

# **The School for Strings First Year Violin Teacher-Training Syllabus**

**Seminar: 2 hours weekly**

**Observation: 2 hours weekly in-school**

## **Required Books:**

*Nurtured by Love* . . . . .Shinichi Suzuki  
*The School for Strings Parent Guide*  
*The School for Strings Orientation Literature Kit*  
*The Suzuki Approach* . . . . .Louise Behrend  
*The Suzuki Violinist* . . . . .William Starr  
*To Learn with Love* . . . . . William & Constance Starr  
*Helping Parent Practice.* . . . . . Edmund Sprunger

## **Music & Recordings:**

*The Suzuki Violin School, Vols. 1 - 4 & Accompanying CDs*  
(*The International Editions and the Hilary Hahn recordings for Vol. 1-3*)

## **Recommended Additional Books:**

*Ability Development from Age Zero.* . . . . . Shinichi Suzuki  
*Teaching From the Balance Point.* . . . . . Edward Kreitman  
*Between Parent and Teacher* . . . . . Susan Kempter

## **Additional Reading & Reports:**

Seminar trainees will be given additional handouts, articles and reading material. Written reports and/or class presentations will be assigned. The following are examples of written assignments:

- *Nurtured by Love* book report
- “What Qualities Make a Good Suzuki Teacher?”
- “The Role of the Parent in the Suzuki Approach”
- Suzuki Philosophy Paper
- Chart or list form: Compare Suzuki and traditional methods
- “Radio Talk”: 3-5 minute talk about the Suzuki approach

## **Outline and Summary of Teaching Points**

All pieces and exercises in Books 1- early Book 4 will be discussed in detail. Before each piece is studied in the class, Seminar participants will be expected to listen to the Suzuki recordings and memorize each piece. A paper for each book including teaching points, previews and preparations, teaching procedures and supplementary pieces, exercises, finger drills, scales and arpeggios will be required. All assignments must be submitted by the due date.

## **Observation Requirements:**

**Each trainee is required to observe 64 hours** of lessons, group classes, pre-Twinkle parent classes, festivals and recitals during the year. The Teacher-Training Observation Form can be found in the SFS office, and should be submitted to the Trainer each week.

## **Attendance Requirements:**

Trainees are expected to attend all classes according to SFS and SAA requirements in order to register the course with the SAA. Trainees are expected to attend Festivals and Recitals as well. Check the SFS calendar for exact dates of the beginning and ending sessions and all SFS holidays. Any absences must be excused by the instructor *prior* to that class.

**There is a maximum of 2 excused absences per semester - 4 per year.**

Trainees are responsible for any material covered during an absence. Seminar classes may be videotaped and available for viewing via the SFS link. Written assignments must be submitted *prior* to the due date if the trainee is to be absent.

## **Repertoire Requirements:**

Trainees must be *thoroughly familiar* with the Suzuki repertoire to be studied during the year's Seminar. Listening to the Suzuki recordings will help to memorize the pieces and provide a learning experience similar to the student's. All pieces should be memorized before class discussion to ensure confidence in playing, demonstrating and teaching the repertoire.