

SIUE Suzuki Graduation Information

(revised 5/23/24)

History of Suzuki Graduations: Dr. Suzuki would wake up around 5:00 AM every morning and listen to hundreds of tape recordings sent to him from all over Japan. Dr. Suzuki incorporated a Suzuki Graduation System where students, when they reached certain playing levels, would record polished review pieces and in return receive Dr. Suzuki's constructive comments about their playing. This was a celebration of accomplishment. It was never a "pass or fail" situation since Dr. Suzuki trusted that a teacher would only have a student prepare and submit a recording when they were musically ready. Dr. Suzuki also knew it was the process of preparing these recordings where the real learning and progress took place.

Suzuki Graduations in our program: The Suzuki teachers at SIUE wish to continue Dr. Suzuki's vision of excellence and create a graduation system that strengthens our program collectively and individually. Below you will find pieces that correlate with 10 graduation levels. A student will be ready to record these pieces when they are in "review mode" rather than newly learned. This way the student is up to the performance tempo and playing the piece with accuracy and ease, therefore able to show musical intent with beautiful tone. The recording is shared with our director, who will give further comments. The student performs a Graduation Recital and receives a certificate of achievement.

We hope that Graduations will:

- Make review relevant- we do not always realize the benefits of review until we do the work!
- Offer another opportunity for performance- both for a camera, and on a graduation recital.
- Foster self-evaluation- our goal is to give each student skills to eventually practice and learn independently. This begins with self-evaluation.
- Begin an organized collection of recordings- to celebrate and benchmark progress from level to level.
- Uphold a high standard for each level- as a group and individually.

Recording Details: Graduation from a Suzuki Book is initiated by the teacher. The recording of the graduation piece for each level is prepared during the student's lesson (or at home, and the recording is viewed in the lesson) and when the recording meets the criteria for graduation listed below, that recording is also submitted to the Director for comments. We ask that students in Book 1-2 also prepare and record all pieces through the graduation level as these are foundational books, but only the graduation piece is submitted to the Director. Students' recordings should be prepared at least five weeks before the Graduation Recital. Please record your child's pieces and post them as "unlisted" in YouTube. Unlisted playlists can only be viewed by the people they are directly shared with. If you're not sure how to upload to YouTube, please google it and you'll find instructions for your devices. Recording with or without accompaniment is acceptable if the tempo and rhythm are appropriate. When your teacher has approved the recording of the graduation piece for your level, you will submit only that recording to the Director to get further feedback.

Graduation Criteria: Students should meet the following criteria to graduate.

- Twinkle: Be able to play all Twinkles fluidly (with or without piano)
 - Memorized
 - Fingers on tapes (notes in tune)
 - Good posture, bow hold, left hand position
 - Accurate notes and rhythms (without stops between notes)
 - Proper tempo
 - Correct bowing and bow distribution
 - Correct articulation
 - Clean string crossings
- All subsequent levels: Be able to play all required pieces fluidly (with or without piano)
 - All above criteria plus...
 - With good technique
 - With good phrasing
 - With musical expression
 - Books 1-4: ALL pieces in a graduation level must be memorized even if they are not recorded
 - Books 5 and up: All pieces to be recorded and performed for graduation must be memorized; other pieces are memorized based on teacher recommendation

Graduation Recitals: Graduation Recital performances take place at a special recital in the spring set aside for graduations, or at any Saturday recital.

Graduation Fee: There is a small fee of \$15 per graduate to cover the time spent reviewing graduation videos, and to cover the awards honoring the graduation that the graduates receive.

We also recommend home recitals as part of a graduation to celebrate your child's accomplishments! This can be as simple as selecting a few favorite pieces from the book and playing them for family members or at your lesson to playing the entire book for the whole neighborhood! Performing is a great motivation for practicing, and it allows others to celebrate your accomplishments with you. Students should design the invitations, program, and menu to make it their own.

Please direct questions about this to the director of the SIUE Suzuki String Program.

Updated 5/23/24

Graduation Levels:

	Graduation Level- Performance Piece	What needs to be memorized, recorded, and submitted to the Director?
Violin		
	Twinkle- Perform all Twinkles	All pieces through Perpetual Motion memorized and recorded, Twinkle submitted
	Minuets- Perform Minuet 3	All pieces through Minuet 3 memorized and recorded, Minuet 3 submitted
	Book 1- Perform Gossec Gavotte	All pieces in Book 1 memorized and recorded, Gossec Gavotte submitted
	Book 2- Perform Minuet in G	All pieces in Book 2 memorized and recorded, Minuet in G submitted
	Book 3- Perform Bach Bourree	All pieces in Book 3 memorized, Bach Bourree submitted
	Book 4- Perform Vivaldi A Minor 1	All pieces in Book 4 memorized, Vivaldi A Minor 1 submitted
	Book 5- Perform Veracini Gigue	Veracini Gigue memorized & submitted
	Book 6- Perform La Folia	La Folia memorized & submitted
	Book 7- Perform Bach A Minor 1	Bach A Minor 1 memorized & submitted
	Book 8- Eccles Sonata 1 and 2	Eccles 1 and 2 memorized & submitted
	Book 9 and 10	Teacher Recommendation, graduation piece memorized & submitted
Viola		
	Twinkle- Perform all Twinkles	All pieces through Perpetual Motion memorized and recorded, Twinkle submitted
	Minuets- Perform Minuet 3	All pieces through Minuet 3 memorized and recorded, Minuet 3 submitted
	Book 1- Perform Gossec Gavotte	All pieces in Book 1 memorized and recorded, Gossec Gavotte submitted
	Book 2- Perform Minuet in G	All pieces in Book 2 memorized and recorded, Minuet in G submitted
	Book 3- Perform Bach Bourree	All pieces in Book 3 memorized, Bach Bourree submitted
	Book 4- Perform Vivaldi Concerto in D Minor 1	All pieced in Book 4 memorized, Vivaldi Concerto in D Minor 1 submitted
	Book 5- Perform Veracini Gigue	Veracini Gigue memorized & submitted
	Book 6- Perform Bach/Casadesus Concerto Mvt. 1	Bach/Casadesus Concerto Mvt. 1 memorized & submitted
	Book 7- Perform Handel/Casadesus Concerto Mvt. 1	Handel/Casadesus Concerto Mvt. 1 memorized & submitted
	Book 8- Perform Telemann Fantasia VII	Telemann Fantasia VII memorized & submitted

	Book 9	Teacher Recommendation, graduation piece submitted
Cello		
	Twinkle- Perform all Twinkles	All pieces through O Come Little Children memorized and recorded, Twinkles submitted
	Rigadoon- Perform Rigadoon	All pieces through Rigadoon memorized and recorded, Rigadoon submitted
	Book 1- Perform Minuet 2	All pieces in Book 1 memorized and recorded, Minuet 2 submitted
	Book 2- Perform Gossec Gavotte	All pieces in Book 2 memorized and recorded, Gossec Gavotte submitted
	Book 3- Perform Minuet in G	All pieces in Book 3 memorized, Minuet in G submitted
	Book 4- Perform Chanson Triste	All pieces in Book 4 memorized, Chanson Triste submitted
	Book 5- Perform Goltermann	Goltermann memorized & submitted
	Book 6- Perform The Swan	The Swan memorized & submitted
	Book 7- Perform Popper Gavotte	Popper Gavotte memorized & submitted
	Book 8- Perform Elegie	Elegie memorized & submitted