

SAA Teacher Development Program

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I. Philosophy of Suzuki Teacher Development

The Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) is committed to Dr. Suzuki's belief that every child can be educated and that high ability can be nurtured in every child. With this commitment in mind the SAA has designed a comprehensive Teacher Development Program to assist teachers in creating the best possible learning environment for their students, an environment that puts a priority on the development of fine character along with excellent ability and musicianship.

Teachers enter the Teacher Development Program with well-honed playing skills, thorough musical knowledge and a strong interest in teaching children. The Program's carefully organized curriculum is presented by experienced SAA-registered Teacher Trainers who guide the participants through the Suzuki Method® repertoire and pedagogy unit by unit.

Along with the pedagogical skills for working effectively with students of all levels and different learning styles, the Program provides opportunities for an ever-deepening understanding of the Suzuki Philosophy and an increasing awareness of the influence that Suzuki teachers have on their students' families as they fulfill their responsibilities as nurturing educators. Mutual respect among colleagues, a generous spirit of sharing and a belief in the value of Suzuki teaching as a profession are the indispensable underpinnings of all areas of Suzuki Teacher Development.

The SAA has formulated requirements to ensure high standards for teacher training, and to make possible the recognition of such training. As teachers grow with experience and take advantage of the many opportunities for life-long learning that are provided within the Suzuki community—conferences, retreats and workshops as well as unit training—their commitment is recognized through a central course registration system. Registration of courses is not regarded as certification: certification as such is not offered by SAA. However, teachers have the opportunity to participate in the SAA's Certificate of Achievement Program. Details about the Certificates of Achievement can be found on the SAA website at <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/guides/achievement/>

The course offerings regulated by the SAA fall into the following categories, each category having its own guidelines and requirements:

- Every Child Can!™ An Introduction to Suzuki Education (ECC)
- Core Units:
 - Instrument-specific courses based on a single book of Suzuki repertoire
 - SAA Practicum (instrument specific)
- Additional Units
 - Suzuki Principles in Action (SPA)
 - Supplementary courses
- Enrichment courses

These courses must meet the requirements outlined in this document to be eligible for SAA registration. Approved training is available with registered Teacher Trainers in violin, viola, cello, piano, bass, flute, guitar, recorder, harp, voice and organ. Information about two specialty areas of Suzuki education—Suzuki in the Schools and Early Childhood Education Teacher Training—will be available in separate documents not yet finalized.



II. Prerequisites and Requirements for all Courses

A. Every Child Can!™

All teachers entering the SAA Teacher Development Program are required to begin their journey with the Every Child Can! (ECC) course, a 6-hour course designed to introduce the participants to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy, to the SAA and to what Suzuki teaching as a profession may mean to the participant. ECC is also open to others who are interested in Suzuki education (teachers in general areas of education, potential teachers, parents, administrators and others.)

ECC has specific guidelines for consistency of content and delivery. For further information about course guidelines and hosting requirements see Every Child Can! Guidelines at <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/guides/ecc/>

Note: High-School graduation or equivalent and age 17 are requirements for taking ECC, and **all** other SAA Teacher Development Courses. (Exception: ECC may be taken by high-school students who are at least age 17 and are within six months of graduation.)

B. SAA Membership

Those who wish to take training through the SAA Teacher Development program are expected to join the SAA as Active Members before enrolling in the first course beyond ECC. See <http://suzukiassociation.org/about/membership/>

C. Video Audition

Note: The following information applies to **all** instrumental core courses offered, with the exception of ECC and courses taken as part of an SAA-approved university degree program with an emphasis on Suzuki pedagogy.

The SAA considers training to be *professional* pedagogical study, intended for well-trained musicians. A video audition is required of everyone registering as a participant in an SAA-approved Teacher Workshop. The SAA expects the audition to be completed and accepted before the beginning of training.

Applicants must submit a DVD video audition to the SAA, preferably **well in advance** of taking the course. The SAA recommends that DVDs be submitted **at least 8 weeks prior** to the course start date, with the required fee and a completed application form. If submitted later than 8 weeks before the course start date, late audition fees will be required with the application, and audition results determining participant eligibility may not be available prior to the course. See the video audition guide for further information about "audition pending." If auditions are not accepted, the course will not be eligible for SAA registration even if course work was completed.

