

# The When Can I's...

Answers to the most frequently asked questions.

## When Can I enroll my child in group class?

- 1) Child is at least 2.5 years old.
- 2) Family attends the prospective family meeting at the studio.
- 3) Adults read, agree to and sign the studio policy.
- 4) Adult watches *Nurtured by love* and answers reflection questions.
- 5) Family observes a minimum of 3 group classes.

## When Can my child participate in individual lessons?

- 1) Child is participating in group class.
- 2) After parent has had 5 individual lessons and/or can play all pre-twinkle material on the violin.
- 2) Children ages 10+ will begin with individual lessons in addition to group upon enrollment. Parents are not required to learn for children this age.

## When Can I (the parent/adult) stop playing violin?

- 1) It's best for parent/adults to continue through book 1. However, the requirement is until after the parent learns the Twinkle Variations.

## When Can I (child) Get A Real Violin?

1. Parent creates a nurturing/motivating home environment with daily listening to Twinkles.
2. Adult reads *Beyond The Music Lesson* and answers reflection questions.
3. Child can take a bow.
4. Stand with strong feet (on the mat) for all Twinkle Variations.
5. Sing & Body drum Twinkle A (Taka Taka Stop Stop).
6. Left-side set up and prep for violin hold.
7. Right-side set up and prep for bow hold.
8. Tap Twinkle A rhythm (Taka Taka stop stop) left hand on right knee.
9. Pass "violin license test."

## When Can I Learn a New Song?

- 1) Posture is correct on the current song.
  - Foot positions, soft knees; Nose, strings, elbow, foot.
  - Bow hold with bent thumb and round pinky,
  - Cupcake fingers, Ice Cream Cone Wrist, Relaxed left thumb.
- 2) Good, full ringing tone.
- 3) Correct intonation (fingers on the tapes).
- 4) All preview spots are easy.
- 5) All boxes for the piece are checked.
- 6) Memorized.
- 7) Can play with piano accompaniment.
- 8) Made a good video to share.
- 9) Can sing & body drum finger numbers for the next song.

### **When can I Learn to Read Music?**

- 1) A minimum of 6 years old.
- 2) Has completed Perpetual Motion in book 1.
- 3) Posture is consistently correct and doesn't need reminders.
  - Foot positions; soft knees; Nose, strings, elbow, foot
  - Professional bow hold
  - Cupcake fingers, Ice Cream Cone Wrist, Relaxed thumb.
- 4) Good, full ringing tone that is consistent.
- 5) Correct intonation in the red, blue and yellow finger patterns.
- 6) Understands ear training concepts of:
  - fast/slow, loud/soft, same/different, higher/lower, next higher/next lower, aware when a note/rhythm is incorrect, down the scale/up the scale, skipping notes.
- 7) Able to learn the fingers of songs at home (minus previews) WITHOUT Sensei
  - starting at Go Tell Aunt Rhody
- 8) Can recite the music alphabet
  - forwards and backwards.
  - forwards and backwards starting on any letter within the alphabet.
- 11) Can name all the alphabet letters for the fingers on all strings
  - in first position
  - for red, blue and yellow finger patterns.
- 12) Is familiar with the shapes and symbols used in rhythm and pitch

### **When Can I Get a Bigger Violin?**

- 1) When Sensei recommends it.
- 2) If there are more than two months between sizing up and a performance.

### **When Can I Graduate A Book?**

- 1) All pieces in the book are complete, memorized and can be played with piano accompaniment.
  - See completion requirements under "when can I learn new piece?"
- 2) A graduation video has been made for each piece.
  - The video made at first learning does it count as graduation video.
- 3) Prepare and perform all lower graduation pieces at the next Graduation Concert.
- 4) Prepare and perform the graduation piece for the book at the graduation concert.

### **When Can I Learn Shifting?**

- 1) Usually starting in Book 2
- 2) Posture is consistently correct and doesn't need reminders.
  - Foot positions, soft knees; Nose, strings, elbow, foot
  - Professional bow hold
  - Cupcake fingers, Ice Cream Cone Wrist, Relaxed thumb.
- 4) Good, full ringing tone that is consistent.
- 5) Consistently correct intonation

**When Can I Learn Vibrato?**

- 1) After learning shifting
- 2) Usually in book 3
- 3) Posture is consistently correct and doesn't need reminders.
  - Foot positions, soft knees
  - Nose, strings, elbow, foot
  - Professional bow hold
  - Cupcake fingers, Ice Cream Cone Wrist, Relaxed thumb.
- 4) Good, full ringing tone that is consistent.
- 5) Consistently correct intonation

**When Can I Learn Songs outside of Suzuki?**

- 1) After completion of I can Read Music book 2
- 2) After book 3 graduation

**When can I join school orchestra or community orchestra on violin?**

- 1) After book 2 graduation

**When can I audition for All County middle school orchestra?**

- 1) After book 2 graduation
- 2) After completing #50 in I can read music book 2
- 3) Must be enrolled as a public school student

**When can I participate in solo & ensemble festival?**

- 1) After book 2 graduation
- 2) After completing #50 in I can read music book 2
- 3) Must be enrolled as a public school student

**When can I add a second instrument?**

- 1) After book 4 graduation

**When can I audition for All County high school orchestra?**

- 1) After book 5 graduation
- 2) Must be enrolled as a public school student