

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS GUIDE

BKCM Suzuki Instrumental Program Information

Brooklyn
Conservatory
of Music

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS GUIDE

2023–2024

Suzuki Program

Enrollment Information

Brooklyn
Conservatory
of Music

In the Suzuki Program, children learn to play their instrument as they learn their home tongue – from a young age, through immersion in a musical environment, and with the encouragement of their parents. Through parent participation, group classes, private lessons, and music literacy, we create a fun, supportive & nurturing environment in which all children are successful. Children will not only learn to play their instrument, but also will build self-confidence, develop good learning habits, gain camaraderie with their peers, and nurture their love of music and the world around them.

Families interested in the program should come to a full understanding of the responsibilities and commitments involved in this form of musical education.

The following steps for enrollment are required:

- Step One: Sign up online and attend a ***Prospective Parent Orientation*** (Parents Only)
- Step Two: Sign up for and attend a 10 minute ***Intake Interview*** (Parent & Child)
- Step Three: ***Observe*** at least one group and one private lesson (with or without child).

During the ***Prospective Parent Orientation***, parents will learn about the Suzuki philosophy and their responsibilities as Suzuki Parents. Attendees will also be informed of scheduling requirements and what to expect during the first semester. Meeting is about 75 mins, including Q & A. Parents must arrive on time to orientation, and remain for the entire meeting.

Orientations for 2022-2023 School Year

Orientations typically take place February through March.

To sign up for upcoming orientations, please call a registrar at **(718) 622-3300**. The program typically fills up after the first or second orientation each year

Parent/Child Interview

Program director or department head will meet for 10 minutes with one parent and one child to determine the child's readiness for lessons. Interaction between parent and child is observed, and your prompt arrival is essential. At the intake interview, the child's preference, if any, for one of the instruments that we offer for study is also noted. There is a \$25 fee for interviews.

Children must be toilet-trained, and demonstrate a willingness to work with an instructor. The typical beginner in our program is age 4 – 6 for Cello, Flute Guitar, Piano, Violin and Bass.

Observation

Observations are suspended for the 2022 enrollment cycle due to the covid-19 pandemic.

*BKCM has a variety of programs which meet the needs of all students. At Suzuki orientation we will discuss all the options available to families at BKCM for those families who decide Suzuki isn't a good fit.

The Suzuki program is an annual program – 30 private lessons, weekly group and theory classes, two recitals, and two festival concerts. Summer lessons are also available.

Program Structure for Beginning Students:

Private Lesson	30 Minutes Weekly/schedule at registration (parent/child attend)
Group/Theory Class	45 Minutes Weekly (parent/child attend)
Parents' Class	150 total hours; format is instrument specific (parents only) Ex. 15 sessions for 60 minutes weekly for first semester

Note: *For the first six weeks of classes, parents attend ALL classes without the children.*

Private Lessons

The private lesson provides child and parent the opportunity to receive individual attention in a nurturing environment, and is the core of the musical training.

Group Class

Students share what they know with others and have fun with music, while reinforcing technical & musical skills. Theory and Group class are often a combined class.

Theory Class

Students become familiar with music notation, the "grammar" of music, and note reading.

Parents' Class

Parents learn about the Suzuki philosophy, how to play their selected instrument, and how to practice at home with their child.

2022–2023 Tuition \$3,708* (Annual Tuition for 30 weeks of classes Sept – June) Includes Group Class, Theory Class, Parents' Class, 30 minute Private Lessons, & Student Performances.

\$220 Materials Fee: includes Puppy Pack, Suzuki Book 1, Helping Parents Practice, Nurtured by Love, and parent information materials.

\$40 Registration Fee: Charged upon registration – paid once per family per school year.

\$40 Payment Plan Fee: If you choose an optional payment plan, it is paid once per family per year. Tuition and fee information will be updated in spring 2023.

Financial Aid: The BKCM Suzuki Program is happy to announce the availability of Financial Aid for 2023–2024! Please email Kris.Mandapat@bkcm.org for more information on the process.

Enrollment is First Come–First Serve.

Some instruments fill up by March for September of the same calendar year. Call the registration desk to sign up for an orientation.

Please email Suzuki.Enrollment@BKCM.org for more information.

*Tuition for 2023–2024 will become available in May.

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2022–2023
Suzuki Program
Family Policies

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I. All members of our community must work together in a constructive manner to create a supportive environment for the students, parents, teachers and staff.

II. Attendance at lessons, group, theory class and concerts is required

Your child's success in our program depends on good attendance in all classes. Students who attend all of their classes have an infinitely more positive and successful experience. All students receive 30 private lessons, 28 group/theory classes and 4 performing events.

