

Corryville Suzuki Project Handbook

Contents

1. Purpose
2. Entrance into CSP
3. Tuition
4. Attendance Policy
5. Lesson Observations
6. CSP Parent Organization
7. Group Concert Guidelines
8. Uniform
9. Recital Etiquette
10. Parent Conferences
11. Withdrawal
12. Listening
13. Scholarship Information

CSP Artistic Directors

Elizabeth Council-Phelan & Vincent Phelan

P.O. Box 30316, Cincinnati, OH 45230

(513) 231-3523

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Corryville Suzuki Project (CSP) is to teach fine musicianship to children in a nurturing environment. The program is small, self-contained and well organized. The children participate in a three-part program consisting of private lessons, group class and theory class. Teachers and parents promote the Suzuki method of Talent Education and support each other's efforts on behalf of the children. The end of each ten-week session is celebrated with a public group concert and solo recital.

2. Entrance into CSP

Interested parents and children are invited to first observe private lessons and classes. The parent will then complete required reading* and attend a private orientation with the teacher. After these procedures, the family may enroll in the program as space allows. New students are accepted from September 20 - January 1. Transfer students are accepted pending release from the previous teacher. Parents of new beginners are required to enroll in the Parent Violin Class to learn the basics of violin technique. Parents are encouraged to continue until they have mastered Book 1.

*Nurtured by Love by Shinichi Suzuki, CSP program materials, CSP Handbook

3. Tuition

Tuition is due by the first private lesson each session. Monthly payments may also be arranged, due the beginning of each month. A \$10.00 late fee is charged 30 days after the first day of the session. All families are expected to support the CSP with their active involvement to keep tuition costs low.

4. Attendance Policy

There will be no guaranteed make-up for a lesson that is cancelled by the family. If a student is going to miss a lesson, we encourage you to contact another family and trade lesson times. When a lesson trade with another student is impossible, the lesson time may be used for:

- a parent conference,
- a sibling lesson or theory instruction, or
- a parent lesson or theory instruction.

Any lesson cancelled by the teacher is guaranteed a makeup.

Any "snow day" cancellation is guaranteed a makeup.

5. Lesson Observations

The observation of private lessons and other classes is an important learning opportunity for Suzuki students. Coming early and staying after the lesson for even a few minutes can be beneficial. Younger

students acquire a sense of "where they're going" by watching a more advanced student. The advanced student reviews the basics of proper technique by watching the younger student's lesson. Each child has different strengths, and can learn much from watching and listening to others. This practice of "overlapping" lessons also builds community within a program, while downplaying competition. Arriving early for the private lesson also gives the student a few minutes to get focused on the lesson before it even begins.

6. CSP Involvement

Opportunities include the following: Executive, Public Relations, Fundraising, Receptions, Fine Music Appreciation, Community Education, Workshop, Wardrobe, Archives and Nominating. All parents are encouraged to become active in an area of their interest.

7. Group Concert Guidelines

Purpose of these performances:

To provide positive performing experiences for CSP students to develop confidence and correct stage presence. By exposing our community to our program, we hope to enrich our community by promoting the Suzuki philosophy. Our music is a sharing of expression and love for all people, while developing beautiful and sensitive young violinists and most importantly—human beings.

Please note: students must attend the final dress rehearsal (sixth group class) to participate in the group concert.

Formal Group Concerts

Three group concerts shall be organized each school year—one per ten-week session. The uniform will be worn and students will perform at a high level of artistry.

Extra Performances

Other performances may be organized by individuals or groups of students during summer break, Christmas break, etc... Participation is optional for students and parents. Artistic directors will not be participating in these events, therefore, the CSP sign may not be used. Such performances include church programs, Salvation Army, etc.

8. Uniform Policy for Group Concerts

The traditional dress for a performance for musicians is a black tuxedo with white shirt and bow tie for men, and a long black dress for women. A one time Uniform fee will be assessed when a child enters the CSP program.

The Corryville Suzuki Project has adopted a dress code similar to that tradition keeping in mind our objectives:

- To teach children appropriate dress.
- To promote an atmosphere of a special occasion in which the children have an opportunity to demonstrate their achievements.
- To provide a polished and uniform appearance.
- To keep costs at a conservative level for dress attire.

For boys:

- White long sleeve dress shirt
- CSP neck tie
- Black dress trousers
- Black belt
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

For girls:

- White long sleeve dress blouse
- CSP cummerbund
- Black skirt, mid calf to just above the ankle in length
- Black hose or tights
- Black dress shoes

The following will not be permitted:

- Sneakers, sandals, or shoes with open toe or heel
- Girl's anklet type socks or knee socks
- White or nude stockings/hose or tights
- Short skirts or skirts with slits
- Dresses
- Turtlenecks
- Denim or fabric that fades
- Trim or decoration
- Navy blue pants/skirts
- Athletic pants or black jeans

Please note: If your child is not dressed appropriately for the group concert, he or she will not be permitted to perform with the group. If you have any questions regarding appropriate dress, please contact the Wardrobe Committee chairperson.

For solo recitals, students are asked to wear "Sunday Best."

9. Recital Etiquette

CSP families are responsible for reviewing this information with children and guests. The atmosphere created at our performances should be supportive and respectful to all performers. Here are a few reminders:

- Go to the restroom between pieces instead of during a performance.
- Talking, reading a newspaper, walking around, moving chairs or any other type of disruptive behavior is prohibited during a performance.
- Students should remain in assigned seats until recital is over.
- All audience members are asked to remain seated for the duration of the recital.

10. Parent Conferences

Once each year, the teacher and parent have a private conference during the regularly scheduled lesson time. Conferences enable the parent as “home teacher” to review practice strategies, ask questions and discuss the student’s progress. Conferences are highly beneficial for the parent/child/teacher relationship. Additional conferences can be scheduled during the regular lesson time if the parent and/or teacher find it necessary during the year.

11. Withdrawal

Families considering withdrawal from CSP for any reason are asked to schedule a private conference between the parent and teacher to discuss all options and a possible teacher referral.

12. Listening

A Fine Music Appreciation volunteer organizes CSP outings in conjunction with the artistic directors to concerts each quarter. Additionally, the artistic directors maintain a busy performance schedule. Students have the opportunity to learn from their teachers as they play solo recitals, small ensemble programs and symphony orchestra concerts. Advance notice will be given of these performances. Parents, students and other family members are encouraged to attend.

Help yourself and your children see the relevance of violin lessons by taking advantage of the many free concerts given throughout Greater Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Symphony and many other orchestras give summer concerts in area parks. Many free concerts and recitals are presented throughout the year at the University of Cincinnati. Students are also encouraged to visit natural history museums, art museums and other cultural and artistic events anywhere they happen to be.

Rapid progress can be made when students listen to recordings of fine soloists and orchestras. This listening should be done in addition to time spent with the Suzuki volume tapes. Have WGUC (90.9 FM) playing at home and in the car, purchase a few CDs or tapes, or check out recordings from the library and internet—develop in your child and yourself familiarity with classical music.

13. Scholarship Information

Scholarships are available for tuition costs or other related expenses such as music books, uniform, violin rental or workshop fees. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the application process, which is initiated by the submission of a completed application to the artistic directors. Preference will be given to established students who can be evaluated by their CSP teacher in several categories. Application information will be kept confidential and recipients will remain anonymous. The scholarship committee of at least three community members will make decisions regarding distribution of scholarship funds, and report quarterly to the board.

If the artistic directors deem that the terms and conditions are not met, they will represent the board in withdrawing or denying renewal of the scholarship.