brueggergosman- Soprano	Gil Shaham- Violin
Shauna Rolston- Cello	Arthur Rubenstein- Piano
Steven Dann- Viola	Glenn Gould- Piano

## ***11.4 Thoughts About Lessons***

### ***11.4.1 Why Should A Child Study Music?***

#### **Music is a Science**

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, volume exchanges, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

#### **Music is Mathematical**

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions that must be done instantaneously not worked out on paper.

#### **Music is a Foreign Language**

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French, and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

#### **Music is History**

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation often even the country and/or racial feeling.

#### **Music is Physical Education**

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

#### **Music is all these things but most of all, Music is Art**

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult), techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one that science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

#### ***That is why Music should be studied-***

Not because the child is expected to major in music

Not because the child is expected to play or sing always

Not so the child can relax

Not only so the child can have fun

But -

So the child will be human

So the child will recognize beauty

So the child will be sensitive

So the child will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

So the child will have something to cling to

So the child will have more love, more compassion,  
more gentleness, more good - in short, more life

Of what value will it be to prepare the child to make a prosperous living  
unless the child also learns how to live?

***That is why Music should be studied***

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### ***11.4.2 Musicians and Teachers on the Meaning of Music in Their Lives***

“Musicianship is the most direct expression of personality. Thus one way of perfecting musicianship is to conquer oneself, to rid oneself of meanness, to live the sort of life one can admire. Certainly no one ever reaches his ideal, but the act of striving does something to the spirit that can never be lost. Tone, technique, fleetness are never goals in themselves. They are simply the means by which the artist makes manifest those thoughts, feelings and aspirations for which he can never find words.”

**Fritz Kreisler**

“When I am teaching, I always keep three things in my mind: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?”

**Dorothy Delay**

“Interpretation is the final goal of all instrumental study, its only *raison d’être*. Technique is merely the means to this end, the tool to be used in the service of artistic interpretation. For successful performance therefore, the possession of the technical tools alone is not sufficient. In addition, the player must understand the meaning of the music thoroughly, must have creative imagination and a personal approach to the work if his rendition is to be lifted above the dry and pedantic. His personality must be neither self-effacing nor aggressively obtruding.”

**Ivan Galamian**

“Listening to ourselves with the uttermost concentration is the first requisite for producing a singing tone.”

**Adele Marcus**

“I listen better if I play always from memory.”

**Karl Schnabel**

“ The greatest thing Leon Fleisher instilled in me was the importance of listening. You listen to the sounds you have just produced, and then the next time you try to produce what you hear in your inner ear. Figure out what it is that you really hear, and what you want to hear, and then what you need to do to achieve it.”

**Andre Watts**

### ***11.4.3 Make-up Lessons From An Economist's Point of View***

I'm a parent of children enrolled in Suzuki music lessons. I'd like to explain to other parents why I feel - quite strongly, actually - that it is unreasonable of we parents to expect our teachers to make up lessons we miss, even if I know as well as they do just how expensive lessons are, and, equally importantly, how important that weekly contact is with the teacher to keeping practicing ticking along smoothly. I think that it is natural for we parents to share the point of view that students should have their missed lessons rescheduled, but if we were to 'walk a mile' in our teachers' shoes, we might change our minds about what it is reasonable for us to expect of our teachers.

Like many parents, I pay in advance for lessons each term. In my mind, what this means is that I have reserved a regular spot in the busy schedules of my sons' teachers. I understand - fully - that if I can't make it to the lesson one week (perhaps my son is sick, or we are away on holiday, or there is some other major event at school) then we will pay for the lesson, but that my teacher is under no obligation to find another spot for me that week, or to refund me for the untaught lesson. And this is the way it should be.

In my 'other life' I am an economist and teach at our local university. Students pay good money to attend classes at the university; but if they don't come to my lecture on a Monday morning, then I am not going to turn around and deliver them a private tutorial on Tuesday afternoon. When I go to the store and buy groceries, I may purchase something that doesn't get used. Days or months later, I end up throwing it out. I don't get a refund from the grocery store for the unused merchandise. If I sign my child up for swimming lessons at the local pool, and s/he refuses to return after the first lesson, I can't get my money back. So there are lots of situations in our everyday lives where we regularly pay in advance for goods or some service, and if we end up not using what we have purchased, we have to just 'swallow our losses'. On the other hand, if I purchase an item of clothing, and get home and change my mind, I can take it back and expect either a refund or a store credit.

So why do I believe that music lessons fall into the first category of 'non-returnable merchandise', rather than into the second case of 'exchange privileges unlimited' (which I think is one of the advertising slogans of an established women's clothing store!)? Speaking now as an economist, I would claim that the reason is that items like clothing are "durable goods" - meaning, they can be returned and then resold at the original price - whereas music lessons are non-durable goods - meaning,

once my Monday slot at 3:30 is gone, my son's teacher can't turn around and sell it again. The only way she would be able to give him a lesson later in the week would be if she were to give up time that she had scheduled for her own private life; and that seems pretty unreasonable - I can't think of many employees who would be thrilled if their bosses were to announce that they couldn't work from 3:30 to 4:30 this afternoon, but would they please stay until 6:30 on Thursday, because there will be work for them then!