The SAA Video Application Form provides further details, including fees, formats accepted, the list of required audition repertoire for the various instruments and rules for reapplication. See <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/guides/audition/>



For multi-instrumentalists, separate auditions are required for each instrument, each on its own DVD, with audition fees for each. Applicants for training on both violin and viola may audition on their preferred instrument. If accepted, they may train through the book unit approved by that audition on their preferred instrument, but through Book 4 only on their second instrument. Another audition on the second instrument is required for training beyond the Book 4 level.

III. Instrument-Specific Teacher Development Unit Courses

SAA Teacher Development unit courses are available for all SAA-approved Suzuki instrument areas for which core repertoire has been or is being developed. Currently, in the Americas, these include violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, flute, guitar, recorder, harp, voice and organ.

A. Entrance Expectations and Requirements

SAA expects teachers to be proficient on the instrument of study and equipped with basic knowledge in areas such as music theory, music history and styles, etc.

As described in *Section II* above, ECC must be taken prior to the first unit course. SAA Active membership and a video audition approved by the SAA are required for all unit courses.

B. Preparation

All participants in the Teacher Development Program are asked to prepare the repertoire to be studied to the point of fluent performance. Memorization is not required but is recommended. Additionally, participants should be conversant with the ideas presented in Dr. Suzuki's book *Nurtured by Love*.

All participants will be performing Suzuki repertoire and other materials in class. Strings and woodwinds are expected to provide their own instruments. It is recommended that participants bring an audio recorder and a notebook to all sessions.

100% attendance is required for registering the course, and the Teacher Trainer has the option to add assignments and other requirements. Participants should schedule their time accordingly.

C. Content of Instrument-Specific Unit Courses

Each unit concentrates on one Suzuki book level (Book 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). The content will follow the syllabus for the instrument being studied and will include performance of the repertoire, supervised observation, discussion, and completion of assignments as given by the Teacher Trainer.

In addition to their focus on Suzuki repertoire and instrumental technique, unit courses will also include additional topics as appropriate. These may include review and application of Suzuki philosophy, parent involvement, listening, home practice, private and group lesson formats, learning styles, note-reading and other skills basic to the Suzuki approach.



D. Course Set-up and Format

Course Applications

An application must be submitted to the SAA in advance by the hosting individual or organization in order for the course to be approved and posted, regardless of venue. Registrants for the course are posted on the online class list.

Hours and Days

1. Unit 1 courses:
 - Course must be offered over a **minimum of 8 days**.
 - 28 hours of class time (lecture and demonstration), to include a suggested 2 hours of guided observation and discussion of the Trainer's own home studio students, either live or by video.
 - 15 additional hours of observation of student lessons.
 - Daily schedule to include a maximum of 6 hours and a minimum of 2 hours of class time.
 - The Institute/workshop provides the opportunity to observe the Trainer teaching live student lessons on each of a minimum of 6 days.
2. All other repertoire-based units beyond Unit 1 (2, 3, etc.) and the Practicum unit:
 - A minimum of 15 class hours of lecture/demonstration and 8 hours of supervised observation required.
 - Units 2 and beyond, and the Practicum unit, must be offered over a **minimum of 5 days**.
 - In an institute/workshop setting, the option exists for a Participant to complete two back-to-back, consecutive units **beyond** Unit 1 over no fewer than 9 days with **no** other allowable reductions in the required hours or content requirements.

Class Size

Repertoire-based courses may not exceed 15 participants. Practicum units are to include a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 participants.

Formats

Units may be taken over consecutive days or within a more flexible time frame, as arranged by the Teacher Trainer. Minimum days/hours per unit must be met, and observation opportunities must be provided in all training situations. Units set up over a period of weeks or months (formerly referred to as "apprenticeships") are commonly offered during the academic year and may be delivered in a one-on-one situation or for a small group. Exceptions: ECC and the Practicum unit must be offered to no fewer than 2 participants.



E. Specific Guidelines for the SAA Practicum Unit

The SAA Practicum unit, which focuses on honing the art of teaching, was developed to enhance the SAA's level-by-level unit training. Classes are instrument-specific: e.g., SAA Practicum Unit™ in Violin, in Cello, in Piano, etc. The Practicum may be taken at any time after Unit 1.

