

**Suzuki Association of the Americas  
Teacher Development Workshops  
with Joseph Pecoraro**

**General Information**

**(contact for upcoming workshop)**

Learning about work with the Suzuki method is one of the most exciting and potentially rewarding opportunities for aspiring or established professional guitarists. The courses are designed to provide teachers with all of the pedagogical, communication, and career development resources needed to successfully teach young students with this method. Already, the Suzuki approach is responsible for producing many of the most well-established and accomplished community classical guitar programs in the U.S.

[Click here](#) to view some videos of example guitar performances:

[Click here](#) to view the 'Sounds of Success' video on Suzuki Guitar Teaching

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For listing of all upcoming Suzuki Association of the Americas approved events visit:

<http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/>

Visit the Suzuki Association of the Americas at:

[www.suzukiassociation.org](http://www.suzukiassociation.org)

# Why?

- Are you a skilled, well-trained professional musician who would like to teach your instrument and work with young children?
- Do you have a genuine affection for children and an interest in helping them develop as human beings through the study of music?
- Are you interested in working in a cooperative atmosphere with children, parents and colleagues?

If so, you may be interested in investigating the Suzuki approach to music education. Many musicians who use the Suzuki Method have found that it provides a unique avenue for helping children and families as well as providing opportunities for their own growth as musicians, teachers, and human beings.

## Increasing Need for Teachers

Since its introduction in North America nearly fifty years ago, the Suzuki Method has become a major force in music education. It has been successfully implemented in many different situations and is recognized by national music organizations. Interest in the method has grown as teachers, parents and students experience its results. This has led to an increasing need for qualified Suzuki teachers in the Americas and abroad.

## Features of the Suzuki Method

More than sixty years ago, Shinichi Suzuki—educator, violinist, philosopher and humanitarian—realized the implications of the fact that children all over the world learn to speak their native language with ease. He began to apply the basic principles of language acquisition to the learning of music and called his method the mother-tongue approach. The following special features distinguish the Suzuki method:

- Parental Involvement
- Encouragement
- Early Beginning
- Learning with Other Children
- Listening
- Graded Repertoire
- Repetition
- Delayed Reading

While Suzuki students begin as young children playing elementary material, they develop over the years into sophisticated young artists playing the highest level concert literature. This allows for teaching a varied -level studio with endless possibilities for highly-satisfying music making.

## Training Opportunities

To meet the need for trained teachers, the SAA has established a Teacher Development Program, with systematic, comprehensive professional training available from registered Teacher Trainers in violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, flute, harp, guitar, recorder and early childhood education. Both prospective and experienced teachers can benefit from the training offered through SAA's Teacher Development Program. Recognition of training is provided by the SAA registration program for completed training credits.

If you are interested in learning more about Suzuki's philosophy and approach and/or becoming a Suzuki teacher, you may take training courses specifically designed for your instrument. The core courses or units of study correspond in name to the numbered Suzuki repertoire books for each instrument, with the first two courses (Every Child Can! and Book 1) providing an introduction to the Suzuki philosophy and beginning approach to the instrument. Courses are designed to stimulate participation and interaction. They include opportunities for work with a master teacher as well as extensive observation of experienced teachers working with children. **A video audition is required for short-term or apprenticeship training-but not to take the Introductory 'Every Child Can' course.**

## Short-Term, Unit One Teacher Development Course in Guitar (A.K.A.- Book 1 training)

Working with young children and parents, and teaching in general, involves skills and understanding that most guitarists do not develop in the course of their musical study. People are not born 'natural teachers' or even 'good with kids'. These qualities arise from the awareness and strategies gained through good training and experience—they can be learned! Starting young children on the guitar can be frustrating and discouraging -- or, it can be a joy. The difference lies in the teacher's preparedness and the tools at their disposal. The Suzuki method works!—when it is thoroughly understood and skillfully implemented.