- a. If you will be absent for a lesson or class, you must call, text or email your teacher. When classes are held in person, you must also call the registration desk. Teachers will give you their preferred contact info.
- b. If a student arrives late, instructors are only obligated to teach until the lesson's scheduled endpoint. If 15 minutes of the lesson has passed, the teacher is not obligated to stay for the remainder of the time.
- c. Participation in festival concerts and recitals is required.
- d. We may revoke your enrollment in the program for excessive absence or lateness:
 - i. Three consecutive absences from private lessons without notice.
 - ii. Less than 80% attendance to any one class.
 - iii. More than six late arrivals of 15 or more minutes to any one class.
- e. Arrive 5 minutes before all classes. (Five minutes early is on time!) Late arrivals disrupt the flow of class.
- f. Students who do not attend group class regularly may not be allowed to participate in major events. This is to ensure that all students have a positive performing experience.
- g. If you must send a non-Suzuki parent or other caregiver to a lesson, notify your teacher in advance, and keep to a maximum of four times per year. Provide video-taking and note-taking capability, and advise the caregiver about the "One Teacher at a Time" policy and classroom etiquette.
- i. Summer: we strongly recommend that students register for 4 – 7 summer private lessons, and to attend summer music workshops. Consult with your teacher for their recommendations. Without lessons and practicing during the summer months, students often see a decline of their momentum, which can be frustrating.
- h. If the parent designated as the Suzuki Parent is no longer able to fulfill that role, the new Suzuki Parent is asked to attend Parents' Class at the earliest opportunity.

III. Equipment

Families should work with their teacher to determine the best equipment for their lessons, including type of instrument, instrument accessories, camera angles, microphones, lighting, etc. Videos should be kept on during remote classes.

IV. Make Ups

Due to the intensive nature of the Suzuki Program's schedule, no make ups for private lessons or group classes are given for student absence. Any classes missed by a teacher will be made up or a sub will be provided.

V. Recitals – to ensure all students have a positive experience:

- a. Every child is required to perform at each recital. Some beginners may need an exception for their first or second semester, which must be approved by the director.
- b. Beginners typically take a bow for their first recital. Teachers assist young children on stage.
- c. Our program values artistry and mastery, demonstrated by recital selections. Students do not perform their most recently learned pieces. Teachers make the final decision regarding recital pieces.
- d. To provide a supportive experience for all students, we expect families to attend the entire duration of performing events.
- e. We respect the need for families to balance events for multiple activities for multiple children. To help us accommodate these, we expect requests for students to perform at certain times in performing events to be submitted by the deadlines.

VI. Group & Theory Class Placement

Group & Theory are a critical component of our program. Students remain in their assigned group & theory class for the entire year. It is expected and desirable for students to experience being "challenged" and to be a "leader" of their classes over the course of several years in the Suzuki program. Students learn valuable skills from both positions. Class titles are approximate and might not precisely describe where your child is for the entire year.

VII. Suzuki Program Director's Office Hours: 15 hours per week; Mo – Th, 9 AM – 2 PM

VIII. Suzuki is an ANNUAL PROGRAM

It is expected that students will continue in the program for the full school-year. Schedules remain the same from September – June. Tuition is non-refundable after July 1. Prior to July 1, 10% of tuition plus fees are withheld. Any withdrawals must be processed through the registration process listed on the BKCM website. See Registration Form for further financial policies. See also COVID-19 related policy changes.

IX. Lessons & Classes – the "Suzuki Secretary" and the "One Teacher at a Time" principle

- a. Parents are the "Suzuki Secretary". At times, teachers will invite you to participate in the lesson. Otherwise, please actively listen, take good notes, and audio/video record the lesson.
- b. We follow the "One Teacher at a Time" principle. Any commentary (positive or negative) or physical gestures from parents will divide the child's attention, so please refrain from doing so during lessons or classes. Questions are encouraged, but please wait for a pause in the lesson. Inform your teacher you have a question, and he/she will either answer it then, or make time before the end of the lesson.