Many teachers hesitate to refuse our request to shift lesson times (because our busy schedules *do* change), because unless they keep us parents happy, we will decide to take our child somewhere else for lessons (or to drop musical study), and they will lose part of their income. This is particularly true in areas with lower average income, where it can be particularly difficult to find students. So rather than telling us that 'well, actually, the only time when I'm not teaching and that you can bring your son for lesson is during the time I set aside each week to go for a long soul-cleansing walk, and I *can't* do that on Monday at 3:30 when you should have turned up', they agree to teach us at a time that really doesn't suit their schedule. Teachers who are 'nice' in this way often, in the long run, end up exhausted, and feeling exploited; they try to draw a line in the sand. However, too few parents ask to switch only when absolutely necessary, and too many parents want lesson times when it suits them this week, which is not the same time that suited last week. If the conflict arises because my child is in the School play, and they have their dress rehearsal during his lesson time, then I feel that I must choose between the two activities, and if he attends the dress rehearsal my private lesson teacher doesn't owe me anything.

During May, my eldest son will be missing three lessons because he is going to accompany me on a trip to New Zealand to visit his great-grandparents. I do not expect my son's teacher to refund me for those missed lessons, or to reschedule them by 'doubling up' lessons in the weeks before or after our departure. Since there will be lots of advanced notice, I might ask her to consider preparing a special 'practice tape' for that period, or to answer my questions via e-mail, but if she doesn't have the time (the second half of April is going to be really busy for her, and she wouldn't be able to do the tape until more or less the week we left) and so has to refuse, then that's fine. I certainly don't expect her to credit me with three make-up lessons; there is no way for her to find a student to fill a three-week hole in her schedule during our absence. Instead, I hope that she will enjoy the extra hour of rest during those three weeks, and that we will all feel renewed enthusiasm when we return to lessons at the end of the trip.

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Note: SuzukiMusic policy is that lessons missed by the student are not made up. Any lessons cancelled by the teacher will be made up at a time mutually convenient to parent and teacher.

### ***11.4.5 Taking Notes at Lessons: Practical Tips for Parents by Heidi Ehie***

Continuity is a crucial part of learning an instrument, and the link that provides continuity between lessons and practice is your precious notes! Having been a Suzuki parent, I know that in a busy day sometimes you sink into the chair at the lesson and think, "Ah, 30 minutes of down time." Then you find yourself daydreaming, and before you know it the lesson is over. You glance down at your notebook, and see "Review Allegro" ... hmmm, not much to work with. You hear your teacher compliment your child on the lesson, but you are not exactly sure what went on.

At this point you may ask your teacher, "What shall we practice this week?" This will probably get a somewhat annoyed response as the teacher thinks, "OK, do I have to re-run the entire lesson at fast forward?" although she's glad you at least asked. Or you don't ask and figure you'll just get through practice somehow.

#### **Helpful Hints**

While you may need some clarification at the end of the lesson, the teacher expects you to pick out major points for practice during the lesson. Here are some tips:

1. Look for a theme, especially with very young children. There is what Suzuki teachers call the "one point lesson." If you hear the same aspect mentioned again and again, circle it at the top of your notes (i.e., thumb position, clear high notes, where is your foot, D's correct).
2. In review songs, what is the teacher's focus? Sometimes it is just a fun warm-up, but more often there is a specific goal. Children do not like mind-numbing repetition. Find the teaching point in the review (i.e., beautiful E's, breathing, fingering D to C, air use on high notes, etc.).
3. Write down how to do things. "Last two measures of Minuet I" is not enough. How did the teacher break it up? Did you follow the process so it can be duplicated at home? (I.e., do this small group 5 times with no slurs, then add slurs, then speed up, then link to the next section through the A, be careful of the C#.)

4. In scales and exercises, try to notice how they are worked on (i.e., fruit salad, slur patterns, speed, position or tone aspects). Just writing "Do F Major scale" is usually not enough.
5. If you can't follow where we are in the music, make a copy of the piece as your own study copy. Whether you read music or not, you'll find this makes a huge difference.
6. Listen for cues. Your teacher is constantly aware of your presence—and how mentally present you are. Whenever you hear the word "practice," heads up! Also listen for colorful language: sail your tone out the skylight, staccatos like hammering little nails, BIG beach ball bouncing." Try to use these words again in the practice. Listen for location phrases: "in the last measure of that line, where it starts on B flat and goes up, where it says crescendo." These location tips are often for your benefit, as the teacher and student already know where they are working.
7. Observe and adore your child. Relish the chance to do this. Watch body language, facial expressions, how your child learns, what feelings flicker past. It's very interesting, and you may find something to talk about later, or you may just cherish the memory 10 years from now. However, keep your reactions, especially negative ones, to yourself during the lesson.
8. Need time to space out? O.K. There are times you can, like when the teacher goes off on a long technical workout and you already have the gist of what is being done. But listen for cue words to bring you back to attention.
9. Help your teacher: Put all materials recently used on the stand at the beginning of the lesson. Ask for clarification of practice tasks at end of lesson. Ask about review if your teacher did not mention it. Try not to do noisy things like rattle newspapers, tear checks, crinkle cellophane, etc. It's easy to forget that listening captures all sounds—and we are listening. Bring up general practice or schedule problems at the beginning of the lesson. Starting these important and timely conversations at the end of the lesson can wreak havoc with the teacher's attempt to stay on time. Keep the teacher informed about events that may affect the child in a significant way (moving, illness, divorce, school troubles, etc.). These things have an impact which the teacher observes, and wants to respond to appropriately. Lengthy explanations are not needed, but a word will enable the teacher to respond in a sensitive, effective way.

