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Spooky Suzuki: Friday, October 25, 2024

Schedule:

- 6:10pm to tune and warm-up
- 6:30pm – student rehearsal / parent talk with Katie Carrington
- 7:00pm – break
- 7:10pm – Spooky Student Performance for our parent and family audience!

Parents and students:

- Please review the Suzuki pieces listed on the STXSA website which we will use in the 'Spooky Story'. The list of pieces is here: [Spooky Suzuki](#)
- Plan to arrive at 6:10 for tuning.
- Kids, dress up as your favorite 'Suzuki' character.
- Please bring a bag of candy to share.
- Parents, please attend the Parent Talk with Katie Carrington.

The Southeast Texas Suzuki Association presents
SPOOKY SUZUKI
Play-In for all instruments!

- ✓ Friday, October 25, 2024
- ✓ Arrive at 6:10pm
- ✓ Rice Temple Baptist Church
6420 Greenbrier Dr, Houston, TX 77030
- ✓ Suggested \$10.00 donation
- ✓ Dress as your favorite character from the Suzuki Literature. Look here for some inspiring costume ideas!
- ✓ For Parents: enjoy an informative parent talk by Katie Carrington, Suzuki teacher AND Suzuki parent, during the student rehearsal!
- ✓ Review your Suzuki pieces: Parents please review your early to mid book core pieces in the key of D Major in the class and solo books. Violins, cellists and guitarists, please review all your Suzuki literature. Parents and helpers, ask your teacher about review pieces and special activities! Check the STXSA website closer to the event date for a more specific review list!
- ✓ online at www.stksa.org

Volunteers needed:

- ✓ Bring individually wrapped, Halloween candies/treats
- ✓ Tune instruments
- ✓ Stuff treat bags and hand out treats after the concert
- ✓ Clean-up
- ✓ Students needing practice hours are welcome to instrument!

Schedule:

- 6:10 p.m. – arrive to tune and warm-up
- 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Student rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. – Parent talk
- 7:00 p.m. – Break
- 7:10 p.m. – Spooky Student Performance for our parent audience

Spooky Suzuki



2024

(late applications will be accepted until March 17, 2025)

Recording deadline: Monday, March 17, 2025

Graduation Concert and Reception: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Register for Graduation

October 2024 - Suzuki Graduation

By Danette Warren

Dr. Suzuki introduced a graduation system in Japan many years ago with the goal of raising standards for students and teachers, encouraging students to refine and review their music, and recognizing their achievements. This graduation process is different from simply completing a book; it's a key part of the Suzuki Method. Suzuki saw it as more than just a measure of musical progress—it was a way to build a child's character, confidence, and perseverance. He believed that celebrating milestones reinforces the idea that every child can succeed with the right environment and support.

This graduation system celebrates each step of a student's journey, providing motivation and recognizing their progress. Hearing performances from upper-level graduates also inspires students to keep working toward their own goals, fostering a lifelong love of learning and playing music. It is a tradition among Suzuki teachers, students, and parents worldwide.

How the Graduation Process Works

1. Recording Requirements:

To graduate from a level, a student must be studying a piece at the required book level for that graduation. With their teacher's approval, they will submit an audio recording of the required pieces for their instrument. Typically, the student's current level is about two books ahead of the piece they need to record. This focus on reviewing pieces is a key element of the Suzuki Method, helping students master both repertoire and technique.

Students can graduate from more than one level at a time. If a student is starting at a higher level and hasn't graduated before, they can submit recordings for that level and all earlier ones. For Level One, students must record all the pieces in Book 1. For Levels Two and above, only the specified piece needs to be recorded for each level. At the Twinkle level, students must record all Twinkle Variations and the Theme.

Recording requirements are listed on the [SUTSUKI website](#).

2. Evaluation:

An expert clinician will review the recordings and provide written feedback for each student. This evaluation includes praise for the strengths in the student's playing and congratulates the student, parent, and teacher for their efforts. After the graduation concert, the feedback can be discussed in the student's next lesson as a valuable learning experience.

3. Graduation Concert:

In the spring, a formal group concert and ceremony is held where all graduating students perform for family and friends. Students receive certificates and plaques to mark their achievements and play selected pieces from the graduation repertoire list. This performance builds confidence and gives students a chance to publicly celebrate their accomplishments. A guest speaker gives a motivating speech, and parents and teachers are thanked for their guidance and support. A special reception follows the concert for everyone to enjoy.

This entire process is designed to keep students inspired, motivated, and growing as musicians.