- The Practicum and other Unit courses may not be taken simultaneously.
- Class Size: a maximum of 5; minimum of 2.
- Participants must bring videoed lesson segments of their home teaching in DVD format. Criteria for videos:
 - a. A complete 30-minute lesson.
 - b. One 30-minute segment containing materials of their choice. (Possibilities are consecutive lessons of the same student, a group lesson, a reading lesson, a challenging student, lessons at different book levels, etc.)
 - c. More footage can be included on the DVD, but video viewing will depend on time constraints, class size and other factors.
 - d. Angle of the camera must show the student's hands.
 - e. The closest possible camera placement should be used which includes the student's entire body.
 - f. The teacher should be visible during much of the lesson.
 - g. Whenever possible, include the parent as well.
 - h. For best quality sound, an external microphone is recommended. (Note: It is recommended that participants record many lessons over time and select from them the portions to include on the video brought to the Practicum Unit™.)
- In addition to viewing and discussion of DVD material from the participants' home studios, the Practicum participants will have the opportunity to teach on-site students with guidance from the Teacher Trainer. The lessons with the Practicum course participant will be extra (not part of the regular Institute curriculum.) The students should be informed that they should play a different piece from the one they are studying with their Institute teacher.
- Further information for Trainers about Practicum Guidelines:
http://suzukiassociation.org/download/Practicum_Units.pdf

F. Sequencing of Units

While SAA highly recommends that all units be taken in order, it is required that ECC, Unit 1 and Unit 2 be completed in sequence. Other units may be completed and registered out of numerical sequence, provided that the required audition has been accepted for the unit to be studied.

Suzuki Principles in Action™ (SPA) and the Practicum unit may be taken at any time after ECC and Unit 1 are completed and registered, and after a minimum of one year of Suzuki teaching.



G. Consultation

Near the completion of Units 1, 2 and 3, the Trainer is expected to meet with each participant for a brief (10-minute) Consultation. The Consultation provides the opportunity for the participant to ask questions and for the Teacher Trainer to offer suggestions. For Books 4 and beyond and for the Practicum, consultation is optional and may be incorporated into regular class hours, as needed.

H. Course Registration

After the course is completed, the Teacher Trainer remits to the SAA office a class list of individuals who have satisfactorily completed the assignments and expectations for the course. The sponsoring organization (or in some cases, the Trainer him/herself) remits the required participation and registration fee (\$15). These fees are usually included in the overall tuition and are per individual and per unit completed. The participant's completion of the unit will be registered and appear in his/her online member profile, provided his/her dues are up-to-date and the course sequence requirements have been met. The participant may log in to the SAA website to access any needed proof of completion of individual units and/or a resume of all courses completed.

Note: Units through Unit 2 taken out of sequence prior to 2003 and not previously registered may be registered when the sequence has been corrected. As of January 2003, trainees must have taken units in sequence through Unit 2.

I. Auditing Courses

Audit status may be appropriate in a number of circumstances. It is an appropriate option for teachers repeating a course and unable, due to a variety of circumstances, to complete the observations or other requirements. It may also be recommended for school teachers who need basic information for teaching in instrument areas outside their primary instrument.

- Institutes are encouraged to charge the same fees for auditors as for participants. Note: SAA-required course fees (\$15/person/course) are required of both Participants and Auditors.
- The degree to which auditors are included should not impinge upon the participants' class participation.
- Auditors do not turn in observations and do not receive Consultations.
- Auditors must be SAA active members and have taken ECC.
- Teacher Trainers are to be advised that it may be necessary to make a distinction between participants and auditors in various situations and activities.



J. Special Guidelines for Viola Study

- For the video Basic Audition (Books 1-4), the applicant may submit on violin or viola. Intermediate and Advanced auditions must be instrument-specific for the course to be taken.
- Teachers who complete either Violin or Viola Units 1-3 may apply it to continued study on either instrument.
- Teachers wishing to continue Viola Teacher Training at the level of Unit 5 and beyond, must take Unit 4 on Viola.
- Both Violin and Viola Teacher Trainers may teach Units 1-3, interchangeably. (In the first three books, a violin trainer may teach viola, or a viola trainer may teach violin if the trainer feels comfortable in that capacity.)
- The name of the class (e.g., Violin Unit 1 or Viola Unit 1) determines what instrument the participants bring and the trainer plays. For courses listed as Violin/Viola Units 1, 2 or 3 which may be offered at some workshops or Institutes, the participants are to bring the first instrument listed, but are encouraged to bring both, as the Trainer may demonstrate on both.



IV. Additional Unit Courses

A. Suzuki Principles in Action (SPA)

SPA is a two-day course designed to help teachers incorporate Suzuki's principles effectively in their teaching. The course focuses on **how to teach, not what to teach**, and allows for the sharing of ideas among teachers of all Suzuki instruments and specialty areas. It is based on Dr. Suzuki's belief that knowledge is an important first step, but "knowledge plus 10,000 times" is what produces ability. This important principle, which teachers frequently explain to their students, applies equally to the art of teaching.