X. Classroom Etiquette:

- a. Eating food during lessons is not allowed. Please have children eat snacks before or after classes. Food is not allowed in classrooms.
- b. Please do not wear perfume to classes – many people have allergies
- c. Arrive 5 minutes early to your class, and do the following prior to your lesson time:
 - i. Take off coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, and scarves.
 - ii. Trim fingernails, use the bathroom, and wash hands
 - iii. Have a drink of water and finish any snacks prior to the lesson. Wash hands again!
 - iv. Prepare your instrument for the lesson (tune, rosin, shoulder rest, etc.)
 - v. Review notes from last lesson, and review any important questions for your teacher
 - vi. Help child find a calm center
- d. Ask your teacher their preference whether to wait in hall at your lesson time, to knock, or to enter the room.
- e. To support the Suzuki Triangle of child, parent, and teacher, please speak in a language your teacher understands during class time.
- f. Don't use cell phones during classes unless you're taking an audio/video recording

XI. Honor the relationship between Teacher and Parent

- a. Please observe the stated working hours of teachers and dept heads. Do not expect responses during holidays or regular days off, or in between classes.
- b. Texting must be reserved for quick reminders, not long conversations.
- c. Please obtain permission from your private teacher for any additional musical endeavors. This includes orchestra, chamber music, additional private lessons, second instruments, etc.

XII. Progress, curriculum and concerns regarding your teacher, the program or your schedule:

- a. Twice per year conferences are held during lesson time in order to facilitate such conversations.
- b. If more time is needed, mention at the beginning of the lesson that you'd like to reserve some time at the end of the lesson to have a conversation, or email your teacher to request a conversation if more time is needed.

Suzuki Program Family Policies

- c. Some conversations are best held without a child present, especially regarding progress or comparisons.
- d. Do not wait until spring to bring up a problem. Any discussions should take place as soon as possible so that we have time to implement multiple strategies for improvement.
- e. If you don't feel comfortable talking with your teacher, please request a meeting with your Department Head or with Suzuki Director to discuss; a meeting will then be scheduled to include the teacher.
- f. Any changes to your schedule must be approved by the Program Director. Changes to schedules will be made only at the semester break, and are made only in exceptional circumstances. Please be aware that any changes involve significant administrative time, and affect many other people.
- g. We all wish the absolute best for each child, and must work together to communicate and grow. Requests to change teachers will not be approved if the above steps are not taken.

XIII. Expectations of the Suzuki Parent (as discussed in First Year Parents' Class)

- Attend Parents' Class during the first semester, and continue in role of Suzuki Parent for the duration of child's Suzuki experience.
- Suzuki Parent (the one who attended the Parents' Class) must attend all classes and take notes
- Ensure that student listens to the CD every day at home
- Practice every day at home with the child, using positive language strategies learned in Parents' Class
- Obtain required materials and bring them to class every week
- Read and follow the Suzuki Program Family Policies
- Keep a sense of humor, and model this for your children
- Keep an open dialogue with your teacher in order to problem solve together

The Suzuki Parent is the parent who attends parent classes, accompanies the child to lessons, communicates with the teacher, and works with the child at home. You are the container of information! If a spouse wants or needs to take over the duties of the Suzuki Parent, they must attend a full semester of Parents' Class.

We teachers know that you work very hard in your role as a Suzuki Parent, and all of us have immense respect for your dedication. We have an incredible Suzuki community here at the Brooklyn Conservatory for which we are all very grateful. Let's work together to continue to build a life-long musical journey for you and your children. As Suzuki said, "Music Polishes The Heart."

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Basic Instrument Information

Brooklyn
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A positive and successful experience depends on having a good quality & well-sized instrument.

DO NOT OBTAIN AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUR CHILD
BEFORE YOUR TEACHER APPROVES THE SIZE.

The Brooklyn Conservatory does not sell or provide instruments.

READ BELOW FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
AND INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR INSTRUMENT.

VIOLINS/CELLOS/BASSES – (Also read more details specific to each instrument below)

We recommend renting from Johnson Strings: (800) 359-9351. We have an arrangement with Johnson Strings which allows you to pick up/drop off at Brooklyn Conservatory, which will save you money on shipping. They will make a delivery prior to the first day of the semester. Rentals usually include insurance against damage. Building up credit towards a future purchase is usually possible with rental. Please make sure the company allows you to trade a size easily.

BASS

The Suzuki Parent should order a $\frac{3}{4}$ size bass with GERMAN bow from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, for 6 months. ***DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.*** For small basses, contact Johnson Strings or Gene Rebeck: erebeck@comcast.net (517) 896-2788.

Bass Rental Rates – including insurance (as of Jan 2019): 6 Months = \$474 for Adult $\frac{3}{4}$ size; Beginner (ex. $\frac{1}{10}$ size) 12 months = \$474 from Johnson Strings.

CELLO

The Suzuki Parent should rent a FULL SIZE cello from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, for 6 months. ***DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.*** Also order a Xeros Anchor for Cello – otherwise known as an Endpin Rest – which holds the endpin in place on the floor. Cello students are required to bring their own stools to classes. This ensures that students have the correct height stool at home to practice as well as during classes. Families will receive an info sheet detailing stool options from the department head in September.

