

Annual General Meeting

July 25, 2023

Agenda

- Welcome
- Executive Director Report
- Board Report
- Latin American Country Association Report
- Certificate of Achievement & Teacher Trainer Candidate Announcement
- Announcements for new and retiring Board of Directors
- Closing

Executive Report

Angelica Cortez

July 25, 2023

ED Report Agenda

- 2022-2023 Year in Review
 - Collecting data & learning about the SAA
 - Membership Survey
 - Systems & Operations
 - Content/Programming (Learning)
- Dreaming ahead for 2024

Looking back: 2022-2023

- At our last Annual General Meeting I shared three key tasks for our fiscal year (my first full year in our organization!):
 1. Assessing, analyzing, and improving our **systems and operations**.
Esp. staff & organizational structure, communication, infrastructure, & budget/finance.
 2. **Member satisfaction**. Ensuring that members are satisfied with our content, programming, and offerings.
 3. Documenting, improving, and updating our core **content and programming**.



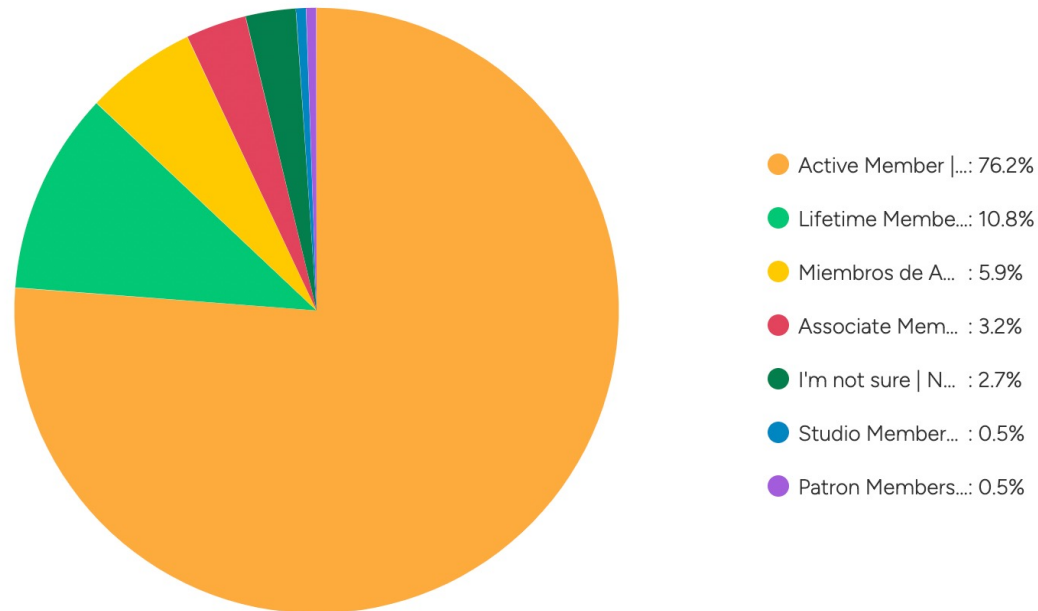
How did we meet these three tasks?

- Connection to members & listening
 - Community Gatherings roughly every other month
 - 15-minute member meetings with the Executive Director
~300 meetings held
 - Connecting with donors, Country Association Leaders, Institute & Festival Directors, Trainers, etc.
- Travels
- Surveys