Entrance Expectations and Requirements

Suzuki teachers who have taught at least one year and completed/registered ECC and Unit 1 are eligible to take the course. It is highly recommended as a useful way to prepare for the SAA Practicum course. Maximum enrollment is 20 participants; minimum is 10. Auditing the course is not permitted.

Preparation and Follow-Up

Pre-course and post-course assignments are required. The pre-course assignment is sent when the teacher registers to take the course.

Course Set-Up and Format

SPA courses must take place between the months of September and April. In most cases, the course site and onsite arrangements will be set up by a local organization, school or individual and offered through the SAA. SPA is facilitated by an SAA Teacher Trainer who is trained to conduct the course.

Enrollment takes place online through the SAA website. Enrollment closes 2 weeks before the course. 100% attendance and completion of pre-course and post-course work is required.

Registration

The participant's SPA course is registered automatically when all requirements are met and the Facilitator has responded to the post-course work.

B. Supplementary Courses

The SAA encourages a variety of course offerings related to the Suzuki Method which stimulate teacher participation and interaction and bring a broad spectrum of ideas to the teaching process. These courses are to offer further opportunities to emphasize particular pedagogical aspects directly related to Suzuki teaching. They are usually, but not always, instrument-specific.

Entrance Requirements

Supplementary courses are intended for teachers who have registered all units through Unit (Book) 4.

Course Set Up, Format and Registration

Supplementary Courses follow guidelines for other unit courses regarding membership, audition, length of course (days/hours/observations required), and registration of units completed. The Teacher Trainer will determine any additional qualifications and requirements for participants, which must be stated in the announcement and registration materials for the course.



Course Content

Possible areas for supplementary courses:

- Study with Japanese Master Teachers: these courses offer unique perspectives on the Suzuki method. They do not replace core courses.
- Overviews: these are surveys of at least 3 books of Suzuki repertoire with special emphasis on a certain area of learning (such as right or left hand technique, musicality, etc.) Note that the SAA audition must have been approved for the levels to be included in an Overview course.
- Group class teaching
- Supplementary literature and materials

C. Enrichment Study

Enrichment Study includes any continuing education class/lecture of at least 10 hours, dealing with material other than Suzuki core materials/units. Instructor need not be affiliated with the SAA.

Entrance Requirement

Since these courses are not overseen by the SAA, there are no entrance requirements from the SAA.

Course Content

Options for courses might include Kodaly, Dalcroze, or Orff classes, master classes, parent education seminars, conducting classes, and topics **other than** Suzuki unit/core material.

Set Up and Format

Enrichment courses may be offered at Institutes, workshops, home studios or at any other educational event.

Registration

Registration of such study allows the SAA member to build a more complete transcript of his/her study. A \$10.00 registration fee is required to register any enrichment course. Enrichment classes taught by SAA Teacher Trainers may follow the same class list enrollment process used for unit courses. A registration form for enrichment classes can be found at: <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/>



V. Additional Guidelines for Courses

- Suzuki Principles in Action (SPA) may be offered only between September and April.
- All other Teacher Development courses, when scheduled during the months of June, July and August may be offered only in these venues: (1) at SAA-approved Institutes, (2) in the Trainer's home studio.
- Workshop/Institute Director is expected to remind each enrollee of any missing prerequisites or other requirements.
- Teacher Development Workshop faculty must be on the current SAA Registry of Teacher Trainers and active SAA members, or approved Teacher Trainers from other ISA regional Suzuki associations. Enrichment course faculty are exempt from this requirement.
- The same Trainer must conduct the whole course, except in occasional emergency situations.
- Institute Director or course sponsor and Teacher Trainer must ensure that students at appropriate levels will be available for demonstration lessons.
- Each instrument has a syllabus for its courses that trainers should follow. The syllabus for the Practicum course is common to all instruments. Syllabi for Trainers can be found online: <http://suzukiassociation.org/trainers/manual/>
- It is expected that the Teacher Trainer give participants instruction for the observations and observation note-taking process. Trainer is expected to provide for discussion of what has been observed.
- Trainer must keep track of attendance, observations and assignments completed and offer a Consultation at the end of Units 1-3.
- Trainer must sign the roster for all participants completing the course and assignments. If any class member's work is still pending, Trainer must indicate the status of that participant. Roster must be remitted to the SAA Office immediately after the course.