10. How can your teacher help you? We want your feedback ... let us know how to make your job easier!

## ***11.5 Thoughts About Home Practice***

### ***11.5.1 How To Help Your Child At The Home Practice by Lorraine Fink***

Practice regularly, every day - seven days a week - no matter how many other demands present themselves.

Play the artist's recording of the music being learned. Do this casually, several times a day, without concern for whether the children are listening attentively.

The age of your child will be a major factor in your approach to practice. If your child is a pre-schooler, keep the element of a game in high priority since learning takes place best when an activity is fun.

Let your child have some say about the schedule for daily practice. Make a chart showing the times that you have both agreed to and post it as a reminder.

Be enthusiastic yourself about practice time!

Find an interesting practice routine that will cover the tasks to be done. List the assignments for the week and decide in what order they will be practiced.

This can be done by using a prepared chart, by drawing lottery cards, or by some other system.

Precious moments between parent and child for making music and working together should not have to be shared with a younger sibling. Make special arrangements if necessary.

Know (ask your teacher) what is reasonable to expect. Children learn at different rates but excessive demands (or leniency) as a regular diet will create tensions and disinterest.

Actively involve your child in determining specifically what is to be learned and how to go about it. Do not tell him what the teacher said - ask him.

Learn how to work in very small steps - one note, two notes, a measure. Connect one small step to another and rejoice in the progress.

Motivate your student by making a chart that shows his progress. Be creative!

Tape your practice sessions. The child hears himself. You hear yourself. You are both sure to get some objective feedback.

Learning the notes, fingering and other technicalities is the beginning of study for a musical piece. Only through mastery will it contribute to the building of permanent skills.

Never begin work on a new piece unless your teacher has suggested or approved it.

Be generous with encouraging remarks, even though a good effort may not have produced successful results. Treat "praise" with caution, avoid verbalizing irritation and reward your child with your love and appreciation.

As you advance in the repertoire, spend more and more time reviewing and improving the pieces learned.

Once or twice a week, give a home concert for the parent who does not usually supervise the practice sessions. Include bowing and applause.

Sense when a practice session is over. It is more important to return to the instrument with joy and enthusiasm than to force a few extra minutes today.

### ***11.5.2 Notes for parents about the “Parent’s Daily Dozen” practice chart by Stephanie Judy***

The “Parent’s Daily Dozen” practice chart was developed in response to a discussion in 2001 on the Suzuki-Chat e-mail list about what teachers can do to help parents gain better skills at being a practice coach or “home teacher.” One parent—who was in considerable distress at that moment—said that she wished there was a practice chart for parents. Bingo! The idea was born. Vicky Barham of Ottawa and I volunteered to draft a parent’s practice chart, and this is the result. After being discussed and revised via Suzuki-Chat, it was tested at various Suzuki Institutes and in several teachers’ studios, with both teachers and parents reporting that it was useful.

I would like to ask you to use this chart for 8 weeks. During the “parent time” in group class, we’ll discuss how it’s working for you. The spaces under each item are for you to jot down any comments, questions, or reminders to yourself. There’s a streamlined version (without the extra spaces), that I’ll give you after you’ve used this one for two or three weeks.

#### **Some general notes about practicing**

**For most children younger than about 12, taking music lessons and learning to play an instrument is primarily the parent’s commitment.**

Some children are enthusiastic, some are not. No child is aware of the challenges ahead. Every child needs the parent’s consistent, loving support to meet those challenges day after day.

The first year is the hardest. You may encounter some rocky times—you may even regret that you got started! Hang in there! If things get really rugged, phone me or phone an experienced parent to get some ideas and encouragement. During the first year, we are not so much teaching the child how to play the violin as we are teaching the parent to understand how your child learns . . . not how children in general learn, but how your own child learns best.

In Suzuki violin practice, the relationship of the parent to the child is very much like the parent/child relationship in learning to cross a street. At first, the parent has total responsibility, and the child has none—the child simply goes along for the ride, in arms, in a stroller, or in a backpack. Gradually, however, the child begins assuming more and more “street-crossing” responsibility—first by holding the parent’s hand instead of being carried, and then by walking beside the parent without

holding hands. At some point, the child learns to look for cars and helps decide when it's safe to cross, and so forth. As the years go by, the parent very gradually relinquishes responsibility to the child.

Violin practice is the same way. **You will “carry” your child for a long time**—maybe weeks, maybe months, maybe years. You will see to it that the practice happens and you will ensure that the environment is positive, (although you can certainly enlist your child's help). If you and I do our jobs well, then, little by little, your child will take over responsibility. By the time your child is 12 or 13, he or she will likely be practicing independently, and—I can promise you this—you will look back and feel that it was worth the effort.

