

SUZUKI PIANO PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's Philosophy

Dr. Suzuki believed that most children can become successful in learning to play an instrument by listening to excellent examples of the music and imitating what they hear. The Suzuki Method of learning to play piano is based on the premise that children learn to speak by listening to and imitating language. Children are not expected to be able to read language until they have mastered learning to speak the language to some degree. In the Suzuki Method, children are taught to play (speak) the music first and read the music second. The advantage to this is that children will be able to focus on playing the instrument well and developing good technique. In addition, younger children (ages three and four) can begin learning to play the piano without having to learn to read music first. Also, in addition to the private lesson, the group classes offer students the opportunity to hear one another play on a regular basis, thus learning from one another.

Helpful Guidelines for Students and Parents

- ❖ **Students should have an acoustic piano (non-electric) that is tuned and in good playing condition.**
- ❖ Parents need to be patient with their children. Children progress at various rates through the piano repertoire. Praise your child for making small amounts of progress.
- ❖ Students should practice everyday. Dr. Suzuki said that students should practice only on the days they eat.
- ❖ Practicing should be done at a time when the child is alert and not tired. Mornings or before school are ideal times for practicing.
- ❖ If you have serious concerns about your child's progress, give me a call. Do not discuss the child's serious problems with the child present.

RECOMMENDED READING: The books listed below, any articles I may give to you, and visit the website of *Suzuki Association of the Americas* (www.suzukiassociation.org) for additional articles and information.

- ❑ *Nurtured By Love* by Shinichi Suzuki
- ❑ *Ability Development From Age Zero* by Shinichi Suzuki
- ❑ *To Learn With Love* by William and Constance Starr
- ❑ *Helping Parents Practice* by Edmund Sprunger
- ❑ *Suzuki Class Tips for Suzuki Parents* : A Collection of Articles for Parents from the *American Suzuki Journal*

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR LESSONS:

Book: Suzuki Piano School – Volume 1

Compact Disk: Suzuki Piano School – volumes 1 and 2 performed by **Valery Lloyd-Watts**

Supplementary piano books and theory books as indicated by teacher

May be purchased at: *Shar Music 1-800-248-7427; Educator's Music 9840 Ravenna Rd. (Twinsburg) 330-425-2422; Cleveland Institute of Music Bookstore 11021 East Blvd. 216-791-5000, Amazon.com, and Barnes and Noble.com.*

Three-ring Binder Notebook

Spiral Notebook

Theory materials and paper, which will be *purchased* from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

The *Foundations in Music* Series by Dr. Jennifer Conner may be purchased from the Cleveland Institute of Music Music Store. I will let you know which books in this series you will need. The music store is open during the regular school year weekdays from 12-5 and on Saturdays from 9-3. Also, the store has limited summer hours. You may place phone orders and have the books mailed to you by calling the CIM music store manager, Antoinette Miller, at 216.795.3212. Her e-mail address is axm120@case.edu. If preferred, you may visit the bookstore to shop for theory books, however, parking spaces are scarce. Also, call first to make sure the books are in stock.

Daily Practice Charts:

Each student will be given a Daily Practice Chart at each lesson. Parents are asked to assist their children in bringing all needed materials to class, including the weekly practice chart. The weekly practice charts will have 3 holes punched in them so that they may be placed in the 3-ring binder.

Progress Reports:

At the end of each year (the end of spring semester), each student will receive an Annual Progress Report.

Group Class and Recital Performances:

Group Class, an integral part of the Suzuki philosophy, will be held on a TBA (TO BE ARRANGED) basis periodically throughout the semester. This gives the students an opportunity to perform for one another, play duets, and work collectively on music theory goals in an informal setting. Dates will be announced well in advance.

Recital Performances will be held at least once a year. Recital dates and location will be announced.

Conferences: Information will be distributed regarding Suzuki Student/Parent Workshops. Also, information may be found on the aforementioned website. These experiences are beneficial for students and families.



Tiamoyo Music Academy

Annual Progress Report



Name _____ Semester _____ Year _____

General Progress:

(Please circle one) This student/parent has made:

Excellent progress

Satisfactory progress

Has potential for greater progress

Comments and Suggestions for next semester:

	<u>All of the Time</u>	<u>Most of the Time</u>	<u>Some of the Time</u>	<u>Can Improve</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>LESSON, GROUP, THEORY</u>					
Attended lessons					
Is Punctual					
Shows enthusiasm					
Concentrates					
Brings materials to lessons					
HOME PRACTICE					Comments
Practices daily					
Practices appropriate length of time					
Understands and executes practice instruction					
Practices all assigned material					
Practices review regularly					
Practices supplementary music					
PARENT PARTICIPATION					Comments
Takes notes and/or tapes each lesson					
Uses notes and/or tape at the home practices					
Has a clear understanding of the lessons					
Consistent daily practice and listening					
Purchases required materials in a timely manner					
Participates in the group and individual lessons					
Is punctual at lessons and group classes					
NOTE READING					Comments
Brings required material to the lesson					
Consistently practices reading assignments					
Knows note names and keyboard geography					
Understands and can execute rhythm with steady pulse					
TECHNIQUE					Comments
Consistently works on good tone					
Plays with consistently good posture					
Demonstrates knowledge of scales and arpeggios					
Understands the importance of the above					
CHILD/PARENT RELATIONSHIP					Comments
Understands the Suzuki triangle					
Consistently connects with the child					
Consistently connects with the teacher					
Creates an appropriate Suzuki home environment					