I've been a part of the Suzuki graduation process many times, guiding my own students and their parents through making their recordings, serving as the association's graduation event chair, writing many evaluations, and even having the honor of being the graduation speaker. I also had the unique experience of discussing the graduation process at length with teachers at the Suzuki World Teacher Trainer Conference in Matsumoto, Japan in 2023.

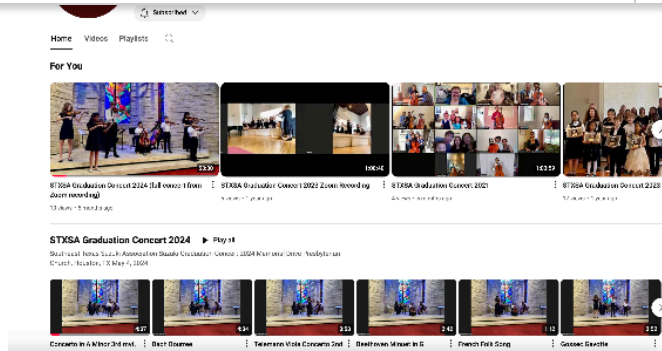
One experience that stands out vividly happened many years ago with one of my students who hadn't completed their recordings as the deadline approached. I reminded them they needed to start recording and send the pieces to me for approval soon. Without hesitation, the student responded, "Miss Danette, I've already been working on it. I've recorded Lightly Row 23 times, but it's still not good enough to send to you!"

That moment left me speechless, and I was floored by the transformation of that student. As I think back on it now, the changes in that student's playing that year was truly remarkable. Their technical skills and musical expression grew by leaps and bounds, but even more significant was the way they began to take ownership of their playing through this self-evaluation process. The pride they felt in their hard work and the boost in their self-confidence were unmistakable, and I know it positively impacted other areas of their life, too.

The graduation process, while challenging, is deeply rewarding. Watching a student grow, not just as a musician but as a person, makes all the effort worthwhile.

I invite you to take your first steps on this amazing journey. [Read the graduation requirements](#), talk to your teacher, and we'll see you at the graduation concert in May!

Visit the [STXSA YouTube channel](#) to watch past graduation concerts.





PARENT NIGHT ONLINE SERIES #1



Thursday, November 7th 2024
7:30pm

Christine E. Goodner

JOIN US!

AUTHOR OF
POSITIVE PRACTICE,
BEYOND THE MUSIC LESSON, AND
MUSIC PRACTICE MAKEOVER

Supporting Our Children’s Growth & Reducing Conflict In the Practice Room

Zoom links will be emailed the day before each event to registered participants. [Click here to register!](#)


Fee: \$25.00 for STXSA Members (Family Members or Teacher Members), \$40.00 for non-members.

(Registration fee includes both Series #1 and Series #2)

Not available to log in live? Watch at your convenience after the fact. Video links will be active until May 31, 2025.

STXSA Book Club for teachers and parents!

Let's get a head start on our next book!
Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol S. Dweck, Phd.
[Books available here](#)
See you on April 12, 2025!



JOIN US FOR

STXSA
Parent & Teacher
Book Club

KIDS AREN'T LAZY: DEVELOPING MOTIVATION AND TALENT THROUGH MUSIC WITH AUTHOR LAUREN HALEY

NEW DATE! OCT 5 2024 7PM

APRIL 12 2025 7PM

LA MADELINE - MEYERLAND
4700 BEECHNUT ST UNIT 620
HOUSTON, TX 77096

MINDSET: THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY OF SUCCESS BY CAROL S. DWECK PHD

More info at: [STXSA.org](#)

Resources

[STXSA Parent Corner Newsletter Archives](#)

[Southeast Texas Suzuki Association](#)

[Suzuki Association of the Americas](#)

[International Suzuki Association](#)

PARENT CORNER ARCHIVES: CLICK HERE

Questions? Suggestions? CLICK HERE

STXSA Event Calendar 2024-2025

October 25 - Spooky Suzuki

October 30 - Graduation Application Deadline

November 7 - Parent Night Online #1

January 27 - Summer Suzuki Institute Scholarship Application Deadline

February 8 - STXSA Spring String Fling

February 10 - Summer Institute Scholarship Award Announcement

March 17 - Graduation Recording Deadline

April 5 - Ribbon Festival

April 12 - Parent & Teacher Book Club

April 24 - Parent Night Online #2

May 3 - Graduation Concert

STXSA Teacher Meeting Calendar 2024-2025

January 5 - Board Meeting

January 12 - Teacher General Meeting

March 2 - Board Meeting

April 12 - Parent & Teacher Book Club

May 4 - Board Meeting

May 18 - Teacher General Meeting and End-of-Year Party



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