

SAA Teacher Development Program

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I. Philosophy of Suzuki Teacher Development

The Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) is committed to Dr. Suzuki's belief that every child can be educated and that high ability can be nurtured in every child. With this commitment in mind the SAA has designed a comprehensive Teacher Development Program to assist teachers in creating the best possible learning environment for their students, an environment that puts a priority on the development of fine character along with excellent ability and musicianship.

Teachers enter the Teacher Development Program with well-honed playing skills, thorough musical knowledge and a strong interest in teaching children. The Program's carefully organized curriculum is presented by experienced SAA-registered Teacher Trainers who guide participants through the Suzuki™ Method repertoire, Suzuki philosophy, pedagogical concepts, and practical teaching techniques. With the courses organized in line with students' unit by unit progression through the repertoire, the teacher is expected to begin their Suzuki teaching journey and return for further training as they hone their skills.

Along with the pedagogical skills for working effectively with students of all levels and different learning styles, the Program provides opportunities for an ever-deepening understanding of the Suzuki Philosophy and an increasing awareness of the influence that Suzuki teachers have on their students' families as they fulfill their responsibilities as nurturing educators. Mutual respect among colleagues, a generous spirit of sharing and a belief in the value of Suzuki™ teaching as a profession are the indispensable underpinnings of all areas of Suzuki Teacher Development.

The SAA has formulated requirements to ensure high standards for teacher training, and to make possible the recognition of such training. As teachers grow in experience and take advantage of the many opportunities for life-long learning that are provided within the Suzuki community—conferences, retreats and workshops as well as unit training—their commitment is recognized through a central course registration system. Registration of courses is not regarded as certification: certification as such is not offered by SAA. However, teachers have the opportunity to participate in the SAA's Certificate of Achievement Program.

The course offerings regulated by the SAA fall into the following categories, each category having its own guidelines and requirements:

- a) *Every Child Can!* An Introduction to Suzuki Education (ECC)® or Filosofía
- b) Core Units
 - (i) Instrument-specific courses, each based on a single book of Suzuki repertoire
 - (ii) SAA Practicum (instrument specific)
- c) Recommended additional Units
 - (i) *Suzuki Principles in Action*® (SPA)
 - (ii) Revisiting 1
 - (iii) Supplementary courses
 - (iv) Teaching Strategies
- d) Enrichment courses



These courses must meet the requirements outlined in this document to be eligible for SAA registration. SAA-approved training is available through study with registered SAA Teacher Trainers in violin, viola, cello, piano, bass, flute, guitar, recorder, harp, voice, organ, and brass, as well as in Suzuki™ in the Schools and Suzuki™ Early Childhood Education.

II. Prerequisites and Requirements for all Courses

OVERVIEW: The SAA encourages well-trained musicians with a strong interest in working with children and parents* to consider beginning Suzuki pedagogical training through the SAA Teacher Development Program. Entering the Suzuki teaching profession requires a well-rounded, mature and balanced approach to educating the child and the parent* as well as excellent instrumental skills and musical knowledge. In addition to providing grounding in the Suzuki Philosophy, both *Every Child Can!*™ and *Filosofia* help the applicant decide whether Suzuki teaching is a good fit. **For the purposes of this document, parent is being defined as any adult, caregiver, guardian, grandparent, or whoever is supporting the child in the learning process.*

Every Child Can!™

All teachers entering the SAA Teacher Development Program are required to begin their journey with the Every Child Can! (ECC) course, an 8-hour course designed to introduce the participants to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy, to the SAA, and to what Suzuki teaching as a profession may mean to the participant. This SAA-designed course also is open to all adults who are interested in Suzuki education (teachers of general music and other educational disciplines, potential teachers, college students, parents, administrators, etc.).

An SAA participation fee of \$30 must be paid per registrant in the course, regardless of whether the course is completed or has been previously taken and registered. This fee covers the course materials and SAA participation and registration fees. Individuals who do not complete 100% of the course will be marked as "incomplete," and the course will not be registered with the SAA.

ECC course materials were designed and copyrighted by the SAA to provide specific guidelines for consistency of content and delivery. For further information about course guidelines and hosting requirements see *Every Child Can!* Guidelines at <https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/ecc/>

ECC participants In Person: minimum 2, maximum 30; ECC Online: minimum 2, maximum 15

***Note:** Graduation from High School and age 18 are required for ECC, and **all** other SAA Teacher Development Courses. There are no instrument proficiency requirements for ECC, and no audition is required. There is no auditor status for the course.



Filosofia

For courses offered in Latin America, all training starts with Filosofía, instead of ECC. This course consists of 15 hours of pedagogy, plus 8 hours of observation over 5 days. Like ECC, the Filosofía course follows an approved syllabus and is open to everyone and provides the needed background for unit study in any Suzuki® instrument area.

Filosofia course participants: In person maximum of 50; Online maximum of 24, over minimum of 5 days

Age 18 and High School graduation for Latin America is required for Filosofía.

Note: Filosofía is the prerequisite for participation in a Unit One course taught in Latin America, in person or online. No exceptions. It may be substituted for ECC as a prerequisite for Unit One taught in North America.