**Book 1 Course Objectives:** By the end of the 28-hour course teachers will:

- Have a thorough understanding of Suzuki Philosophy and Methodology- well beyond expectation for ECC course- and be able to confidently communicate Suzuki method principles to parents.
- Command basic guitar pedagogy concepts and the underlying principles behind book 1 activities and repertoire.
- Acquire detailed models for structuring, promoting, and nurturing a Suzuki guitar program.
- Posses a wide range of activities and organizational structures for accomplishing their pedagogical goals, including a detailed 100 + page resource book with full-prose material to reference in future years.
- Be confidently ready to recruit and instruct students using this method.

**Major topic in the book 1 curriculum include:**

**General Pedagogy Topics:** Why teach guitar? What is the role of the Arts in our society? What specifics make for effective teaching? What is the role of a guitar teacher? What are the attributes of a happy & successful teacher?

**Suzuki Method Basics:** What are major elements of the Suzuki Philosophy and Method? Why begin children young? How to work with children for most effective learning.

**Spreading The Word:** How to generate and manage the first contacts with prospective parents—including model introductory literature and promotion strategies.

**Parent Training:** How to teach parents to understand and feel motivated to create the Suzuki home environment, including model parent training course structure and extensive parent-directed materials.

**How to Begin:** Detailed materials on creating motivation, instruments, sizing charts, seating & positioning, early activities and a sample pre-book musical sequence

**Developing Ability:** Specific teaching points and activities for book 1 repertoire- including lesson and group class plans, problem-solving strategies and technical, expressive and performance development goals.

**Envisioning Your Program:** Topics on recruiting for & structuring your studio- including student retention, fees, policies, facilities, scheduling as well as soliciting and teaching for established schools.

The community of Suzuki guitar teachers continues to grow - and there is a need for SAA trained teachers in every location. This course is the first step in unlocking a world of possibilities for sharing your love of the guitar with a receptive clientele with the potential for developing tremendous ability.

How to begin?-read on

## Short-Term, Unit One Teacher Development Course in Guitar (A.K.A.- Book 1 training)

### Sounds interesting-What do I do?

**1.-** Apply to take the required 1-day pre-requisite course 'Every Child Can' at one of numerous locations: <http://suzukiassociation.org/events/course/ecc/> This course will be offered at Piedmont Suzuki on May 11 if there are participants who need to take it. There is no audition requirement to take this course. The course must be completed and registered before taking the Book 1 Guitar Training.

**2.-** Complete and submit the application and required audition video [online](#) to the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA). This is best done at least 8 weeks before the start of the Book 1 course so that you can be notified regarding your approval before the start of the course. It is possible to re-submit this video if it is not approved. The course cannot be registered with the SAA without an approved video audition.

**3.-** Complete and submit the application for the Guitar Book 1 training course with the presenting organization:

Please note that you will be working with two separate entities- the Book 1 presenter and the SAA. The SAA itself does not offer the courses - it is the body that registers the courses and approves the video audition. Information on SAA approved Suzuki Teacher programs and offerings general can be found at: <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/>

**4.-** Make arrangements to attend the Unit One Workshop. Feel free to write the director or instructor with any specific questions about the courses.

**5.-** Prepare for the course by learning the material in the [Suzuki Guitar School, Vol. 1](#) solo part and [accompaniments](#) thoroughly. Memorization of the solo selection material is strongly encouraged as it will facilitate easy discussion and group participation. Also read the book [Nurtured By Love](#), by Shinichi Suzuki. This short, easy reading work embodies the essence of Suzuki's philosophy.

### **Suzuki Association of the Americas page links:**

About the Suzuki Method: <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/twinkler/>

General description of the Teacher Training program in the Suzuki Method — its purpose and procedure: <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/training/>

Audition requirements and application page from Suzuki Association of the Americas: <http://suzukiassociation.org/teachers/guides/audition/>

*Note: The Suzuki Association of the Americas requires submission of a video audition in order to be approved to register the Book 1 course. This needs to be done in advance of the start of the course. Required selections for the video come from the [Suzuki Guitar School Book](#), volume 4 and are as follows; Guitar: Mozart Bourree; R. Vidali La Folia Variations*