

About

The Suzuki Association of the Americas is thrilled to announce the Suzuki Training Committee (STC). The Suzuki Training Committee is an advisory committee that will support the Executive Director in ensuring Teacher Development courses offered by the SAA maintain the vision and direction of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. The committee will provide support and advice to the Executive Director, ensuring that the SAA meets its mission to, “improve the quality of life in the Americas through Suzuki education,” and to “create a learning community which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit.”

Goal: Teacher Trainers who are part of the Suzuki Training Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Director, offering input and advice for ensuring our courses uphold the vision and direction of Dr. Suzuki, and the mission of the SAA.

The group will meet roughly nine times per year to support the Executive Director in topics such as (but not limited to):

- Do our course offerings uphold the vision and philosophy of Dr. Suzuki? Do they meet the mission of the SAA? How do our courses meet this vision he has outlined, and how can we improve?
- How can we balance ensuring our Teacher Trainer curriculum is rigorous and effective while also meeting the needs of our teachers? Do we support teachers in meeting the current needs of students, parents/guardians, and families?
- What recommendations should we make to teachers about in-person versus online training? We know that online access has made training more accessible. Are we confident the quality is as good as an in-person course? Do we have a way to assess this?
- Do we feel our current course offerings support teachers in being well-equipped music educators, and representatives of the Suzuki Method and philosophy?
- How can we ensure our courses create inclusive environments for teachers of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and financial circumstances?
- How can we increase communication between all Teacher Trainers within our region? How do we ensure Teacher Trainers from anywhere in our region are well-informed, collaborative, and have spaces for belonging and connection?

This work will support the SAA in ensuring that teachers who receive training from the SAA have an experience that inspires them as individuals and therefore inspires the youth who learn from our teachers.

Who will make up the STC?

The Suzuki Training Committee (STC) will include 10-20 SAA members who meet the eligibility requirements listed below. We seek individuals willing to volunteer their time, effort, and energy toward making our teacher development stronger. The group will meet approximately once per month. Terms for committee members will last 2-3 years, and the committee will grow in size each year for two years to ensure overlap between new and existing members.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Teacher Trainers are highly encouraged to apply
- Individuals who have been members of the SAA for at least five (5) years and have completed a Certificate of Achievement are also eligible to apply
 - Note: Because Brass is still an area of development, we will make an exception for any interested applicants who are brass musicians, but do not meet one of the requirements listed above.

Important Note: The work of this group will take place in English. We know that several members speak Spanish, French, and Portuguese. We want to ensure these perspectives are represented in this group, and also want the group to communicate effectively together. We *highly* encourage members who meet the requirements above, and who are from Latin America and speak English to apply. We also highly encourage members who are from Canada, and especially French-speaking regions of Canada to apply. The SAA Team will continue to collaborate with Country Association Leaders and the Board of Directors to ensure policies created support the work of Latin America and Canada and to ensure these voices are well represented in the SAA.

Additional Qualifications:

- Must be a current member of the SAA
- Must honor and value diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- Demonstrates a deep commitment to the Suzuki Method
- Demonstrates a commitment to the philosophy of Suzuki, including a history of upholding the SAA's Aspirational Code of Ethics
- Demonstrates a willingness to represent member perspectives and a willingness to connect with members of the SAA
- We *highly* encourage applicants who have multiple perspectives and lenses - those who are Institute Directors, have led Festivals, work in Latin America, and/or who have worked as administrators
- Administrative experience preferred
- Must be available to offer the list of commitments below

STC Members will be asked to:

- Volunteer 2-4 hours per month to the SAA
 - In addition to meeting as a group, STC members will be asked to hold open office hours to connect with members whose instrumental groups fall within their roles. They will also be responsible for collaborating with any active instrumental committees.
- Represent specific instruments or instrumental groups
- Read and uphold the [SAA Community Guidelines](#) and the SAA's [Aspirational Code of Ethics](#)
- Work collaboratively with teachers and leaders who may have differing perspectives, opinions, and experiences
- Representing the SAA in communications about the organization

Application Process:

- Application Timeline:
 - November 15, 2022: Application process opens
 - December 15, 2022: Applications close
 - December 16 - January 15 2023: Applications reviewed by 3 reviewers
 - February 2023: Candidates selected & Announced
 - March 2023: First meeting

- What will be requested in the application process?:
 - Basic Information about you and your history with the SAA
 - A resume
 - 2 References
 - What makes you a strong candidate for this committee, and what do you hope to contribute? (2000 character limit)
 - What do you believe should be our top priority this year? (2000 character limit)
 - How do you navigate differing opinions, and what are some strategies you have for moments when tensions feel high?
 - Please answer 1 question from the list below: (2000 character limit)
 - Do our course offerings uphold the vision and philosophy of Dr. Suzuki? How do our courses meet this vision, and how can we improve?
 - How can we ensure our courses create inclusive environments for teachers of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and financial circumstances while also ensuring the rigor and excellence of the Suzuki Method remain?
 - What are the impacts of our new online training sessions? Are there ways that we can improve our online courses?

Note: This list is not exhaustive, but aims to provide a general idea for what will be included.