SAA Membership

Those who wish to take training through the SAA Teacher Development program are expected to join the SAA as Individual Active Members before enrolling in the first course beyond ECC. This applies to both workshop units/courses (formerly referred to as short-term units/courses) and long-term university training. See <http://suzukiassociation.org/about/membership/>.

Note: Teachers enrolled in university-based Long-Term Suzuki® Pedagogy Programs are provided a membership discount for the length of their participation in the program. Current information and procedure for group collection and payment is made available each fall to the Trainer of each Long-Term University Program.

Under the Suzuki trademark agreement, all Suzuki® teachers must be members of their regional association. SAA's region includes North America, Central America and the Caribbean countries, and South America.

https://internationalsuzuki.org/docs/ISA_Policy_Suzuki_Trademarks.pdf

https://internationalsuzuki.org/docs/ISA_Policy_Regional_Associations.pdf

Latin American teachers are required to be Individual Active Members. Dues are set at a reduced cost for Latin Americans. All privileges and responsibilities are provided to all Individual Active Members, with the exception of mailed publications which are not provided outside the U.S. and Canada. (The *American Suzuki Journal* is available online only for Latin American Active Members; Latin American Teachers and other teacher members outside North America may opt to add mailing fee to their membership in order to receive mailed copies of the *American Suzuki Journal*. L.A. Teacher Trainers receive ASJ without charge.

Note: As of January 2021, Latin American Teacher Trainers now pay the Individual Active membership. All active Teacher Trainers (both L.A. and N.A.) pay \$60 fee per year, with an additional licensing fee accessed for ECC.



Video Auditions

North America:

The following information applies to **all** instrumental core courses* and other Suzuki repertoire-based courses offered in North America, with the exception of ECC. An exception is made for students enrolled in an SAA-approved university degree program with an emphasis on Suzuki pedagogy.

**Core courses include Units 1 through the highest book level course for the instrument plus the SAA Practicum.*

The SAA considers training to be *professional* pedagogical study, intended for well-trained musicians. A video audition is required of everyone registering as a participant in an SAA-approved Teacher Workshop in North America. The SAA expects the audition to be completed and accepted before the beginning of training.

Applicants must submit the video audition online. All audition materials must be submitted no later than 14 days before the start of the course. Early submissions allow the applicant to know their status for the course well in advance of the start of the course. In some cases resubmission may be desired or requested; early submission allows for this situation. There is one standard fee for North American auditions; early/late fees are no longer assessed; however, for auditions arriving within the 14-day period prior to course start, results may not be available in time for the applicant to begin the course.) If auditions are not accepted, the course will not be eligible for SAA registration even if course work was completed.

Teachers entering the program have a choice to audition at the level where they feel most comfortable: Basic, Intermediate, or Comprehensive. Requirements for each level are included in the SAA Teacher Audition Guide. The Guide provides further details, including fees, formats accepted, the list of required audition repertoire for the various instruments and rules for reapplication.

<https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/audition/>

For those auditioning on multiple instruments, separate auditions are required for each instrument, each uploaded separately. EXCEPTION: Separate fees apply for each instrument.

The following exception applies: Applicants who play both violin and viola may audition on their preferred instrument. If the audition is accepted, they may train on their preferred instrument through the unit (book) approved by that audition, and through Book 2 only on their second instrument (violin or viola). Another audition on the second instrument (violin or viola) is required for training beyond the Book 2 level.

Exceptions and other Special Situations:

- Exception: Those students enrolled in SAA-Approved Long-Term University Suzuki Pedagogy programs whose majors are performance, music education, or music pedagogy, are not required to complete the SAA



Audition while they continue that study. An audition is required to register for units not previously registered through the Long-Term study.

- Teachers who completed and registered a course prior to the centralized audition process (phased into the SAA system between 2006-2010) may repeat the same course without an audition. If teachers in this situation wish to take a course beyond the level previously completed, the audition requirement will apply.

Auditions: Latin America

For Latin American Courses, there are two options for entrance auditions, depending on the country.

1) Some programs follow the SAA system and auditions are sent to the SAA office. Application fee for SAA processing of Latin American videos is currently \$25.

2) Other programs ask the participants to send auditions to the course organizer* or festival director. These are then sent to the trainer to decide if the participant can actively enter the course. The trainer evaluates the auditions anonymously.

**Course organizer may be the Teacher Trainer.*

III. Instrument-Specific Unit Courses

Overview of Instrument-Specific Unit Courses Requirements

SAA Teacher Development unit courses are available for all SAA-approved Suzuki™ instrument areas for which core repertoire has been or is being developed. Currently, in the Americas, these include violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, flute, guitar, recorder, harp, voice, organ, trumpet (brass), Suzuki™ Early Childhood Education (SECE), and Suzuki™ in the Schools (SiS).

Each core unit concentrates on one Suzuki book level (Book 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) or in the case of either SECE or SiS, one level of study. The content will follow the syllabus for the instrument being studied and will include performance of the repertoire, supervised observation, discussion, and completion of assignments as given by the Teacher Trainer.