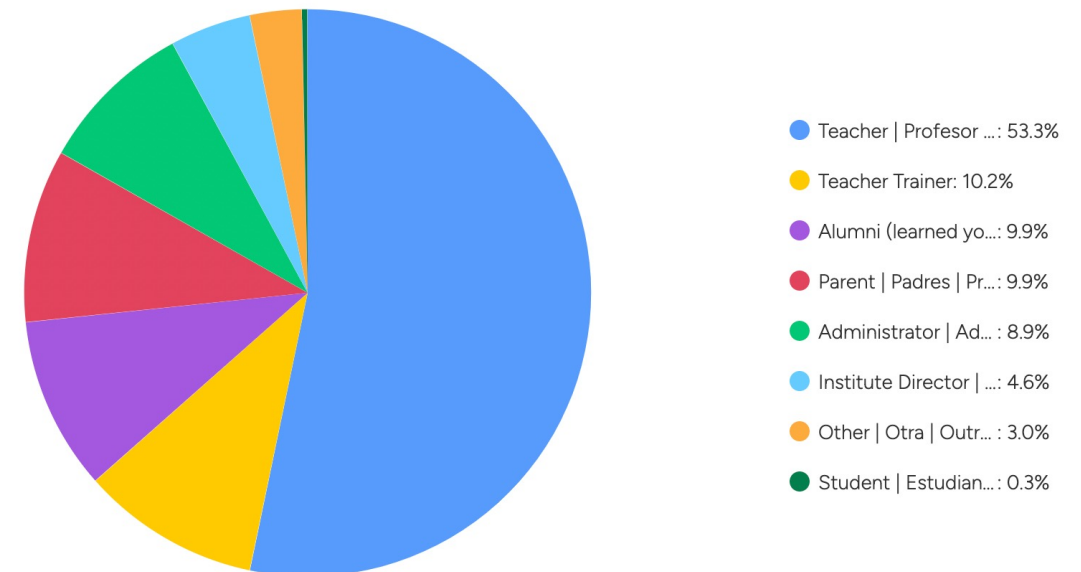
Membership Survey: At a glance

- ~200 individuals representing eight (8) countries
- Top 3 countries represented: US, Canada, and Brazil
- Open December 2022 - April 2023

Most survey participants were Active Members of the SAA



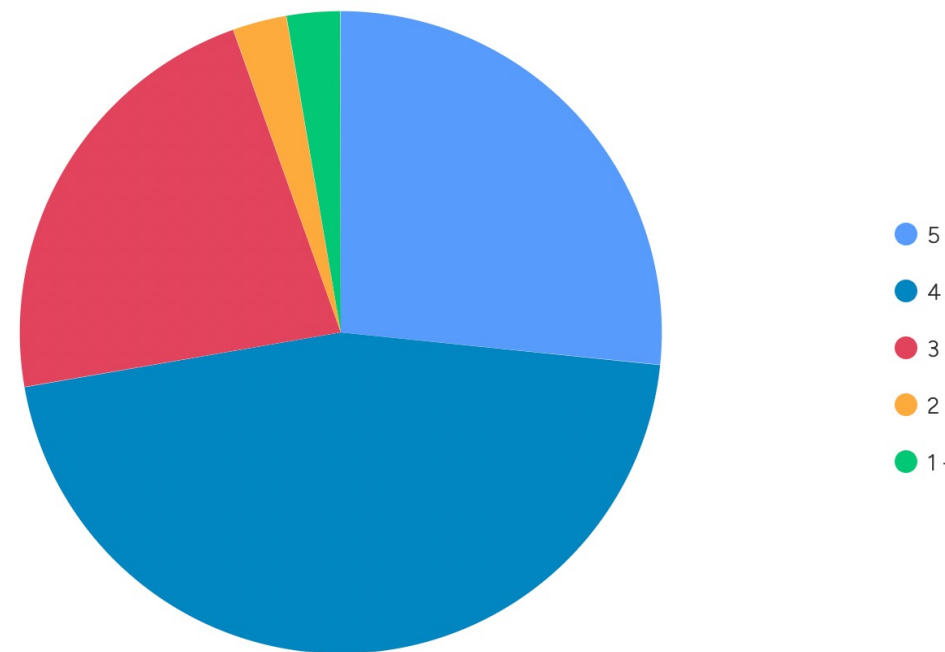
Most participants identified as teachers.





