

The Suzuki Method: 10 Basic Points



1. Early Start

Education begins at birth and lessons can start as early as age 3, but it is never too late to begin.

2. Every Child Can Learn

Dr. Suzuki believes that every child can be educated. He believes that tests for so called “musical talent” are a waste of time because every child has the potential to achieve at a high level. The most important factor is a commitment to devote time every day to home practice and to listen to the recordings.

3. Parent Involvement

One parent learns the basic skills on the child’s instrument as well as techniques for home practice. Enthusiasm and patience are more important than musical experience.

4. Daily Listening

Children listen for several hours each day to recordings of the pieces they are studying, as well as performances by concert artists, to develop memory and musical sensitivity. They learn the music naturally while doing other things.

5. Repetition For Mastery

Students review their old pieces with the accompaniment CD daily to improve their technique as well as sensitivity to phrasing and musical feeling.

6. Developing Basic Skills

Each child works at his/her own rate. The initial rate of progress has little to do with the final level of achievement. Many fine students have started very slowly. Students learn how to learn by using a patient and systematic approach to master new skills.

7. Positive Approach

Enjoyment is a basic part of the learning process, not something added later. The teacher demonstrates constructive ways to praise the child’s success as well as supportive and creative ways to work for further improvement.

8. Individual and Group Lessons Each Week

In addition to the individual lesson, children learn ensemble skills while gaining confidence and enthusiasm through games, solos, and group practice at the weekly group lesson.

9. Music Reading

Children learn to speak before they learn to read. Students learn to play with good tone, posture, and musical technique before learning the musical symbols for the sounds that they can produce. The Kodály music class teaches the basic skills of singing, ear training, and music theory through songs and games. This prepares students for music reading class and string ensemble.

10. Accompaniment CD

After careful study of the teaching points of each piece, students practice with the accompaniment CD to improve rhythmic skills, timing, and musical expression. Ensemble students learn their parts much more quickly by working with the special ensemble practice CD of their own part.