In addition to their focus on Suzuki repertoire and instrumental technique, unit courses will also include additional topics as appropriate. These may include review and application of Suzuki™ philosophy, parent involvement, listening, home practice, private and group lesson formats, learning styles, learning by ear, note-reading, studio setup, and other skills basic to the Suzuki approach.

Instrument unit courses follow an instrument-specific syllabus. (Development of syllabi is still in process for a few instruments.) Syllabi for Trainers can be found online: <http://suzukiassociation.org/trainers/manual/>.



Each course must be taught by an SAA-approved Trainer (with the exception of enrichment courses): <https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/trainers/>. The same Trainer must conduct the whole course, except in occasional emergency situations.

Regional Considerations

Teacher Training is region-specific and managed by the individual regions.

SAA Teacher Trainers must be invited in order to offer courses outside the SAA region (North, Central, and South America) and follow the requirements of the inviting region.

In order to accept training commitments in the SAA region, **Teacher Trainers from other ISA-approved regions** must be invited and sponsored by an approved SAA training event. Primary consideration should be a specific need that cannot be met by an SAA Teacher Trainer. The organization sponsoring the foreign Trainer must submit the request form (Application for Visiting Teacher Trainer) to the SAA for approval. This is considered a one-time approval. The foreign Trainer must be in good standing in their region and is expected to be an Active SAA member; the sponsoring organization is responsible for paying the fees involved. Visiting Trainers are required to follow SAA Syllabus and Teacher Development Guidelines; the training will be registered as SAA Training.

Any Teacher wishing to enroll in training offered by a different region must have written permission from both regions involved and follow the rules and requirements set by each of those regions. Decisions regarding recognition of training taken outside the participant's home region will be made by the home region.

Participant Preparation for Courses

It is expected that that Teacher Workshop Participants (TWPs or Participants) purchase the Suzuki Volume and recording prior to course start. Participants will be playing the repertoire being studied in class. TWPs are expected to prepare the repertoire for the book to be studied to the point of fluent performance. In order to get the most from the Book One course, participants are expected to *memorize* the repertoire.

Additionally, participants should be conversant with the ideas presented in Dr. Suzuki's book *Nurtured by Love*. (Two English translations are available; *Nurtured by Love* is available through officially approved translations in many other languages. Information is available through the International Suzuki Association.)

Trainers may be in touch with the Participants prior to the first class with additional expectations for preparation.



During the duration of the course, Trainers have the option to add assignments and other reasonable requirements in addition to ongoing daily work outside of class hours. Participants should schedule their time to allow for this important work.

For in-person courses, strings and woodwinds are expected to provide their own instruments.

Latin American Memorization Requirements:

For all instruments, all pieces in Books 1-4 need to be memorized.

For violin courses, the following pieces are required for memorization:

Book 5: One of the slow Vivaldi movements (a or g), first movement of Vivaldi g minor, Country Dance, Veracini Gigue, and Bach Double

Book 6: La Folia, Fiocco Allegro, Rameau Gavotte, plus two contrasting movements from the Handel Sonatas (movements may be from the same or different sonata)

Book 7: Mozart Minuet, first movement of Bach a minor, and Corelli Allegro

Book 8: First two movements of Eccles Sonata, Tambourin, one of the Largos (Bach, Pugnani or Veracini) plus the last two movements of Veracini Sonata

Books 9 and 10: First movements memorized, including cadenzas (Joachim)

For other instruments, consult Teacher Trainer for the course.

The Trainer will listen to each participant individually. There is some variance in the advanced books in each instrument area as to how much of the book needs to be memorized. The Festival Director should be consulted if there is a question.

Overview for TWP: Basic Requirements and Registration of Courses Completed

Requirements for satisfactory completion and registration of courses, to be explained by the Trainer at the beginning of the class:

- Prerequisites completed
- Pre-course preparation-memorizing repertoire, listen to reference recording, etc.
- 100% attendance required
- Appropriate class participation
- Completion and submission of observations and other class assignments
- If all requirements are met to the Trainer's satisfaction, they sign the SAA course roster and initial next to each registrant who has completed the course including assignments. (If the Trainer is unable to verify completed of all requirements,



- they will consult with the participant.)
- In Latin America, if all of the requirements stated by the Teacher Trainer are not met, the Trainer may suggest that the course participant retake a course in order for it to be registered.
 - Roster and applicable payments are remitted to the SAA Office within **10 days** after the course. **Courses will not appear as completed in the participant's profile until these steps are completed.** Note: To provide support for teacher training in LA, course registration fees are exempt for participants in LA courses.

NOTES:

- It is recommended that TWPs allow for time between unit courses to allow for opportunities to put to process the ideas learned from the material studied and put it to use in their studios before proceeding quickly to the next unit of study. This is especially important in the earlier units of study.
- Teacher Workshop Participants are not to enroll in overlapping or simultaneous unit courses at any level.