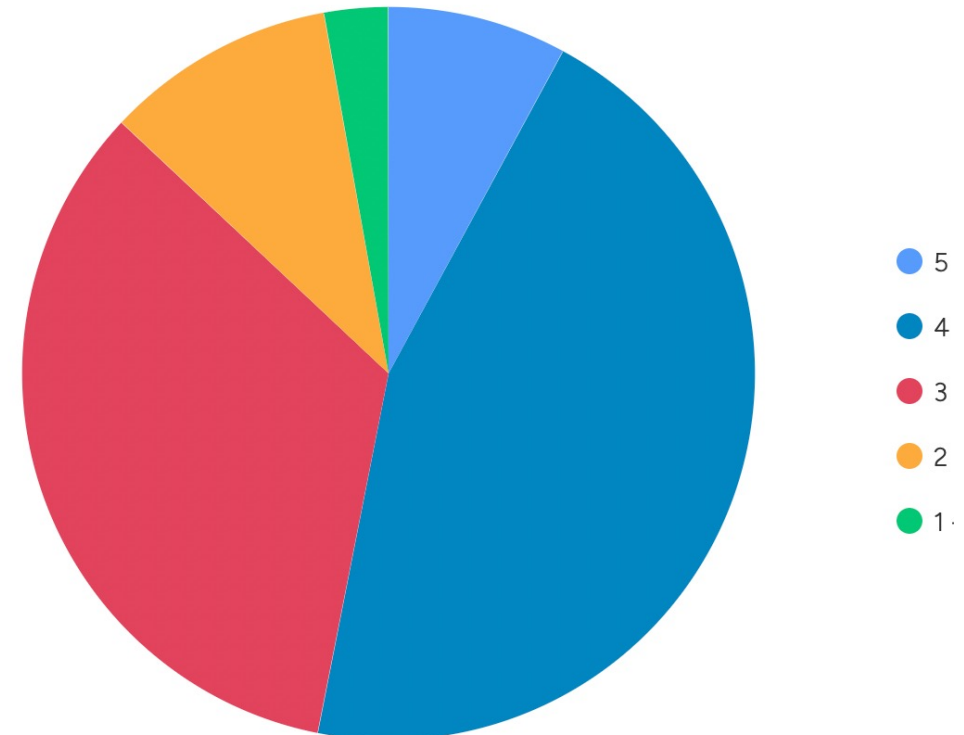
Systems & Operations: Communication

- Communication
 - 45.7% rated our communication as a 4
 - 26.6% rated our communication as a 5
- We suspect that Community Gatherings, Newsletters, meetings with the Executive Director, have had a positive effect on our communications rating
- Areas of opportunity:
 - Answering inquiries more promptly
 - Improving translations
 - Creating further opportunities & channels for communication
 - Continuing to clarify roles in the organization




Systems & Operations: Website

- Website Satisfaction was among the lowest points of satisfaction on our survey.
 - 34% rated our survey as 3 (neutral)
 - 10% as unsatisfied (2)
- We made small changes to website's overall look
- Areas of opportunity:
 - Registration system
 - Translations
 - Parent & student use of the website
 - "Information overwhelm"



Systems & Operations: Website



Suzuki Association of the Americas

About News Events Teachers Parents Store Giving Discussion More

What is the Suzuki Method?

Changing the world of music for children everywhere!

[Learn More >](#)

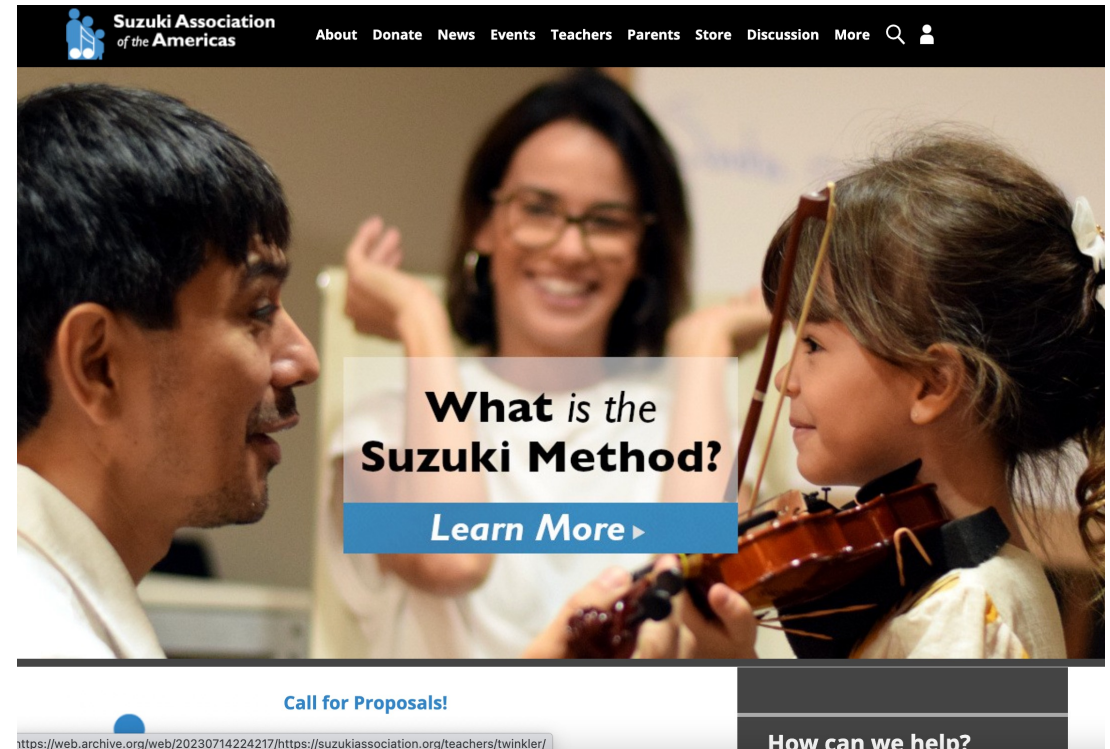
Remembering Dr. Suzuki
October 18, 2020
Shared by TERI friends, October 17, 2020 [Read more >](#)