### **Some specific notes about the “Parent’s Daily Dozen”**

1. Please let your child hear the Suzuki book level recording a minimum of three times each day (about an hour in total). *Daily listening is the single factor that is most strongly correlated to a student's success in a Suzuki program.*
2. Make practicing a routine event that happens at the same time every day. Pick a time when your child is reasonably alert but also calm. In most families, it's best to set a practice time *as early as possible in the day* so that if it doesn't happen, you still have time left in the day to do it. It's also a good idea to tie practicing to another inevitable daily event—“After lunch, we practice.” *The hardest part of practicing is getting the violin out of the case and making it ready to play.* Find a special corner of your house where you can keep the things you need—violin, Suzuki book, your notebook, music stand, music dictionary, electronic tuner, metronome, whatever “gear” you use. You will be spending a lot of time in this space, so make it inviting and special: add a vase of flowers or put up some photos of composers and violinists--including your child!
3. Before the practice starts—earlier in the day, if you can—jot some notes about what you plan to accomplish. If it helps you to use a practice task chart (for your child), by all means do so.
4. Children often dislike changing from one activity to another. A bit of warning helps smooth the way: “In 10 minutes, it will be time to practice. Find a stopping place in your book/game/puzzle.”
5. If you aren't in the habit of bowing to begin and end your practices, it may feel awkward or unnatural the first few times. That's OK. Just do it anyway. If you have any questions about why Suzuki students bow to their teacher and their parent, please ask me.

6. A parent's attention is a precious commodity for a child. Practicing together gives you an opportunity to offer undivided attention to your child every day. Your child will take cues from you about the value of practicing. If you give it only a quarter of your attention, your child is not likely to develop much commitment to it, either. (Use common sense, of course. You're not expected to ignore the urgent needs of a younger sibling or let a pot boil over!)
7. The key word here is effort. You are acknowledging effort—not achievement. (Achievement will come through effort, and never without it). You can show appreciation non-verbally by smiling, nodding, giving a “thumbs up,” applauding, tapping your foot or swaying in time to your child's music, or closing your eyes and listening intently.
8. **This is the real key to productive, contented practices.** Your child is working hard and, at times, really struggling. He or she will get discouraged and frustrated from time to time. Your child has a limited understanding of the process; you are the adult, and are able to take a longer view. A “one-point practice” means that you focus on *one thing at a time*. Avoid, for example, saying, “That was pretty good but your wrist was bent and the C# was too low and your pinky was straight on the bow and you're supposed to use stopped bows and you forgot to play the repeat.” OVERLOAD! Instead, pick the *one* thing that will make the most difference in the child's playing. This may well be something that was emphasized in the lesson. If you're not sure what to focus on, start at the top of this list and work down: (1) balanced playing position, (2) beautiful tone, (3) perfect intonation.
9. Many children get frustrated when they feel that they don't have any control over the situation. Give your child every choice that you reasonably can. She doesn't get to choose whether or not to practice, and whether or not to play F# in tune, but she can choose which review piece she wants to play first, and whether she'd like to do scales at the beginning or end of the practice.
10. Any time you are focussing on tone—on the beauty of the sound—you are practicing tonalization. I will usually assign a specific practice for tonalization.
11. Book 1 students review every piece every day. I'll give review lists to students in Book 2 and up.
12. As often as possible, end the practice when the child is happy and enthusiastic, or end it with something the child especially likes to do.
13. The last two items on the chart are for you and your child to summarize the day's practice. You can use this space in any way you

like. You might want to rate the practice on a scale from 1 to 10, or give 1 to 5 stars (like a movie review). The space for your child's comment is extra big, so that your child can draw a happy face, put on a sticker, or write a few words—whatever seems appropriate.

HOME PRACTICE ~ A PARENT'S DAILY DOZEN- **Photocopy and use**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ For the week of \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Listening*—I played the recording today. (How many times?—show a tally or a number.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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2. *Setting a practice time*—We agreed in advance on a time for today's practice (). We practiced at the scheduled time (S) or at some other time (O).

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3. *Preparing*—I prepared for today's practice by . . .
- gathering the equipment and materials we need,
  - consulting the notes I made at the last lesson, and
  - making a list, plan, or practice chart.

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4. *Initiating the practice*—I gave my child some warning before calling him/her to practice.

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5. *"Bracketing" the practice*—We began and ended our practice with a bow.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. *Giving practice a high priority*—I gave our practice time a high priority. I gave my child my full attention, and did not answer the phone or do other tasks during practice time.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. *Offering encouragement*—I expressed sincere appreciation for my child's efforts, both verbally and non-verbally.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. *Creating a positive environment*—I created a positive environment today by . . .

- focussing on what my child *can* do,
- pointing out the things that my child does well,
- having a “one-point practice,” and
- staying calm, and responding constructively to any frustration or resistance.

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**List some of the specific things that your child did well this week:**

9. *Giving choices*—My child made some choices about how and what to practice today.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

10. *Tonalization*—Our practice included tonalization.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

11. *Review*—Our practice included review (/ = partial review, = complete review).

