

The School for Strings
First Year Suzuki Piano Pedagogy Teacher-Training Seminar
Marina Obukovsky, SAA Teacher Trainer, Instructor
2019-2020

Seminar: 2 hours weekly, 12:00PM-2:00PM. Day- TBA

Observation: 2 hours weekly, of individual and group lessons with various teachers, based upon student's availability. There are four different assigned observation periods, lasting one-half semester each, to provide as much variety as possible. However, in order to assess the year's results and student's progress, the first and final periods are with the same teachers and students. There are 64 hours of observation required to graduate.

Required Music and Recordings:

The Suzuki Piano School, New International Edition, Volumes 1-3 and Accompanying CDs
Kabalevsky 24 Pieces for Children, Op.39 (any edition).

Required Books:

Nurtured by Love

Shinichi Suzuki

To Learn with Love

William and Constance

Starr

The Suzuki Approach

Louise Behrend

The School for Strings Orientation Literature Kit

Recommended Additional Books:

Ability Development from Age Zero
Suzuki

Shinichi

Helping Parents Practice
Sprunger

Edmund

Focus on Suzuki Piano
Powell

Mary Craig

Between Parent and Child

Haim Ginott

The Little Book of Talent

Daniel Coyle

Additional Readings and Reports:

Seminar Participants will be given other additional handouts, articles and reading materials. One written/oral class presentation on these additional reading materials will be assigned to each participant of the class.

Syllabus, Written assignments & Dates:

1. Exploring the Suzuki philosophy, psychology and procedures in detail through reading and in-class discussion.

Papers: *Philosophy Paper Based on Nurtured by Love by Suzuki*

Chart or List: Compare Suzuki and Traditional Methods

What Qualities Make a Good Suzuki Teacher

3-5 Minutes "Radio Talk": explain in your own words the Suzuki

Approach

2. Pre-Twinkle Period: Preparing and teaching the parent and the child from the parent's initial inquiry about Suzuki instruction for the child, through the time when, first, the parent, and then the child has mastered "Twinkle."

Papers: *The Role of the Parent in Suzuki Approach*

Pre-Twinkle Period: An intensive and detailed review of the above, with an explanation of the teaching points, purposes, and procedures for each variation and Twinkle theme.

3. Following the pattern established in teaching "Twinkle," detailed instruction in teaching the rest of Book 1 and all of Book 2 and Book 3, including the teaching points, purposes, preparations, and teaching procedures for each piece. As each piece is studied in the class, the class members will be expected to play it from memory

Papers:

Outline of Book 1

Outline of Book 2

Book 3 Wrap-Up Test

4. Introduction of techniques for introducing scale study at the elementary level, and how the initial scale techniques will lead to advanced scale and passage-work playing, as well as discussion and demonstration of procedures to develop independence of the fingers, manipulation of arm weight, strength of fingers, and proper hand-arm-body posture at the piano.
5. Discussion and instruction on how to introduce reading, including detailed guides for early reading techniques. Suggestions for musical materials to be used for reading instruction, and discussion of when and how to begin combining reading skills with playing by ear in order to learn new Suzuki and non-Suzuki materials.

Note: The Book 1 and Book 2 papers should include a review of scale and reading instruction.

6. Description and demonstration of materials and techniques to be used in piano group classes, including instruction on how to teach elements of notation and reading and extremely elementary theory.

Note: In addition to the papers listed above, students will be asked to turn in periodic reports on their observation of individual lessons and group classes.

Attendance Requirements:

Participants are expected to attend all classes. Please check SFS calendar for all the dates and School holidays. Any absences must be excused by the instructor PRIOR to that class. **There is 2 maximum allowed absences per semester (provided valid reasons).** Students are responsible for any material covered during an absence and expected to watch a recorded video and provide notes afterwards.

Repertoire Requirements:

Participants should be THOROUGHLY familiar with the Suzuki repertoire. Ideally, all pieces (required for Books 1-3) should be memorized to ensure confidence in teaching and demonstration in private and group classes.

The School for Strings
Marina Obukovsky, SAA Teacher Trainer, Instructor
Second Year Teacher-Training Seminar

Seminar: 2 hours weekly, Mondays, 7:30PM-9:30 PM

Practice Teaching: 2 hours weekly, Mondays, 5:30-7:30 PM

Music and recordings needed:

The Suzuki Piano School, International Edition, Vol. 4-7 and accompanying CDs

(recorded by Seizo Azuma)

Czerny-Germer Selected Piano Studies, Vol.1 (Alfred or The Boston Music Company Edition)

Burgmuller 25 Easy and Progressive Studies, Op.100

Recommended Books and Music:

Nurture by Love (reread).....Shinichi Suzuki

Basic Principles of Piano Playing.....Josef Levinne

The Art of Pedaling.....Heinrich Gebhard

The Pianist's Guide to Pedaling.....Joseph Banowetz

Masters of the Keyboard.....Konrad Wolff

2-Part Inventions and Sinfonias.....Johann Sebastian Bach

Repertoire for Intermediate Students, Vol. A and B, selected and edited by

Christopher Liccardo (www.liccardomusic.com)

Syllabus:

Seminar. Study and playing of Suzuki Piano Books 4-7 with detailed exploration of teaching points, purposes, preparations, and teaching procedures for each piece.

Study and playing of Burgmuller 25 Easy and Progressive Studies.

The teaching of more advanced piano techniques such as advanced scale and arpeggio technique, double notes, octaves and broken octaves, pedaling, etc., are studied. Comparisons are made between Suzuki's ideas and those of many of the great teachers of the past and present.

When time permits, oral or written book reports from the extensive list of books on piano playing, piano teaching, performance practice, etc., issued to the students at the beginning of the year.

Three short wrap-up projects will be given for Book 4, Book 5, and Books 6-7.

Discussion and evaluation of each week's student teaching by Teacher Trainer Marina Obukovsky.

Practice Teaching in *The School for Strings Start-Up Program.*

Each Teacher Trainee becomes a faculty of SFS Start-Up Program.

Teaching a 25-30 minutes private lesson to a student possibly sharing a room with another Teacher-Trainee/or teaching 2 students per hour

Teaching 45 minutes group class: The Teacher Trainees rotate in teaching the group class, which combines elementary reading concepts, elementary theory, and, as the students advance enough, elementary ensemble playing

Check the schedule on a board for room/class assignments every week.

Start-Up Program teaching needs:

- 1. Notebook, spiral bound:** this is your teaching journal. Make a plan for each lesson, and then record what actually happened. List goals, assessments, difficulties and triumphs.
- 2. Class Journal:** each week you rotate responsibility for writing up class activities. The person (or 2) in charge will copy the page and hand it to each teacher. The goal is to

develop a syllabus for group class on the early level and for you each to have the opportunity to present skill/games.

We will attempt to plan each group class each week.

Attendance Requirements:

Participants are expected to attend all classes. Please check SFS calendar for all the dates and School holidays. Any absences must be excused by the instructor PRIOR to that class. **There is 2 maximum allowed absences per semester (provided valid reasons).** Students are responsible for any material covered during an absence and expected to watch a recorded video and provide notes afterwards.

Repertoire Requirements:

Participants should be THOROUGHLY familiar with the Suzuki repertoire. Ideally, all pieces (especially in early books) should be memorized ensure confidence in teaching and demonstration in private and group classes.

I am looking forward to our second year, working with you as Suzuki students, prospective Suzuki teachers and colleagues!