Course Set-up and Format

Class Sizes

In-person repertoire-based courses may not exceed **15** participants (any auditors must also be included within this maximum count, be listed on the roster, and pay the SAA registration fee).

Online courses – Limit of **10** participants for all book units, Supplementary and Overview courses, SiS levels, SECE stages, and all others, except as otherwise noted. Auditors are included in the online course maximum of ten.

Hours & Days: Unit 1 courses

- North America: Course must be offered over a **minimum of 8 days**.

Since the Latin American Entrance Requirement is the Filosofía course, which is a 15-hour course, Book One is offered over a minimum of **6 days in person or 7 days online**. Additional days are encouraged when possible.

- North America and Latin America: Minimum of 28 hours of class time (lecture and demonstration), to include a suggested 2 hours of guided observation and discussion of the Trainer's own home studio students, either live, by video, or a combination.
- North America: 15 additional hours of guided observation of student lessons with follow-up discussion.



Since the Latin American Entrance Requirement (Filosofía) includes 8 hours of observation, the Latin American Book One course observation requirement is 8 hours.

Daily schedule for in-person courses to include a maximum of 6 hours and a minimum of 2 hours of class time. **Daily schedule for all online to maximum of 4 hours (plus observation)**

- It is expected that live observations of lessons at the Unit 1 level be provided daily whether the course is being offered live or online. If it is not possible for the institute or course sponsor to provide live observation opportunities, the Teacher Trainer must be informed well in advance in order to be prepared with adequate daily video or live observations for TWPs.

Note: SAA reserves the right to request clarification of the schedule to ensure that requirements for hours/days and content are being met.

Hours and Days: All other repertoire-based units (Unit 2 and above, plus Supplementary and Overview courses)

- A minimum of 15 class hours of lecture/demonstration and 8 hours of supervised observation required over at least 5 days.
- Institute Director or course sponsor and Teacher Trainer must ensure that students at appropriate levels will be available for demonstration lessons and/or arrange in advance for Trainer to provide videoed lesson observations.
- It is expected that the Teacher Trainer will give participants instruction for the observations and observation note-taking process. Trainer is expected to provide for discussion of what has been observed.
- It is recommended that Teacher Workshop Participants not be scheduled for more than 6 class hours per day.
- In an institute/workshop setting, the option exists for a Participant to complete two back-to-back, consecutive units **beyond** Unit 1 over no fewer than 9 days with **no** other allowable reductions in the required hours or content requirements.

Formats

Units may be taken over consecutive days or within a more flexible time frame, as arranged by the Teacher Trainer or course sponsor. Minimum days/hours



per unit must be met, and observation opportunities must be included as a part of all training situations. Units set up over a period of weeks or months are commonly offered during the academic year and may be delivered in a one-on-one situation or for a small group. Applications for such courses must still be received at least six week prior to the start of the course and must provide a clear start and end date for course content and observations. It is highly recommended that online courses are spread out over multiple weeks.

Specific Guidelines for the SAA Practicum Unit

The SAA Practicum focuses on honing the art of teaching. It was developed to enhance the SAA's level-by-level unit training. Classes are instrument-specific: e.g., SAA Practicum Unit in Violin, in Cello, in Piano, etc. The Practicum may be taken at any time after Unit 1. (Note: Viola is sometimes included with Violin.)

- The Practicum may not be taken simultaneously with another unit course.
- Course length must be a minimum of 5 days.
- A minimum of 15 class hours of lecture/demonstration and 8 hours of supervised observation required.
- Class Size: a maximum of 5; minimum of 2.
- Participants must have a current Suzuki studio and must have completed a minimum of ECC and Unit 1.
- Participants must bring videoed lesson segments of their home teaching
- In addition to viewing and discussion of video material from the participants' home studios, the Practicum participants may have the opportunity to teach on-site students with guidance from the Teacher Trainer. In an institute situation, the lessons with the Practicum course participant will be extra (not part of the regular Institute curriculum.) The students should be informed that they should play a different piece from the one they are studying with their Institute teacher.

Criteria for Practicum videos:

- A complete 30-minute lesson.
- One 30-minute segment containing materials of their choice. (Possibilities are consecutive lessons of the same student, a group lesson, a reading lesson, a challenging student, lessons at different book levels, etc.)
- More footage can be included, but video viewing will depend on time



constraints, class size and other factors.

- Angle of the camera must show the student's hands.
- The closest possible camera placement should be used which includes the student's entire body.
- The teacher should be visible during much of the lesson.
- Whenever possible, include the parent as well.
- Try for the best possible sound and video quality.

Note: It is recommended that participants record many lessons over time and select from them the portions to include on the video brought to the Practicum Unit.

Further information for Trainers about Practicum Guidelines: https://suzukiassociation.org/download/trainers/Practicum_Units.pdf

Special Guidelines for Viola Study

AUDITIONS:

- Violin and viola auditions are interchangeable through Unit 2.
- The Basic **Viola** audition allows the applicant to take Viola Units 1-4 and Violin Units 1-2.
- The Basic **Violin** audition allows the applicant to take Violin Units 1-4 and Viola Units 1-2.

