

Graduation Process

Dr. Suzuki woke up around 4:00am every morning to listen to hundreds of tape recordings sent to him from all over Japan. He created a Graduation System in which upon reaching certain playing levels, students would record several polished review pieces and in return receive his constructive comments about their playing. This was a celebration of accomplishment. It was never a "pass/fail" system as he trusted that teachers would only have a student prepare and submit a recording when they were musically ready. **Dr. Suzuki also knew it was the process of preparing recordings that the real learning and progress took place as students reflect on their own playing.**

The purpose of the Graduation Process:

- To recognize and celebrate students who have achieved high standards of playing.
- To maintain our commitment to mastery and excellence.
- To place a high value on review and the process of polishing.
- To provide a character development journey for students to work toward goals and be recognized for their achievements.
- To educate students in the self evaluation and goal setting process.
- To provide group performance opportunities.

Dr. Suzuki's Graduation Pieces:

- The Sunflower Song, Pre-Twinkle* (Twinkle Var. C)
- Twinkle Variations, Book 1* (Go Tell Aunt Rhody)
- Allegro* (Andantino)
- Etude* (Minuet 3)
- Gossec Gavotte, Book 1 (LLA bk 2)
- Minuet in G, Book 2* (Gavotte G minor bk 3)
- Bach Bourree, Book 3 (Seitz 5, 3rd Mvt. bk 4)
- Vivaldi A minor Concerto 1st movement, Book 4 (German Dance, bk 5)*
- Vivaldi Concerto in G Minor 1st movement, Book 5 (Fiocco Allegro bk 6)
- Fiocco Allegro, book 6 (Bach A min, bk 7)*
- Bach Concerto in A Minor 1st movement, Book 7 (Tambourin Grétry bk 8)
- Bach Largo, book 8 (when completing Mozart A major concerto)*
- Mozart Concerto in A Major, Book 9 (when ready)*
- Mozart Concerto in D Major, Book 10 (When ready)

*Dr. Suzuki's original list did not include pieces for pre-twinkle through book 2. They have been added to provide motivation to our beginning students and to introduce them to the graduation process. (Pieces in parenthesis indicate the level at which a student is playing before they may begin the graduation process).

Credits for piece completion

1. In order to complete a piece "or check it off" students must receive all credits for the piece. Credits are earned through demonstration of technical ability in addition to good tone, memorization, musicality and ability to play with live piano accompaniment.
2. A piece is not officially complete until a video has been made of a polished performance and with live piano accompaniment. Videos are shared with the studio via social media.
3. After all pieces within the students current level are complete we consider starting the graduation process.

Graduation Process

1. **Become eligible to start the process by being at a certain point in the repertoire.**
 - Ex. Pre-Twinklers begin the Pre-Twinkle graduation process when they begin Twinkle Variation C. See "Dr. Suzuki's Graduation Pieces" list.
2. **All pieces preceding the graduation piece must be in good standing,** have full credit and video with live piano accompaniment recorded.
3. **The graduation piece must have all credits, be memorized and a video recording with live piano accompaniment made.** Sensei and student work together to review the video, further refining technique and performance.
4. Students must submit videos by the deadline to perform the piece in the group concert. Deadline is one month prior to the dress rehearsal.
5. After a successful video is made, the **piece is performed at the next group graduation concert for official graduation. April/October.**
6. **Graduation pins** are awarded following the concert.

Solo Graduation Recitals (3 required)

Students give one solo recital as a final project for each larger level of progress. Upon completion of book 3 (elementary level), book 6 (intermediate level) and book 10 (advanced level). Students will perform all graduation pieces within the level and any other pieces of their choosing (in or outside of Suzuki repertoire). Piano accompaniment is required. **Solo recitals are scheduled between graduation concerts if a student wishes to complete the graduation process faster.** However, solo recitals that fall outside the three required, are organized and funded by the students family.