How can we help?

What is the Suzuki Method?

Find a Suzuki Teacher

Learn About Teacher Training



Suzuki Association of the Americas

About Donate News Events Teachers Parents Store Discussion More

What is the Suzuki Method?

[Learn More >](#)

Call for Proposals!

[How can we help?](#)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230714224217/https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/twinkler/>



Systems & Operations: Finances

Fiscal Year (Aug 21 – July 22) 2022 Highlights

- Change from Former ED to Interim ED
- \$80,000 loss of income due to the cancelled 2022 conference
- Significant loss in membership and course registration (loss of appx. \$150,000 compared with FY21)
- Our in-person and event and member-based revenue system, along with the loss of PPP loans and various led to significant challenges for the organization
- This led to a roughly \$280,000 operational deficit at the end of the fiscal year
- We are not alone in this!

FY23 Highlights (as of May 2023)

- We created a budget that accounted for additional loss, and reduced spending by 20%
- As of May 2023, we have reduced this deficit by 100%, and predict a balanced or very close to balanced budget
- Held a year-end fundraiser that brought in over \$13,000, via a matching challenge with the generosity of an anonymous donor
- Are moving back to in-person programming and events
- Changing banks to a larger bank that accommodates more transactions (and currency)
- Changing from Paypal to Stripe which will allow for quicker & flexible payment systems

Suzuki in Action!

Presented by The Suzuki Association of the Americas and Alfred Music



Increasing Free & No-Cost Events

Suzuki in Action in partnership with Alfred Music

- 5 free webinars focused on:
 - Suzuki in Action had 150-450 registrants per session
 - Business practices for Studio Teachers
 - Eri Hotta's book on Dr. Suzuki
 - Equity-Centered Practices
 - Music, Mayhem, & Memories
- Highest session attended was 255 attendees
- We are Suzuki Mini-Retreat
 - 200 registrants
 - Pay-what-you-can event raised \$5,000
- Ideas and feedback are welcome!



STC

Build community
& connection (as
a group & with
members)

Understand roles &
responsibilities
(evolving)

Determine areas
of focus for FY24

Announcing the Suzuki Training Committee!



Kelly Williamson
Flute
ON, Canada



Kathleen Schoen
Recorder
AB, Canada



Kyra Sovronsky
Brass
UT, US



Mary Kay Waddington
Harp
CO, US



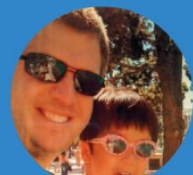
Sachiko Isihara
Piano
MA, US



Danette Warren
Early Childhood Edu
TX, US



Judy Bossuat-Gallic
Violin
CA, US



James Hutchins
Violin
MD, US



Edward Kreitman
Violin
IL, US



Charles Krigbaum
Violin
TX, US



Fernando Piñero
Violin
Cordoba, Argentina



Karyn Grove-Bruce
Viola
AK, US



Joanne Martin
Viola
MB, Canada



Pamela Devenport
Cello
NY, US



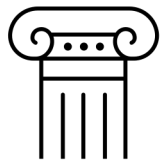
Shu-Yi Scott
Cello
TX, US

Who are we?