NOTE: Units 5 and above require submission of the Intermediate and/or Comprehensive audition. See page 5-6 of this TD doc regarding auditions or consult website.

RECIPROCITY BETWEEN VIOLIN AND VIOLA:

- Reciprocity between violin and viola exists for Units 1 and 2 *only*.
- TWPs continuing with Viola-specific training are required take Viola Unit 3 (and Units 4 and up on Viola) *Note Requirement effective as of January 2022

ADDITIONAL VIOLA INFORMATION:

- For all Viola TWPS, Units 1-4 are required to be taken in sequential order.
*Note: Requirement effective as of January 2022.
- Note: Under above guidelines, Viola Overview 1-3 is no longer needed/offered.



- If Viola Bridge course (no longer offered) was taken prior to 2022, it qualifies the TWP to enroll in Viola Unit 5 (with proper audition on file).
- Both Violin and Viola Teacher Trainers may teach Units 1-2, interchangeably. (In the first two books, a violin trainer may teach viola, or a viola trainer may teach violin if the trainer feels comfortable in that capacity.)
- The name of the class (e.g., Violin Unit 1 or Viola Unit 1) determines what instrument the participants bring and the trainer plays. For courses listed as Violin/Viola Units 1 or 2, which may be offered at some workshops or Institutes, the participants are to bring the first instrument listed in the title of the course, but are encouraged to bring both instruments, as the Trainer may demonstrate on both. Such courses will be registered according to which instrument is listed first in the name of the course.



IV. GENERAL TOPICS

Sequencing of Units

While SAA highly recommends that all units be taken in order, it is required that ECC or Filosofía, Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3 be completed in sequence (effective 1/1/2015). Other units may be completed and registered out of numerical sequence, provided that the required audition has been accepted for the unit to be studied. (**Note exception:** Viola Units 1-4 are required to be taken in sequential order.) It is suggested to space one's training between courses to allow for reflection and solidification of skills, repertoire, and knowledge.

Suzuki Principles in Action™ (SPA) and the SAA Practicum Unit may be taken at any time after ECC and Unit 1 are completed and registered and after the teacher has completed a minimum of one year of Suzuki teaching.

Consultation

Near the completion of Units 1, 2, and 3, the Trainer is expected to meet with each participant for a brief (10-minute minimum) consultation. The consultation provides the opportunity for the participant to ask questions and for the Teacher Trainer to offer suggestions. For Books 4 and beyond and for the Practicum, consultation is optional but recommended.

Participants in Latin American courses are required to play the repertoire of the book being studied by memory, individually for the Trainer before the end of the course. The 10-minute consultation is also included during these sessions.

Certificate of Achievement

The Suzuki Association of the Americas is committed to excellence in teaching and to establishing standards within the framework of the Suzuki philosophy. Recognizing teachers with a commitment to life-long learning and self-improvement is part of SAA's commitment to excellence.

The Certificate of Achievement Level One, provides the opportunity for the Suzuki teacher to demonstrate excellence in teaching in the early book levels. The process was developed within the framework of the Suzuki philosophy and was designed to encourage self-evaluation and professional growth. While the SAA Certificate of Achievement Program is **not** a certification, it provides a viable measure of achievement and commitment beyond the basic registration of units. By engaging in



this process you will not only grow as a teacher, but contribute to the growth and professionalism of Suzuki education.

The Level One Certificate may be earned anytime after the teacher has complete Units One through Four, plus the SPA course. A Certificate of Achievement Level Two is under consideration but not yet available. Please see specific details for the Level One Certificate on the website.

<https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/achievement/>

Note: Certificate Level Two is on hold.

Details of Course Approval and Registration Process

Course Set-up and Format

Course Applications

Teacher Development courses may be offered as Workshops or Institutes by various SAA-approved Organizations. These “Organizations” may be schools, festivals, Suzuki programs, chapters, country associations, individual Teacher Trainer studios, etc. Note: SAA-approved Institutes apply under specific Institute Guidelines with additional requirements and regulations. (Institute Guidelines are under revision and will be reissued in Fall 2021. Note: Summer 2021 Institutes are working under temporarily adjusted guidelines, due to the pandemic.)

New groups wishing to offer Teacher Development courses need to set up as an Organization. To do so, please contact the SAA Webmaster or other staff: webmaster@suzukiassociation.org or institutes@suzukiassociation.org

Approved Organizations are called “Partners” and have access to update their profiles and post courses for approval through the Partners area of the SAA website. Organizational contact must(s) be an SAA members. Exceptions include non-Director Institute administrators.

<https://suzukiassociation.org/partners/choose/?from=%2Fpartners%2F>

All non-Institute workshops and teacher courses must be submitted for approval at least **six weeks** in advance by the hosting Trainer or Organization. Upon approval, courses are posted in the Training Events area of the website.

Courses are normally approved by the SAA staff between 2-7 days working days, if no issues arise. Once approved, your event will appear on the SAA website [<https://suzukiassociation.org/events/>]. If you make changes, the event will re-enter the approval cycle.



A country association pre-approval process applies to courses in Brazil, Mexico, and some other countries.