Standard Cello Rental Rates – including insurance (as of Jan 2019):
6 month = \$276; 12 month = \$450

VIOLIN

The Suzuki Parent should order a FULL SIZE ($\frac{4}{4}$) violin for 6 months from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, as well as a full size ($\frac{4}{4}$) firm contour sponge. ***DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.***

Standard Violin Rental Rates (as of Jan 2019): **6 month = \$168.00; 12 month = \$270.00**

GUITAR

The Suzuki Parent should purchase a guitar for him/herself to be delivered by first day of the semester. ***DO NOT order an instrument for your child.***

All guitars must be a nylon string CLASSICAL guitar, with a *solid* cedar or spruce soundboard. If you have small hands, order a 63.6cm guitar; if you have large hands, order a full size.

www.altamiraguitars.com/us-shop/p/n100-j5hml

Small size guitars will be obtained through Brent Weaver. Resale of guitars is facilitated by Guitar Department, so that changing sizes is easy and affordable. \$465.

Email Michele Horner with questions: Michele.Horner@bkcm.org.

Guitar students are required to bring their own stools to classes. This ensures that students have the correct height stool at home to practice as well as during classes. Michele will distribute a separate info sheet with stool options for children.

FLUTE

The Suzuki Parent should order a Standard Flute with a straight headjoint (closed hole, low C or B footjoint, trill keys), to arrive by the first day of the semester. (Available through Flutistry, Weisman, or NY Flute Center) DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will advise on appropriate timing to arrange for purchase of a Suzuki Style flute with a curved headjoint. (www.flutistry.com/collections/beginner) General Flute Purchase Rates (1/2020): \$500-\$800. See also separate Flute handout for more info.

PIANO

We require that all piano families have a real piano with strings and hammers (no digital keyboards, no exceptions) by the first day of the semester.

New pianos starting at \$5,600 (Essex, Boston & Steinway);

Previously owned starting at \$3000+

Rental from \$85 – \$120/ mo. Tuning \$150 2X per year;

Delivery cost: \$275 – \$300 upright/\$375 – grand

See also next page "Acquiring a Piano" for more info.

SUZUKI PIANO: WHY A REAL PIANO INSTEAD OF A KEYBOARD?

At the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, the Suzuki Division requires that families obtain a real piano for their home by the first week of class.

The piano may be upright, baby grand, or grand. There are many options – to rent, to buy new, or to buy used. Information on where to obtain an instrument is available upon request.

TONE & TECHNIQUE

Although an electric keyboard may have weighted keys to more closely reproduce a grand piano touch response, your purchase or rental of an acoustic piano will provide your child with the experience of playing on an instrument built to their individual touch.

An acoustic piano produces sound via a string-striking mechanism, or "action". This action conveys the subtle nuances of finger movement to the hammer, allowing not only that string to vibrate, but to share this resonance with strings not directly struck. What an experience for a student to have the entire instrument act as a resonator, enabling them to develop a rich, full, and varied tone!

The electronic keyboard will require more work from children to press weighted keys, without the benefit of tone quality.

Pianos teachers have widely observed a disruption in progress in students who start on an electric keyboard when they switch to an acoustic keyboard.

"Habits learned first are learned best" is a treasured mantra within the Suzuki community—beautiful tone, developed with physical ease, will be the foundation that serves them best throughout their musical development!

COST

Music education is an investment with ongoing costs, such as tuition, instrument, piano tuning, instrument repair, sheet music & supplies, etc. BKCM is committed to helping parents with these costs to the fullest extent possible.

Please reach out to inquire about financial aid, or for support in finding an affordable piano, movers, tuners, or information about piano sizes.

MOTIVATION

The experience of learning to play an acoustic piano, which is built to respond to the developing nuances of your child's touch, will be a source of ongoing inspiration and motivation. Tone and technique discovered and develop on an acoustic piano in their lesson will be more easily replicated on the home instrument!

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FAQ

for Prospective Suzuki Parents

Brooklyn
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1. WHAT IS THE SUZUKI METHOD?

The Suzuki method is based on the philosophy of Japanese violin teacher Shin'ichi Suzuki, who believed that "every child can be educated". He suggested that if children are able to learn their home language or dialect perfectly, then correspondingly, all children will also be able to learn to play music, and based the method on the way we learn language: through exposure, imitation, encouragement, repetition, addition, and refinement. Parents are involved at every step of the way, working with the teachers to create a successful learning environment, and more importantly, Suzuki believed that "Music Polishes the Heart". Read Suzuki's book *Nurtured by Love*, read our handouts, and visit the Suzuki Association of the America's website for more information. www.SuzukiAssociation.org

2. WHAT IF I'M NOT MUSICAL OR CAN'T HOLD A TUNE?

Most of the parents in our program have never played an instrument. Many people claim to have no musical ability, but we believe that all humans are musically gifted, when provided the proper environment! Music is a gift that everyone can give their children.