Core Pillars of the SAA

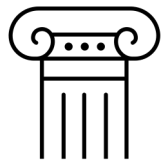
1. Dr. Suzuki

The realization of Dr. Suzuki's vision, philosophy is what drives our work together.



2. Learning

We are a community rooted in learning. Music is the tool we use.



3. Community

Members are our organization. Our responsibility is to create belonging.



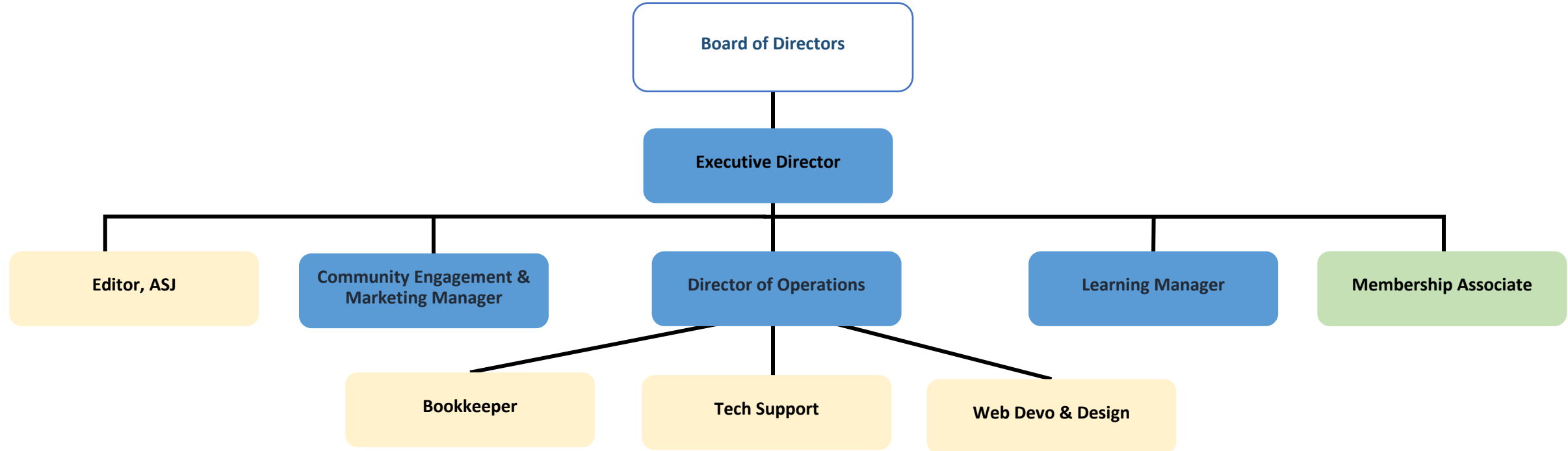
Our Mission:

The Suzuki Association of the Americas improves the quality of life in the Americas through Suzuki education. We create a learning community, which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit.

SAA Org Chart FY24



■ FT ■ PT ■ Contract / 990



Shout out to our current staff!!

Laura Yasuda, Christie Felsing (who will support this transition), Andy Braddock, Triet Huhyn, & Aaron Director

Vision & Goals

SAA



Looking Ahead

What can we expect in the next year?

- Continued efforts to better connect our communities
- Continued & further developed free and no-cost events online
- A co-located conference with the American String Teachers Association (ASTA)
- Updates to our staffing structure that will allow us to better meet member needs
- Further updates from the Suzuki Training Committee
- Member Drives, more partnerships, and more creativity to ensure the SAA continues to improve life in the Americas!

2024 Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference

Expanding and Connecting Communities

March 20-23, 2024 | Louisville Kentucky

Co-located with the **American String Teacher Association (ASTA)**!

Call for Proposals is LIVE!

Volunteer Opportunities, student performance opportunities, and MORE coming soon!