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

12. *Ending the practice*—We ended the practice on a positive note.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**PARENT’S SUMMARY: What was today’s practice like?**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**STUDENT’S SUMMARY: How did your practice partner do today?**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**How did you do today?**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>HOME PRACTICE ~ A PARENT'S DAILY DOZEN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
1. <i>Listening</i> : I played the recording ___ times today.							
2. <i>Setting a time</i> : We agreed in advance on a time for today's practice.							
3. <i>Preparing</i> : I prepared for today's practice.							
4. <i>Initiating the practice</i> : I gave my child warning before practice time.							
5. <i>"Bracketing" the practice</i> : We began/ended our practice with a bow.							
6. <i>Parent's priority</i> : I gave our practice time a high priority.							
7. <i>Encouragement</i> : I expressed sincere appreciation for my child's efforts.							
8. <i>Positive environment</i> : I created a positive environment for practicing.							
9. <i>Giving choices</i> : My child made choices about how/what to practice.							
10. <i>Tonalization</i> : Our practice included tonalization.							
11. <i>Review</i> : Our practice included review (/ = partial, = complete).							
12. <i>Ending the practice</i> : We ended the practice on a positive note.							
<b>PARENT'S SUMMARY: What was today's practice like?</b>							
<b>STUDENT'S SUMMARY: How did your practice partner do today?</b>							
<b>STUDENT'S SUMMARY: How did you do today?</b>							

### ***11.5.3 Positive Discipline Options by Pam Kemp***

Discipline, related to the word “disciple,” implies learning from a master teacher.

Like it or not, we parents are our children’s primary master teachers. Expanding our repertoire of teaching techniques will enable us to tailor our choices to our child’s age, temperament, learning history and to our own values. Perhaps some of these options will work for you in your family.

1. **Ignore the problem behavior** if it is not dangerous. Paying attention simply reinforces it so that it is more likely to happen in the future.
2. **Redirect the child’s attention** to another activity.
3. **Restructure the environment** so as to remove or cut down on temptations for misbehavior. This is commonly called “child-proofing the environment” and is especially appropriate for use with young children.
4. **Pay attention to the positives.** Try to reward constructive behavior while ignoring troublesome behavior.
5. **Reexamine your expectations.** Is it possible that the child’s behavior is age appropriate after all? Sometimes behaviors which frustrate parents—such as crying or wanting to “do it myself”—are a normal part of the learning process at a particular stage of development.
6. **Use a time-out procedure.** Calmly remove the out-of-control child to a boring but safe location. Briefly tell the child why the offending behavior

is not acceptable and that he must sit, doing nothing, in the time-out location until you say he may leave. One minute for each year of a child's age is a frequently-recommended guideline in deciding how long to leave a child in time-out. Any yelling, arguing or tantruming results in the timer being restarted. At the conclusion of time-out, let the matter drop-no nagging, lecturing, or recrimination. Expect to be tested at first. Remaining firm and calm is essential.

7. **Examine your own behavior.** Is it possible that the child is responding to your own unclear expectations, confusing communication, threatening attitude or inconsistency? If so, a change of parental behavior is probably the quickest route to a change in the child's behavior.
8. **Less is more.** When children become disruptive, it's tempting for the parent or caregiver to respond in kind-with loud voice, aggressive language and non-verbal signs of physical tension. Unfortunately, this often makes matters worse. Instead, find your calm center, establish eye contact, and lower your voice. Calm has a wonderful way of breeding calm.
9. **Touch.** There are many kinds of touch that can help children restore order to their lives-a gentle hand on the shoulder, a stroke of the hair, a back rub. In our low-touch, fearful society, gentle touch carries within it a largely-overlooked power.
10. **Name the unacceptable behavior.** Although this seems obvious, sometimes parents simply assume that the child knows what she did

wrong or that an admonition like “be nice” will provide enough direction. Don’t assume. Instead, specifically state what is wrong and why. For example, a parent might say, “I will not allow you to stab your brother with your bow. That hurts.”

11. **Examine the environment for unacceptable behavior models** the child may be imitating. Did he hear that kind of foul language from Dad, from TV, from a friend? Does Mom pout and slam doors when she gets mad, too? With embarrassing accuracy, our children have a knack for emulating our most negative behaviors. Perhaps the child’s models will need to change so the child may change more easily.
12. **Permit logical consequences.** Forgetting a homework assignment logically leads to a poor grade on that assignment. Spending the allowance right away logically leads to not having money to buy something she wants later in the week. Don’t rescue the child. Let her learn from the consequences, with no “I-told-you-so’s.”
13. **Reward positive behavior with a tangible reinforcer**, like a sticker or a favorite snack. We adults work for reinforcers (money) and children will too.
14. **Give a choice**, but be sure both alternatives are acceptable to you. “You may practice now or wait until after dinner. Which do you prefer? Not practicing is not an option.
15. **Invite the child to help figure out how to deal with the negative behavior.** Sometimes children, especially older ones, have surprisingly wise suggestions. Explain the problem and “Katie, for the last two or