Teacher Development unit courses, when scheduled during the months of June, July and August, may be offered only in these venues: (1) at SAA-approved Institutes and (2) in the Trainer's home studio. (Exceptions may be reviewed and considered in small-instrument situations or in very remote regions.) During the summer months, the Association supports and promotes training at North American SAA-approved Institutes. Suzuki Teacher Training may not be offered at other workshops and events in North America during those months.

Rosters and Registration Process

Workshop and Institute Directors, as well as any other Organizations offering approved courses are expected to post registrants' names and required information on their rosters as soon as the participants are added to the course. Full application and course administration instructions can be found at <https://suzukiassociation.org/partners/instructions/>.

Directors and course sponsors are also expected to inform each enrollee of all prerequisites (including training guidelines and membership, prerequisite, and audition requirements) in their marketing and informational material for the course.

Teacher Trainers are expected to be informed about all requirements and lend support to Workshop Directors, Festival Directors, and other course sponsors and to lend assistance with set up, rosters, and other details, as needed.

After the course is completed, the Teacher Trainer remits to the SAA office the printed SAA roster, bearing the trainer's signature and initials beside the names of each individual who has satisfactorily completed the assignments and expectations for the course. Additionally, the sponsoring organization (or in some cases, the Trainer him/herself) remits the required participation and registration fee (as stated on the SAA roster). These fees are may be included in the overall tuition or collected per individual and per unit completed.

The participant's completion of the unit will be registered and appear in his/her online member profile, provided his/her dues are up-to-date and the course sequence requirements have been met. The participant may log in to the SAA website to access any needed proof of completion of individual units and/or a resume of all courses completed.



For courses in Latin America accurate, completed rosters are required; however, fee collection/payment does not apply. At some Latin American Festivals, in addition to SAA registration, courses finish with a presentation of diplomas from the organizing institution.

NOTE: Current members holding registration forms for completed units (paper registration forms) which were not submitted prior to the introduction of the online process may be submitted through Dec. 31, 2016, along with the current applicable registration fee. After that time, older forms will not be processed under most circumstances.

Auditing Courses

Audit status may be appropriate in some circumstances. It is an appropriate option for teachers repeating a course previously completed and registered, when the teacher is unable, due to a variety of circumstances, to complete the observations or other requirements. Repeating courses as a participant is always a worthwhile option, when possible. Auditing may also be recommended for school teachers who need basic information for teaching in instrument areas outside their primary instrument.

- Auditors must be SAA Active members and have taken and registered ECC
- Auditors must be included in the total course count.
- Audited courses are not registered. Audited units do not count as prerequisites for subsequent units.
- Teachers who wish to repeat a course in the Participant status (rather than auditor) may complete and register the course again.
- Institutes are encouraged to charge the same fees for auditors as for participants. Note: SAA-required course fees (\$15/person/course) are required of both participants and auditors.
- The degree to which auditors are included in class activities should not impinge upon the participants' opportunities to participate. Trainers are advised that it may be necessary to make a distinction between participants and auditors in various situations.
- Auditors do not turn in observations and do not receive Consultations.
- Teacher Trainers have the option to consider auditors as non-participating observers. However, observers not qualified as, or registered as Auditors are not allowed in SAA Teacher Development courses.



Scholarships

SAA is committed to providing scholarships to qualified teacher course participants at all levels within the limitations of its financial resources. SAA's Scholarship Program has been in effect since the early 1990s and resources continue to grow. The program is dedicated to increasing diversity within our corps of teacher members, wider access to training throughout our bi-continental region, and greater inclusion of teachers in all geographic areas of our region, all instruments, and all levels of study.

Requirements include the following:

- Scholarship applicants must be active SAA members.
- Applicants must utilize any scholarship awards with one year's time.
- Applicants must demonstrate need and commitment to Suzuki teaching.
- All required materials must be provided and submitted online through the SAA website.
- Letters of recommendation, as specified, and vita must be included.
- Deadlines must be met without exception. Currently, the annual deadline for North American scholarships is February 4. Currently Latin American applicants may meet one of 2 deadlines: April 1 and October 1.
- For deadlines and full details, go to <https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/scholarship/>

Note: Scholarship applications follow the same repertoire performance requirements as Auditions. When a scholarship applicant is awarded a scholarship, that applicant's performance video counts as an accepted audition for the level for which the applicant applied if the recipient does not already have an audition at that level on file. (e.g., If an applicant auditions for a scholarship at the Intermediate repertoire level and is awarded a scholarship, then the applicant's SAA profile will show an accepted Audition at the Intermediate level.)

V. Additional Unit Courses

Suzuki Principles in Action™ (SPA)

SPA is a minimum two-day course designed to help teachers incorporate Suzuki's principles effectively in their teaching. The course focuses on **how to teach, not what to teach**, and allows for the sharing of ideas among teachers of all Suzuki instruments and specialty areas. It is based on Dr. Suzuki's belief that knowledge is an important first step, but "knowledge plus 10,000 times" is what produces ability. This important principle, which teachers frequently explain to their students, applies equally to the art of teaching.