Board Report

Members of the Board of Directors

Board Agenda & Highlights

- Board Personnel
- Board Responsibilities & Updates
 - Executive Director Support and Monitoring
 - Scheduling
 - Committee Changes
- Updates to the Bylaws of the SAA
- Board Training
- Audit
- Marketing and Fundraising
- Communications report
- Communication with International Suzuki Association (ISA)
- Additional information on the website

2022-2023 Board of Directors



[Ellen Kogut](#)
Chair
Montréal, QC, Canada



[Kerri Williams](#)
Chair-Elect
Pine Forge, PA



[Ching-Yi Lin](#)
Secretary
Bowling Green, KY



[Kirk Cullimore](#)
Treasurer
Sandy, UT



[April Losey](#)
Redlands, CA



[Nancy Modell](#)
Springfield, NJ



[Lynne Oliverius](#)
Los Osos, CA



[Leslie Mizrahi](#)
Lomas Reforma México, DF,
Mexico



[Andrea Raza](#)
Cuidadela Hermano Miguel
Quito, Ecuador

[Bruce Walker](#)
Richland, WA



[Edmund Sprunger](#)
Saint Louis, MO



Ex Officio:
Angelica Cortez

Responsibilities & Updates

Monitoring and Support of Executive Director

Full Board & Committee Meeting Frequency changes

Committee Changes

- Audit Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Communications (Formerly, Linkage) Committee
- Development Committee
- Governance Committee (Formerly Board Education Committee)

2023 SAA Bylaws Updates



2023 SAA Bylaws updates:

- Echo our commitment to being congruent with the ISA policies by now including a “Purpose” statement
- Incorporate language to include our use of technology.
- Ensure alignment with the Executive Director title (formerly CEO).
- Include the Treasurer as a Board Officer position.
- Change standing committees to include:
 - Nominating Committee
 - Governance Committee,
 - Development Committee
 - Finance and Audit Committee
 - Linkage (Communications) committee will continue as an Ad Hoc Committee
- Require through our bylaws that at minimum four members of the Board of Directors are elected by the membership. There is a maximum of twelve Directors and a minimum of seven.
- Learn more at our website: <https://suzukiassociation.org/about/bylaws/>



About

What is the SAA?

The Suzuki Association of the Americas, Inc. is the organization officially licensed by the International Suzuki Association to support, guide, and promote Suzuki education in North, Central, and South America.

A nonprofit organization, the SAA was founded in 1972. Its membership of approximately 8,000 is a coalition of teachers, parents, educators, and others who are dedicated to making music and early childhood education available to all children throughout the Americas through the Suzuki Method.

The SAA is governed by a [Board of Directors](#) and managed

Our Mission

The Suzuki Association of the Americas improves the quality of life in the Americas through Suzuki education. We create a learning community, which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit.

The Suzuki Method

Are you new to the Suzuki Method or do you just want to learn more?

[Read the Suzuki Twinkler](#) for an introduction to Dr. Suzuki's education philosophy.

[Bylaws effective through June 30, 2023](#)

About

[What is the SAA?](#)

[About the Suzuki Method](#)

[Shinichi Suzuki](#)

[Instilling the Desire to Learn](#)

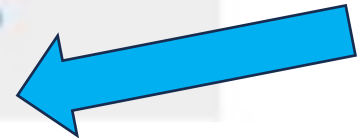
[Waltraud Suzuki](#)

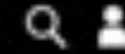
[Bibliography](#)

[Acerca del Método Suzuki](#)

[Membership](#)

[Bylaws](#)





Bylaws

Amended and Restated Bylaws of the SAA

Effective July 1, 2023

ARTICLE I: Organization

Section 1.1 Name. The name of the organization is the Suzuki Association of the Americas, a Delaware non-stock corporation ("Corporation" or "SAA"). The right to use the name "Suzuki" in the Corporation's name is granted to the SAA by the International Suzuki Association. The Corporation is subject to the Delaware General Corporation Law and the laws of the State of Delaware (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Delaware Corporate Code").

Section 1.2 Purpose. The purpose of the Corporation is to promote Suzuki education consistent with Dr. Suzuki's philosophy of talent education.