- three weeks you've been putting off doing your homework and then wanting to stay up past your bedtime to finish it. Now you're starting to complain of being tired all the time. How would you suggest dealing with this problem of procrastinating on home-work?"
16. **Hold a family meeting** if other members are involved in or affected by the problem. Brainstorm solutions and, in consultation with the child, pick an approach that sounds helpful.
  17. **Remove a privilege** as a consequence to the behavior. Try to pick a privilege that is meaningful to the child and has some logical connection to the behavior. "If you do not get your home-work done by 10:00 P.M., you will not be permitted to watch TV the following night because you haven't used your time wisely."
  18. **Tell the child directly what you observe**, think, feel, and want, using "I" statements. "When I see you abuse your instrument like that, I feel angry and worried about what damage you might do. I think you're old enough to find a better way of expressing your frustration. What ideas do you have?"
  19. **Use gentle—not berating—humor** to put the situation in a new perspective for the child and yourself. Well-timed humor can turn a raging bull of a child into a laughing hyena faster than ten minutes of reasoning together.
  20. **Develop a nonverbal warning system** for repetitive bad habits that the child may do without being aware of them. For example, when Mom tugs her earlobe (like Carol Burnett used to do), that might mean,

“Oops! You’re biting your nails again.” Scratching the head with two fingers crossed might mean, “Did you know that you’re chewing with your mouth open?” Children who hate nagging will often accept nonverbal re-minders as a replacement.

**21. Keep a behavior count of the problem behavior and let the child establish a goal** of how much to decrease that behavior that week.

Decide together on a treat, such as a special activity together, if the goal is met.

**22. Help the child substitute an acceptable behavior** for an unacceptable behavior. This strategy is built on the principle that it’s unwise to take a behavior away without providing a substitute.

**23. Try to establish some physical links** to emotional states and specific behaviors. For example, preschoolers can be taught that a certain piece of music means it’s time to get quiet and calm. The lullaby and bedtime story routine means it’s time to rest. Ringing a bell might mean it’s time to come practice.

**24. As a family, establish a list of rules and consequences.** Don’t make too many, and be sure to renegotiate them as the children get older. Making rules and consequences together helps children feel a sense of ownership and assures parents that children truly do know the rules and consequences since they helped make them.

**25. Look for causes and deal with them.** For example, if a child has a tantrum when asked to practice, look at the context. Has his play been

interrupted with no opportunity for a transition? If so, the tantrum might be prevented next time by giving the child a five minute warning.

As our children's "master teachers," we must teach with consistency, wisdom and love from our expanded discipline repertoire.

## ***11.6 Caring for your Instrument***

### ***11.6.1 The Care of Stringed Instruments by John Pohran***

Some suggestions to make sure that your instruments last:

1. Avoid exposing instruments to extreme changes of temperature. Failure to do this could result in cracks, seams opening, collapse of fingerboard/neck, etc. Don't forget that violinmaker's glue will soften at high temperatures. Long periods of time in car trunks are dangerous both in the summer and winter for any string instruments.
2. Always watch that your bridge remains perpendicular to the top of the instrument. Normal tension will eventually "pull" the bridge towards the fingerboard. A knowledgeable teacher or repairman can fix this very easily. If your bridge is leaning dangerously to one side or another have it looked at...fast!
3. Never undo all of the strings at the same time. This could result in the soundpost (inside the instrument) falling over and needing professional re-setting. Under no circumstances ever attempt to tune an instrument when the sound post is missing - the bridge could push through the top of the instrument!
4. After you have finished playing, remove all rosin dust from your instrument. Not only will it eventually damage the varnish but it could also need special solvents to remove. Besides, a clean instrument always looks better.
- 5 Check your instrument for cracks occasionally. Seams do open from time to time. This is a way of relieving tension due to wood expansion. A qualified repairman can fix this easily - usually for a small charge.
6. If you clean your instrument, be sure to use only a high quality cleaning preparation that your teacher recommends. NEVER use any kind of furniture polish - this will permanently ruin your instrument.
7. When you put your bow away check to make sure that it isn't touching or rubbing the body of the instrument. If the case doesn't close easily check to see what might be getting in the way. Try reversing your bow in the case once in a while. Some case lids exert a pressure on the bow stick and may cause it to bend either to the left or right. Also when you store your instrument make sure that the case is right side up (bridge facing upwards).

8. If you are taking your instrument away for any long period of time be sure to have an extra set of strings in your case. Most strings that break tend to break when you least expect it.
9. Any repair work that has to be done should only be done by someone qualified to do such work. Your teacher can direct you in this area.
10. You own a wonderful instrument. Take care of it. Use common sense and it will last you for many, many years and give you hours of enjoyment!

### ***11.6.2 Caring for Your Flute***

To keep your flute in top condition, clean it after each time you play with a poly-cotton cloth and cleaning rod. Thread the cloth through the loop in the rod. Swab the inside of the instrument foot joint, body, and then head joint. Be sure to cover the entire rod so that it does not scratch the inside of your flute. You can alternatively use a flute swab (a cloth attached to a string with a weight on the end) that can be passed easily through the instrument.

Never give your flute a bath, put your flute in the dishwasher, or clean your flute with water! This will soak the pads under the keys and cork inside the head joint and call for immediate replacement. To remove fingerprints, or grime, use rubbing alcohol on a soft cloth. The alcohol will evaporate quickly enough to keep from damaging the pads.

