

SIUE Suzuki Graduation Information

History of Suzuki Graduations: Dr. Suzuki would wake up around 5:00 AM every morning and listen to hundreds of tape recordings sent to him from all over Japan. Dr. Suzuki incorporated a Suzuki Graduation System where students, when they reached certain playing levels, would record several polished review pieces and in return receive Dr. Suzuki's constructive comments about their playing. This was a celebration of accomplishment. It was never a "pass or fail" situation since Dr. Suzuki trusted that a teacher 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 these recordings where the real learning and progress took place.

Suzuki Graduations in our program: The Suzuki teachers at SIUE wish to continue Dr. Suzuki's vision of excellence and create a graduation system that strengthens our program collectively and individually. Below you will find pieces that correlate with 10 graduation levels. A student will be ready to record these pieces when they are in "review mode" rather than newly learned. This way the student is up to the performance tempo and playing the piece with accuracy and ease, therefore able to show musical intent with beautiful tone. The recording is shared with our director, who will give further comments. The student performs on a Graduation Recital, and receives a certificate of achievement.

We hope that Graduations will:

- Make review relevant- we do not always realize the benefits of review until we do the work!
- Offer another opportunity for performance- both for a camera, and on a graduation recital.
- Foster self-evaluation- our goal is to give each student skills to eventually practice and learn independently. This begins with self-evaluation.
- Begin an organized collection of recordings- to celebrate and benchmark progress from level to level.
- Uphold a high standard for each level- as a group and individually.

Recording Details: Graduation for a Suzuki Book is initiated by the teacher. The student is asked to prepare a recording of all the pieces in the book. All notes and bowings must be correct and the performance must demonstrate a high level of musicianship and confidence. We ask that students until Book 6 do their recordings IN their lessons, or make the recordings at home and show them to teachers during lessons, so that teachers can give immediate feedback, and both teachers and families save time in sending videos back and forth. Students in Book 6 and up should have their recordings to their teacher at minimum of five weeks in advance of the Graduation Recital. Please record your child's pieces in the order listed below and put them in an "unlisted" Playlist in YouTube. Unlisted playlists can only be viewed by the people they are directly shared with. If you're not sure how to upload to YouTube, please google it and you'll find instructions for your devices. Recording with or without accompaniment is acceptable as long as the tempo and rhythm is appropriate. When your YouTube list is prepared and your private teacher says you are ready, you will submit your recordings to the Director, no later than a month before the Graduation Recital, to get further feedback.

Graduation Criteria: Students should meet the following criteria to graduate.

- Twinkle: Be able to play all Twinkles fluidly (with or without piano)
 - Memorized
 - Fingers on tapes (notes in tune)
 - Good posture, bow hold, left hand position
 - Accurate notes and rhythms (without stops between notes)
 - Proper tempo
 - Correct bowing and bow distribution
 - Correct articulation
 - Clean string crossings
- Books 1-8: Be able to play all required pieces fluidly (with or without piano)
 - Memorized
 - With good technique
 - With good phrasing
 - With musical expression

Graduation Recitals: Graduation Recital performances take place at a special recital in the spring set aside for graduations, or at any Saturday recital. Book 6 and up students, submit your recordings to your private teacher at least five weeks in advance of the graduation recital. All students submit their recordings to the director at least a month in advance of the graduation recital.

We also recommend home recitals as part of a graduation to celebrate your child's accomplishments! This can be as simple as selecting a few favorite pieces from the book and playing them for family members or at your lesson to playing the entire book for the whole neighborhood! Performing is a great motivation for practicing and it allows others to celebrate your accomplishments with you. Students should design the invitations, program, and menu to make it their own.

Please direct questions about this to the director of the SIUE Suzuki String Program.

Updated 8/19/23

Graduation Levels:

	Graduation Levels. Student will perform last piece in the book, or Book 6 and up, a piece recommended by their teacher.	Student must have memorized and recorded all pieces up to the graduation piece, and must have studied (but does not need to record) up to this piece in the next book.
Violin		Piece & Composer
	Twinkle	Perpetual Motion
	Minuets	Minuet 3, Bach
	Book 1	Bourree, Handel
	Book 2	Humoresque, Dvorak
	Book 3	Concerto No. 5, III, Seitz
	Book 4	Gigue, Veracini
	Book 5	Allegro, Fiocco
	Book 6	Concerto in Am, I, Bach
	Book 7	Allegro, Bach (Vol. 8)
	Book 8 and above	Teacher Recommendation
Viola		
	Twinkle-Book 3	Same as violin guidelines
	Book 4	Concerto in D Minor, 1 st Mvt., Vivaldi
	Book 5	Arioso, Bach
	Book 6 and above	Teacher Recommendation
Cello		
	Twinkle	O Come Little Children
	Book 1	Chorus, Handel
	Book 2	Gavotte in C, Bach
	Book 3	Sonata, Breval
	Book 4	Danse Rustique, Squire
	Book 5	Double Concerto, Vivaldi
	Book 6	Gavotte, Popper
	Book 7	Sonata, Sammartini
	Book 8 and above	Teacher Recommendation