

# Parent Manual

## The beginning

The journey started with Amelia listening to her 5 year old friend playing twinkle twinkle little star. She learnt Suzuki violin and attended every workshop, camp, competition she could. Her teaching studio started at the age of 15 and she hasn't stopped throughout her university years.

## Qualifications

Artist diploma (Performance – Violin) at The University of Michigan (USA)

Masters in music – Louisiana State University (USA)

Bachelor's in music with Honors – Waikato University (NZ)

ABRSM Music Theory Grades 6 & 7

ABRSM Music Performance Violin Diploma

Suzuki Violin Teacher Training 1 through 8 (NZ, USA)

## What I aim to achieve

A studio of students to explore and create music, develop work ethic. My studio is not a place to produce prodigies.

## Introduction

### Some history of the Suzuki method

- Dr Shinichi Suzuki was born in Nagoya, Japan on the 17th Oct 1898 and died 27 January 1998 at Matsumoto at the age of 99 years.
- The Suzuki method is based on the concept that by listening and imitation children can learn to speak any language - and play music too, without having to read music first - from the age of three. Originally conceived for the violin, the method of instruction has been expanded to include other instruments.
- Through the pioneering work of Professor John Kendall and others, the Suzuki Method spread to the United States in the 1960's and Teacher Training Centers were established at a variety of Universities. This has been replicated throughout the world and Suzuki students have achieved in every form of musical endeavor and are present in all major orchestras.
- Suzuki founded the talent education institute in Matsumoto in 1945

### The Suzuki Philosophy

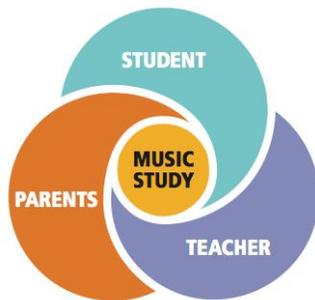
The philosophy is summed up in a few quotes by Dr. Suzuki

- "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"
- "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 beautiful heart."
- Every Child can
  - Suzuki believes that talent is learned, not inborn
  - There are no failures; every child can be educated
  - Environment, not genetics, is the key.
- Suzuki values
  - Create a positive environment

- Parent participation
- Early beginning
- Step by step learning
- Common, set repertoire
- Ear before Eye
- Daily listening to Suzuki repertoire
- Repetition
- Review
- Group and Private lessons

### **What is the Suzuki Triangle**

The Triangle is made up of three people: The teacher, Student and parent. The triangle fosters openness in communication with every person.



#### Teacher

The teacher introduces new techniques, correcting and improving the students overall playing and spot checking previews of new pieces. The teacher provides assignments, and home practice advice for the student and parent.

#### Parent

No musical experience is needed to practice with your child. The parent goes through what the teacher has assigned, sets daily practice. The parent works together with the child in the practice points and will help correct mistakes and help the child to understand the assignment. The parent is responsible for arriving to the lesson on time, bring everything and take detailed notes.

#### Student

As the student progresses and develops in reading and understanding assignments the role changes, especially in the teenage years. However the parent never stops encouragement at home, checking and listening in on practice. Things to remember are that no child is alike, every child can do it at different stages and Miracles come in all shapes and sizes.

## Pre-Twinkle

Before twinkles - There are a number of skills to develop before introducing the instrument. Your child will acquire skills in posture, rhythm, listening, body awareness, instrument care and fine motor skills. Then they will learn a few tunes in preparation for twinkles

How long does learning twinkles take? - Children progress through the steps above at different rates. In general older children spend less time progressing through the steps and the younger children progress slower while still enjoying the lessons and weeks that go by.

## What my Studio offers

### Private lessons

- Lessons are offered in Violin only
- Lessons are available from ages 2yrs-19yrs. Adults are welcome
- Lesson length depends on the student and student level. They are organized between parent and teacher.
- Lessons are scheduled throughout the week depending on teacher and family availability

### Group lessons

- Group lessons are 45mins and have a set schedule (Monday's at 5pm)
- The focus of all group classes is review of the Suzuki repertoire at the appropriate level.
- \*It is not possible to only take group lessons without taking private lessons and group lessons are compulsory because they aid private lessons.\*

### Concerts

My studio will have two annual concerts per year. One at the end of each semester. These concerts are compulsory

## Concert Etiquette

### Recital concert dress

- Boys: dress pants and collared shirt, dark socks, dress shoes
- Girls: dress or skirt knee length or longer, blouse, dark stockings or socks, dress shoes.
- Clothes not allowed: sport shoes, casual shoes/sandals, t-shirts or dresses or skirts above the knee.

### Concert attendance

- Please arrive 15 mins early
- Remember to bring your instrument and any other material instructed by your teacher
- All performers are expected to stay for the duration of the concert.
- All performers will sit with the performers group not with their parents. The teacher in charge of the concert will look after the performers

### Children 2 and under

- Parents must attend and watch their children performing, please make arrangements for your other children under 2yrs.
- Any child that becomes a disturbance during a performance will be asked to leave.

### Pictures and video recordings

- Photos can be taken before and after a performance
- Video cameras and equipment should be set at the back and not obstruct anyone's view.

## Process to Enrolling

### **Trial lesson and Parent class and observations**

Before you enroll in Suzuki violin lessons you will take

- 1 15min trial lesson
- I encourage you to observe group lessons (Where they will observe other students studying the same instrument in a fun and learning environment) and student lessons.

### **Materials and instrument**

What you need for the first lesson

- Notebook and pen
- Suzuki violin book 1 + CD
- Foot chart (Can be purchased from your teacher)
- Instrument hire

You can hire your instrument from Shar

### **Required classes**

Each student will be enrolled in private lessons as well as group class

## **My Tips**

### **How to take notes for private and group lessons**

Take detailed notes. Make sure you clearly understand the assignment and the expectation. Ask questions during the lessons if you do not understand

Take photos or videos when helpful

### **My top 10 tips for practice at home**

1. Take careful notes so you understand what to achieve by the next lesson
2. Remember you are the teacher at home. Stay motivated and structured in your practices. And remember to.
3. Use the Suzuki CD for reference in your practice
4. The parent who attends the lessons should be the practice parent
5. The time and place of practice should stay consistent
6. Review, previews, exercises, scales should fill up about 80% of your practice session
7. Its OK to take short regular practices in the early stages
8. Repetition is key. Students need to retain what they have learned at a high level
9. It is your responsibility to keep the practice session enjoyable, it will help motivate you and your child and give you a positive attitude towards practicing.
10. Plan your practice sessions and follow the framework of the lessons.