Flutes should be have a 'clean, oil, and adjust' every two years to keep them in great shape. This can be done at their place of purchase, or by a flute repair specialist.

### ***11.6.3 Online & Ottawa Flute Resources***

[www.ottawafluterepair.com](http://www.ottawafluterepair.com) - Ottawa Flute Repair was founded by Diana Lam to fill the need for a flute technician in the Ottawa area. She apprenticed in flute repair in 2011 with Tom Cross, and gained her Straubinger certification in March 2012.

[www.fluteworld.com](http://www.fluteworld.com) – American store with reliable mail order service. Instruments, music scores, recordings, and accessories.

[www.ottawaflute.com](http://www.ottawaflute.com) – Ottawa Flute Association website. Information on concerts, workshops, teachers and classifieds page with instruments

for sale. Always consult your teacher BEFORE purchasing an instrument.

[www.larrykrantz.com](http://www.larrykrantz.com) - A wealth of information on flutes and flute playing. Also a flute listserve with discussions involving many prominent teachers and recording artists.

St. John's Music – Area dealer for Yamaha flutes.

Long & McQuade – Area dealer for Jupiter Prodigy flutes.

Leading Note – Fantastic local store owned and operated by a flute player! Great selection of scores. Special order service available.

Strings & Things – Suzuki flute materials, and supplementary materials for private lessons. Lots of accessories (metronomes, stands, etc.) with the best prices in the city. Available at Canterbury on group class Saturdays.

## 12 Additional Resources

### Books

Dorothy Briggs, **Your Child's Self-Esteem**. Doubleday & Co. Inc.

David Elkind, **The Hurried Child**, Addison Wesley

Masaru Ibuka, **Kindergarten is Too Late**.

Edward Kreitman, **Teaching from the Balance Point**, Western Springs School of Talent Education

Ray Landers, **The Talent Education School of Shinichi Suzuki** - An Analysis. Daniel Press

Kay Slone, **They're rarely Too Young... and Never Too Old "To Twinkle,"** Life Force Press

Ed Sprunger, **Helping Parents Practice: Ideas for Making it Easier**. Yes Publishing

William and Contance Starr, **To Learn with Love**, Summy-Birchard

Shinichi Suzuki, **Ability from Age Zero**. Senzay

Shinichi Suzuki, **Nurtured by Love**. Senzay

Shinichi Suzuki, **Where Love is Deep**. World-Wide Press

Craig Timmerman, **Journey Down the Kriesler Highway**. Ivory Palaces Publications

Linda Wickes, **The Genius of Simplicity**. Summy-Birchard Music

Charlene Wilson, **Teaching Suzuki Cello**, Diablo Press

Phillis Young, **Playing the String Game**, University of Texas, Austin, Press

### Magazines

**American Suzuki Journal**. Suzuki Association of the Americas, Inc., P.O. Box 17130, Boulder, Co., USA 80308, tel. 303-444-0948

### Videos

Nurtured by Love - The Life and Work of Shinichi Suzuki. NBL Videos, 67 Alpha Drive, Cleveland, OH 44143

### CD's

#### General Interest

**Like Ducks**, Performers Christina Smith & Jean Hewson, Label Borealis recording Co, 1998, Subject: Newfoundland Fiddling (cello, violin & guitar)

**Les Cordes** (& booklet), Label Aditions Gallimard Jeunesse, 1996  
Subject: Story and music featuring instruments of the orchestra

**Classics for Children, Performers Boston Pops with Arthur Fiedler, Label BMG Classics, 1995, Subject: Orchestral music**

**Le Nozze di Figaro**, Subject: Opera    Many recordings available

**Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery**

**Beethoven Lives Upstairs**

**Mr. Bach Comes to Call**

**Tschaikowsky Discovers America**

**Mozart's Magic Fantasy**

Label Classical Kids, Subject: Each CD highlights the music of one composer with interesting story lines. Ages 5-11

**Leahy**, Label Leahy Family - LFC 464, Subject: Canadian Toe Tapping Fiddle Tunes

**Bending the Bows**, Performers Eduard Minevich & Frank Leahy  
Subject: More great fiddle music including the Bach Violin Concerto for two violins played in various styles: country, jazz and swing.

**Hush**, Performers Yo Yo Ma & Bobby McFerrin, Label: Sony Masterworks ST 48177

Subject: Short popular classical music pieces. For cello and voice presented in contemporary style.

**The Brandenburg Concertos** - JS Bach, Label: CBC SMCD 5028-2

Subject: Concertos for small chamber orchestra

**The Magic Flute** (Highlights), Performers Cast, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/K. Böhm

Label: DGG 429-825-2, Subject: Opera

**Four Last Songs** - R. Strauss, Performer Elisabeth Schwartzkopf, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra/George Szell, Label: EMI CDC 472762

### **Violin**

**The Four Seasons** – Vivaldi, Performers The Drottningholm Baroque Ensemble  
Label: BIS CD 275

**Bits & Pieces**, Performer Itzhak Perlman  
Label: EMI Classics 17777 5488 2 27, Content Contains La Folia & Fiocco Allegro etc.

