

# What is Suzuki?



An introduction to  
**NEC's Suzuki Program**

## What is Suzuki?

**Shinichi Suzuki** believed that “any child who is properly trained can develop musical ability just as all children develop the ability to speak their mother tongue.” This approach to learning is based upon a close relationship between the child, parent, and teacher.

In the Suzuki method, the parent is present at all classes and lessons and learns how to become the daily home teacher. The principles of the Suzuki method include daily listening, development of concentration and memory skills, learning to work with other students, parents, and teachers in group activities, and continual repetition, mastery, and refinement of techniques. The Suzuki approach allows students to build on successes and sustains a positive environment for growth musically as well as socially.



# Principles of the Suzuki Method:

**Every Child Can:** Every child can be educated. Every child can learn. The Suzuki method provides a nurturing learning environment for each child.

**Begin early:** Like learning a language, learning begins at birth. The early years are crucial for developing mental processes and muscle coordination. Formal training may begin at age four or five, but it's never too late to begin.

**Mother-tongue approach:** Suzuki applies the basic principles of language acquisition to the learning of music. Children learn to speak a language after hearing it spoken repeatedly. Children learn music the same way by listening to music daily.

**Positive Environment:** Each child learns at his/her own pace, appreciates each step, acknowledges effort, and is nurtured with honest and specific feedback.

**Suzuki Triangle:** The student, parent, and teacher work together. The "practice parent" serves as the teacher at home.

**Small Steps & Repetition:** Pieces in the Suzuki repertoire are designed with a logical progression to build skills through appropriate and achievable steps. Suzuki students learn how to practice well and build skills through constant repetition. As Shinichi Suzuki says, "Ability equals knowledge plus 10,000 times."

**Learning with other Children:** In addition to private lessons, children participate in regular group ensemble classes and frequent performances where they learn and are motivated by each other.

**Note Reading:** Like learning a language, students in the Suzuki method learn first by ear and then learn to read music. We work on beginning note-reading steps during the first year in the NEC program, and students have their first note-reading books in the Book 1 level class.

# How can my child participate in NEC's Suzuki Program?

**Weekly Suzuki private lesson:** Private lessons of 30, 45, or 60 minutes complement the 28 Saturday group classes per school year (September-May).

## **Participate in Suzuki Group Ensemble**

Classes through Book 4 in addition to weekly private lessons. Group class fall placements are for the entire school year.

**Group classes include:** 1-2 Parent Education classes per year (except the beginner classes which have 3 classes for parent education), 2 concerts at NEC per year (1 per semester), and additional community concerts (NEC Suzuki community concerts last year included performances at the WCRB Cartoon Festival and the Celtics!)

**Certified Suzuki teachers:** Students must be studying with a certified Suzuki teacher to participate in NEC Suzuki Group ensemble classes. Suzuki repertoire must be memorized and reviewed for classes. Students are also encouraged to participate in our Eurhythmics program.

**Any students interested** in NEC Suzuki group ensemble classes who are not taking private lessons with a NEC Suzuki teacher must meet with us for a placement audition. Please see our website for more information on how to sign up for a placement.



# What are my responsibilities as an NEC Suzuki parent?

**Attend and take notes** at both weekly private lessons and group ensemble classes.

**Set a regular practice time** each day, practice daily with your child, and model home practice after the weekly lesson.

**Create a positive** musical learning environment and become aware of how your child learns.

**Play Suzuki recordings daily**, listen to other classical music in addition to the Suzuki recordings, and attend concerts as often as possible.

**Read *Nurtured by Love*** by Shinichi Suzuki and *Helping Parents Practice* by Ed Sprunger plus other related books about practicing and skill development.





## How can I join NEC Prep Suzuki?

For more information and to sign up for a placement, visit: [necmusic.edu/prep/suzuki](https://necmusic.edu/prep/suzuki)

Please also visit our website using the link above to find out more about our NEC Prep Suzuki String Faculty and also to access additional information about class times and schedules!

If you have additional questions and wish to speak with a NEC Prep staff member, please contact us at [prep@necmusic.edu](mailto:prep@necmusic.edu) or 617-585-1160.

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