Bylaws effective through
June 30, 2023

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Method](#)

[Shinichi Suzuki](#)

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[Waltraud Suzuki](#)

[Bibliography](#)

[Acerca del Método
Suzuki](#)

[Membership](#)

Bylaws

Board Training

- Non-anxious Leadership and Communications, Kay Collier McLaughlin
- Board Governance Structure and Legal Responsibilities, Cara Tierney Lawrence, Esq.

FY 22 Audit & Fundraising

- **Audit Committee Members:**
 - Kirk Cullimore, Chair
 - Lynne Oliverius
 - Kerri Williams
 - Ellen Kogut (non voting)
- **What we're doing to minimize Risk in the future:**
 - Regularly monitored financial reports from the Executive Director
 - Reinstated position of Treasurer
 - In-person events & focus on membership drives
 - Fundraising – Board contributed a total of \$7,165 directly over the last year

Communications Committee Report

- “Get to Know You” video series.
- Announced new bylaws
- Fine-tuned communications plan to streamline questions to the organization
- Overhauled and organized our submission process with Monday.com
- Created internal flowcharts and plans for more effective communication to membership
- Consistent output of Board news on a monthly basis

International Suzuki Association



- [Kay Collier McLaughlin](#)
- **ISA Representative**
- Carlisle, KY

Board

SAA Board of Directors



Ellen Kogut, Chair
Montréal, QC, Canada
[Send Message](#)



Kerri Williams, Chair-Elect
Pine Forge, PA
[Send Message](#)



Ching-Yi Lin, Secretary
Bowling Green, KY
[Send Message](#)



Leslie Mizrahi
Lomas Reforma México, DF, Mexico

Board Policies

 [SAA Board Governance Policies](#)

[Email the Board](#)

From the Board

1. [July 2022: Election Results](#)
2. [January 12, 2022: Board News](#)
3. [December 23, 2021: Board News](#)
4. [New Board Member: Leslie Mizrahi](#)
5. [December 13, 2021: Board News](#)
6. [October 20, 2021: Board News](#)

Board Nominations

The SAA Board Nominating Committee is chaired by the Board Chair-Elect and consists

[Bylaws effective through June 30, 2023](#)

[About](#)
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[Instilling the Desire to Learn](#)
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[Bibliography](#)
[Acerca del Método Suzuki](#)
[Membership](#)
[Bylaws](#)
[Our SAA History](#)
[Staff](#)

Board

[Honorary Board](#)

Learn More!

www.suzukiassociation.org/about/board

Latin American Country Associations Presentation

Leslie Mizrahi

Congratulations to all Certificate of Achievement Recipients!

- Ben Lougheed, Guitar
- Stephanie Hunt, Cello
- Emily Connolly, Violin
- Erica Hardy, Cello
- Christine Collins-Davis, Violin
- Alexander Croxton, Cello
- Meredith Connie, Guitar
- Jessica Retana violin
- Chloe Ross-Massey, Violin
- Helenice Villar Rosa, Piano
- Helenice Villar Rosa, Recorder
- Jeong-Hwa Park, Piano
- Charles Regauer, Violin
- Carlos Guadarrama, Violin
- Tamra Baca, Cello
- Graham Emberton, Violin



Congratulations to Teacher Trainer Candidates!

- Stephanie Hunt, Cello, Illinois



- Rebekah Hanson, Viola, Oregon



- Victor Martinez Gardoqui, Guitar, Mexico



- Stacy Smith Violin, Texas



Retiring Board Members

THANK YOU!!!

Ellen Kogut

Montréal, QC, Canada



Welcome!

Araceli Hackbarth is a Brazilian Music Educator, Music Therapist, and Violin teacher by the Suzuki Method for the last 14 years. Since 2015 she has been a member of AMS (Suzuki Musical Association of Brazil), and became president in 2022

Dr. Geoffrey B. Hill: At Princeton, Dean Hill is the administrator who directly oversees progress through academic milestones for graduate students in the 24 departments that comprise the divisions of humanities and social sciences, as well as providing academic advising. He is also a parent to a Suzuki student!



Welcome to our 2023-2025 Chair and Chair-Elect!



Kerri Williams

Chair of the Board of Directors,
2023-2025

Lynne J. Oliverius

Chair-Elect of the Board of
Directors, 2023-2025

THANK YOU!