**Perlman and Zuckerman playing the Bach Double Violin Concerto, Bach A Minor Concerto and E Major Concerto**, Label: EMI Classics CDC 7 46 856 2

Jascha Heifetz performing the **Bruch G Minor Violin Concerto** and Scottish Fantasy  
Label: RCA 6214 - 2 - RC

**Serenade For Strings Op 22** - A. Dvorak, Performer Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Label: Philips 400 020-2

**Piano Quartet in A, "The Trout"** - F. Schubert, Performer Andras Schiff/Members of the Hagen Quartet, Label London 411 975-2

Any of the **Kreisler Collections**

### **Viola**

**London Viola Sound**, Label: Cala Records LTD 1995, Subject: 48 Violists of major symphony orchestras play collection of viola pieces

**Music for Viola and Harp**, Label: Marquis Classics 1994

**Chaconne Music for Viola and Orchestra**, Label: CBC Enterprises 1989

### **Cello**

**Works for Cello and Orchestra**, Label: Vox 1991

**Jacqueline du Pré/Lasting Inspiration**, Label: EMI 1996

**Jacqueline du Pré/Her Early BBC Recordings** Vols. 1&2, Label: EMI  
1989

**Suites for Violincello Solo** - JS Bach, by Anner Bylsma, Label: Sony  
Music 1992

**Concerto for Cello Vol. 1** - Luigi Boccherini, Label: EBF Recording

**Internet Email lists**

(they are free, but you must "Subscribe")

**Suzuki Chat email list** - for teachers, parents and students.

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/suzukichat/>

An e-mail based discussion board where you can seek support from a worldwide Suzuki community.

**Web Sites:**

SuzukiMusic Web Resources List of Suzuki web sites

[suzukimusic.ca](http://suzukimusic.ca)

The Suzuki Association of Ontario: [www.suzukiontario.org](http://www.suzukiontario.org)

The Suzuki Association of the Americas: [www.suzukassociation.org](http://www.suzukassociation.org)

The International Suzuki Association: [www.internationalsuzuki.org](http://www.internationalsuzuki.org)

## 13 Music and Instrument Retailers

**Always ask your teacher to approve instruments before you make your purchase.** You can generally borrow two or three instruments to try out. Bring them with you to the lesson and have your teacher help you make the final selection. We recommend you consult your teacher before visiting any of the dealers on this list.

(In alphabetical order)

### **Fine Strings**

Olivia Pelling, Luthier

2116 Fillmore Cr., Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 325-0752

[www.finestrings.ca](http://www.finestrings.ca)

Email: [olivia@finestrings.ca](mailto:olivia@finestrings.ca)

*Quality making and repair of violin family instruments.*

### **Guy Harrison**

792 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 569-4803

[www.guyharrison.com](http://www.guyharrison.com)

Email [guy@guyharrison.com](mailto:guy@guyharrison.com)

*String instrument sales and repairs. One of Canada's most respected violin makers.*

### **Long & McQuade**

2631 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 521-5909

Email [ottawa@long-mcquade.com](mailto:ottawa@long-mcquade.com)

*Flute rentals and purchases, cello stools, electronic equipment, etc., dealer for Jupiter flutes, not recommended for flute repair.*

### **Lorius Violin Studio**

26 Pondsides Private, Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 842-4974

*String instrument and bow rehairs, sale of full-size instruments only.*

### **Peter Mach**

309 Eardley Road, Gatineau, QC

T. (819) 684-3886

[www.machonerest.com](http://www.machonerest.com)

Email [pmach@cyberus.ca](mailto:pmach@cyberus.ca)

*Cello and violin maker and restorer, Mach One shoulder rests.*

**The Sound Post**

1-319 Catherine St., Ottawa, ON

T. 1 (613) 422-4415, F. (613) 421-1151

[www.thesoundpost.com](http://www.thesoundpost.com)

Email [ottawa@thesoundpost.com](mailto:ottawa@thesoundpost.com)

*String instruments and accessories, Suzuki music supplies, sheet music, reading material for parents.*

**St John's Music**

1771 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 722-1021

*Flute rental and purchase, flute repair, \*dealer for Yamaha flutes.*

**Strings and Things**

Louise Aubrey

T. (613) 231-3466

[www.stringsandthings.ca](http://www.stringsandthings.ca)

Email: [louise.stringsandthings@gmail.com](mailto:louise.stringsandthings@gmail.com)

*\*Present at Canterbury on group class Saturday. Musical accessories and books.*

**The Leading Note**

370 Elgin Street, Suite #2, Ottawa, ON

T. (613) 569-7888, T. 1 (866) 569-7888, F. (613) 569-8555

[www.leadingnote.com](http://www.leadingnote.com)

Email [leadingnote@on.aibn.com](mailto:leadingnote@on.aibn.com)

*Suzuki music supplies and sheet music.*

**Wilder and Davis**

257 Rachel Street East, Montreal, QC

T. 1 (888) 419-9453 F. (514) 289-9894

[www.wilderdavis.com](http://www.wilderdavis.com)

Email [info@wilderdavis.com](mailto:info@wilderdavis.com)

*Instruments.*

Our SuzukiMusic website also lists [used instruments](#) for sale.