Entrance Expectations and Requirements

Suzuki teachers who have taught at least one year and completed/registered ECC and Unit



1 (or 1A and 1B) are eligible to take the course. It is highly recommended as a useful way to prepare for the SAA Practicum course. Unlike Practicum, it is a cross-instrument course. Maximum enrollment is 15 participants; minimum is 10.

NOTE: SPA is currently under review.

Preparation and Follow-Up

Pre-course and post-course assignments are required. The pre-course assignment is sent when the teacher registers to take the course. The post-course requirement takes place one month after the course ends and (new!) includes the upload of a video teaching segment for comment by the Facilitator.

Course Set-Up, Format, and Requirements

SPA courses must take place between the months of September and April. In most cases, the course site and onsite arrangements are hosted by a local organization, school or individual and offered through and managed by the SAA. SPA is facilitated by an SAA Teacher Trainer who is trained as a SPA Facilitator.

Registration takes place online through the SAA website. Enrollment closes 2 weeks before the course. SAA provides the course materials for participants.

100% attendance and completion of pre-course and post-course work is required.

Auditing the course is not permitted.

Registration

The participant's SPA course is registered automatically when all requirements are met and the Facilitator has responded to the post-course work.

Revisiting Unit 1:

Course Description (the following description may be used for publicity purposes)

The Revisiting Unit 1 course is designed for teachers who have registered a minimum of Unit 1 and have at least one year of Suzuki teaching experience. It aims to strengthen and update one's teaching by approaching the repertoire and its concepts from a fresh perspective. Discussions cover the foundation of Book 1, including application of the Suzuki philosophy, teaching points, layering of skills, addressing challenges of the beginning student, and more.

Format of the course includes lecture, small group discussion, student observation, possible role-playing, and playing demonstration of the teaching points and concepts. Participants will receive an online questionnaire from the SAA, to be completed prior to the start of the course.



Entrance Requirements

Suzuki teachers who have completed/registered ECC! and Unit 1 (or 1A and 1B) and have taught at least one year are eligible to take the course in their instrument area. It is not intended to replace Unit 1.

Setting up the Course:

- Specifics: 15 hours of class time; 3 hours of observations.
Maximum of 15 participants in person; suggested minimum of 3 participants.
No auditors.
- Format: In-person course must be a minimum of three days with no more than 6 hours per day, and may be offered at institutes, workshops, home studios, or other venues. Institutes may offer the course over 3-5 days within, before, or after the main institute events. Workshops and/or home studio courses may offer the course on consecutive days or spread out over a longer period of time.

Online: Maximum of 10 participants; recommended hours per day – 4 maximum over 4 or more days excluding observation.

- Trainer may send out a pre-course questionnaire to help with planning the course. The Trainer is encouraged to contact participants in advance with any additional information or expectations.
- Teacher Workshop Participants may not take Revisiting Unit 1 at the same time as another Unit course.
- Revisiting format may only be offered for Unit 1. (Since Unit 1 is a longer course and very foundational to successful Suzuki teaching, this review course provides clarification of and in-depth consideration of essential Unit 1 topics in a shorter, less costly timeframe.)

Teaching Strategies (Estrategías)

(Classified temporarily as Enrichment until guidelines are established.)

Teaching Strategies is similar to a mini-teaching practicum in which the participants have the opportunity to share a short lesson video with the class and receive feedback. (In some cases, the participant may teach a live student and receive feedback after the student lesson.)



Current temporary guidelines include 10 hours and 10 participants, whether in person or online.

Teaching Strategies may be offered as a stand-alone 10-hour course, or it may be incorporated into any unit as part of a 33-hour course, consisting of 15 course hours, 10 hours of Strategies, and 8 hours of observation.

As of September 1, 2021 final decisions for North American Teaching Strategies have not been made.

Estrategías: Many festivals offer Estrategías (Teaching Strategies) courses. These can be attached to the Unit course, or can be offered as a separate stand-alone 10-hour course. The Latin American trainers agree that the Estrategías course is a fundamental part of the formation of Suzuki teachers, and that it should be a component of all training programs. It has been added to the training program as a requirement in all courses beyond Unit 1 at the Festivals in Peru and several other countries.

Latin America has agreed that Strategies must be completed as part of Unit 2 or after Unit 2, and before continuing onto Unit 3.

Suzuki in the Schools: TBA

VI. Life-Long Learning

The Suzuki teaching method is most successful when teachers work and share in a learning community and adopt a commitment to the value of life-long learning. To this end, the SAA encourages a variety of Suzuki-based courses which stimulate teacher participation and interaction and bring a broad spectrum of ideas to the teaching process. These courses are to offer further opportunities to emphasize particular pedagogical aspects directly related to Suzuki teaching and Suzuki repertoire.

Supplementary Courses

Course Set Up, Format, Requirements, and Registration

Supplementary Courses follow guidelines for other unit courses regarding membership, audition, length of course (15 class hours over a minimum of 5 days + 8 hours of observation), and registration of units. For Overview/Review courses, prior registration of all units covered in the course is required. The Teacher Trainer may determine any additional qualifications and requirements for participants, which must be stated in the announcement and registration materials for the course.

