

STRING METHODS II

Principles and Elements of the Suzuki Method

“Mother Tongue” approach

- Modeled after the way children learn speech
- Start very young, even from birth
- The child is taught by the parent (Mother)
- Rote learning
- Repetition
- Imitation
- Every child learns to speak, so every child can learn music

“Talent Education”

- Every child can accomplish to a high level
- Talent is acquired
- Students learn at their own rate
- Students learn what they are developmentally ready for

Goals of the method

- Create happy children, not professional violinists
- Create a love of music
- Learn skills that will transfer to other areas of life, not pieces
- Develop character
- To improve the human race

Teaching Techniques used in the Suzuki Method

- Use of recordings
- Learn to play first and read later
- Emphasizes technique and tone production: teach the skill, not just the piece
- Highly systematic
- Learning process broken down into tiny, incremental steps
- Master each step before going on to the next
- Lots of review
- Combines private and group instruction
- Teaches performance skills
- Use only good quality music at all levels
- Takes a student from beginning stages to artist level repertoire
- Emphasizes favorable home environment
- Use the best possible educational method
- Excellent, well-trained teachers

Recommended literature on the Suzuki Method:

Nurtured by Love by S. Suzuki

The Suzuki Concept edited by E. Mills and Sr. T. Murphy

The Suzuki Violinist by William Starr

Teaching Suzuki Cello by Charlene Wilson

The Suzuki Method in American Music Education by John Kendall

The Talent Education School of Shinichi Suzuki: An Analysis by Ray Landers

Repertoire for the Suzuki Method

Repertoire used in the Suzuki Method includes ten volumes for violin, seven for viola, seven for cello and three for double bass. There is also a method for piano, flute and guitar.