In-person 15 participants; online 10 participants



Supplementary course topics:

Study with Japanese Master Teachers

This category provides a means for registering a short-term study in Japan or with a guest TERI teacher or master teacher/teacher trainer. These opportunities often provide unique perspectives on the Suzuki method and may be technique courses, masterclasses, group classes, etc. They do not replace core courses.

Overviews/Reviews

Overviews are essentially review courses taught in a survey style, focusing on at least 3 books of Suzuki repertoire. The Overview may survey the development of a technique(s) or a certain area of learning (such as right or left hand technique, musicality, etc.).

Participants must have registered the units covered in the Overview course. (It is expected that Overview courses will not include Unit 1; Revisiting Unit 1 fills the need for a review course.)

Group class teaching:

ECC or Filosofía and Unit 1 are the minimum prerequisites. Additional prerequisites may be determined by the Trainer when the course is posted.

Supplementary literature and materials:

Prerequisite is Units 1-4; additional requirements to be determined by the Teacher Trainer.

*Note: Some Supplementary courses may be offered under the Enrichment requirements if they do not meet the Supplementary requirements. Overview courses **may not** be offered as Enrichment Study.

Enrichment Study

Enrichment Study includes any continuing education class/lecture of at least 10 hours, based on material relevant to or specifically designed for Suzuki teachers. It must deal with material other than Suzuki core materials/units. Instructor need not be affiliated with the SAA.

Entrance Requirement

Since these courses are intended to supplement Suzuki teaching, ECC or Filosofía and Unit 1 are required prerequisites. A current SAA Active Membership is required.

In-person and online maximum 20 participants



Course Content

Options for courses might include Kodaly, Dalcroze, or Orff classes, master classes, parent education seminars, conducting classes, and topics **other than** Suzuki unit/core material.

Set Up and Format

Enrichment courses may be offered at institutes, workshops, home studios, or at any similar event. Maximum enrollment is 20, [online or in person](#). (Occasional exceptions may be made to enrollment, e.g., if the course is offered to a larger faculty or to all members of a Chapter Affiliate.)

Registration

Registration of such study allows the SAA member to build a more complete transcript of their studies. Enrichment classes follow the same roster set up process used for unit courses. The SAA registration fee applies.

VII. Suzuki Early Childhood Education: Prenatal and Baby/Toddler Years

The Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE) training courses are part of a comprehensive teacher training program approved by Dr. Suzuki and the International Suzuki Association.

The SECE Prenatal through Baby/Toddler years course content includes:

- The study of prenatal and postnatal learning environment
- The Baby/Toddler class curriculum and goals
- Music and equipment used in classes
- Prenatal class curriculum
- Parent education

Overview:

Each of the 5 stages of SECE training focuses on the common curriculum and a curriculum recording. Each stage of training will include performance of the repertoire, supervised observation, participation in the demonstration classes, discussion, and completion of assignments as given by the Teacher Trainer.

In addition to their focus on the SECE repertoire, each stage will also include additional topics as appropriate. These may include review and application of Suzuki philosophy, parent education, current and applicable research to SECE, and strategies for adjusting the SECE activities for all ages and developmental stages of babies and toddlers.

Prerequisites:

- Completion and registration of Every Child Can or [Filosofía](#)



- SAA membership by the time of course start
- SECE candidates must be able to sing in tune, keep a steady beat and must have studied the songs and rhymes of the original English language version of the SECE curriculum. Candidates must be prepared to perform the songs and rhymes during the SECE training and lead activities in the SECE demonstration classes.
- SECE core training (Stages) is not offered online.

Revision of Repertoire and Recordings

Starting in May 2021, there will be several opportunities for SECE teachers to take a SECE Curriculum Revision Course. The courses will be available to any SECE teachers who have previously registered a minimum of ECC and SECE Stage One training with the SAA. Revisions to the SECE curriculum have been underway since July 2020 with a focus on bringing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to the Suzuki Early Childhood Education Classroom. The SECE Curriculum Revision Courses will be taught in teams of two Teacher Trainers. Each online course will be 5 hours in length, over one day, with a maximum of 30 participants. When SECE Stage Training resumes, only the Revised Curriculum will be used. All SECE classes should be using the Revised Curriculum before or by January 1, 2022. The planning for a Revised Curriculum Recording is underway.

Course Set-Up and Requirements

- Minimum of 5 days, 30 hours in total, including one baby toddler demonstration class per day.
- Training should not exceed 6 hours per day.
- Consultations are provided.
- The 5 Stages of SECE training must be taken in order (Stage 1, Stage 2, etc).
- Before establishing an SECE class, teacher participants will take SECE Stage One training.
- A period of 9 – 12 months is required before taking each next consecutive stage of training.
- Each Stage is registered with the SAA when completed.

Please see the following sites:

<https://internationalsuzuki.org/sece.htm>

<https://suzukiassociation.org/ece/>

<https://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/ece/>