3. HOW CAN I HAVE A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN SUZUKI?

We require three things from parents that will ensure a successful experience: 1) Listen to your Suzuki CD every day (the musical vocabulary); 2) Practice every day with your child; 3) Attend all classes and take good notes.

4. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T LIKE IT? WHAT IF MY CHILD DECIDES THEY DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE?

In the Suzuki philosophy, we refer back to the language learning analogy. Instead of wondering whether a child will learn to speak, we ask ourselves, "what more can I do to support my child's learning?" We have an expectation of success from the very start, and have found that when the adults ensure that good attendance, daily listening, and daily practicing is happening, that most students have a positive learning experience. BKCM is committed to supporting every child's learning needs, and we work with parents to ensure a positive, successful experience. Your faith and commitment to the process sends a strong message of support to your child.

5. HOW MUCH PRACTICING IS REQUIRED?

Suzuki said, "Only practice on the days you eat." We also say that five minutes a day leads to ten minutes a day, and then gradually we build up the ability to focus for 30 mins or more as the child grows. The most important thing is consistency, so that the child is motivated by seeing themselves learning.

6. WHAT ARE THE STEPS I SHOULD TAKE TO ENROLL?

Parents must attend an Orientation first. After that, read *Nurtured By Love*, observe some classes, and attend an intake interview.

7. DOES THE PROGRAM FILL UP QUICKLY?

Yes! Space is limited, and popular instruments fill up quickly. Register for an Orientation early for the best chance at your first choice instrument.

8. HOW DO I KNOW WHEN MY CHILD IS READY? WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INTAKE INTERVIEW?

At the intake interview, one child and one parent meet for about 10 minutes with one teacher. We accept children who are willing to interact with a teacher, who are ready to follow directions, who are potty trained, and whose families are able to bring the child on time. It is not a musical evaluation. If children are not ready, we invite families to begin the process again the following year, and in the meantime, those families are invited to join our early childhood classes.

9. HOW IS IT DECIDED WHAT INSTRUMENT THE CHILD WILL TAKE?

Also at the intake interview, the various instruments we offer are demonstrated, and the child indicates which instrument he/she is most interested in learning. If you do not have space for a real piano, let the director know, and we won't present that instrument.

10. DO I NEED TO GET A REAL PIANO?

Yes! Please read our piano FAQ for more information.

11. HOW CAN I FIND AN INEXPENSIVE INSTRUMENT?

Children will be most successful if they start on an instrument that functions properly and has a beautiful sound. Many inexpensive instruments found on ebay, etc. have ill-fitting parts, and it is impossible to play well if the instrument doesn't function well. Refer to our handout Basic Instrument Information for reputable dealers.

12. SHOULD I BUY AN INSTRUMENT NOW?

Please don't buy a violin, guitar, or cello for your child until you have met with your teacher. Habits learned first are learned best. Correct sizing & quality is very important, and we must wait until the child is ready – usually not until January or February! Your teacher will advise you.

13. WHAT ARE THE CLASSES I WILL ATTEND? WHAT WILL MY SCHEDULE BE?

Parents' Class, Group/Theory, and Private Lesson are all included in your tuition, and attendance is required at all classes. Alterations to this schedule are not possible. BKCM holds classes on weekends from 9 – 5 and weekday afternoons. We try to schedule classes for younger children earlier in the day. Specific schedules are not available until late in the spring semester, around May or June. We cannot accommodate individual requests for changes to class times, and families must be willing to accept the schedule given to them.

14. WHY DO PARENTS ATTEND THE FIRST SIX WEEKS WITHOUT THE CHILD?

In the Suzuki philosophy, we believe that success starts from the child's environment. If parents know how to do something, they are better equipped to help their children learn. We teach all the parents how to play the instrument first! Further, children love to do what the people around them

do, so when children see their parents learning to play, they will ask to play too!

15. WAIT! I NEED TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY THE INSTRUMENT?

Yes! All of our parents learn how to play the instrument. This also means parents will need their own full-sized instrument for the first semester. Guitar parents will need a classical guitar with nylon strings. More information for all families is available upon request. We require a real piano, not keyboard, for our piano students.

16. DO YOU HAVE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

The BKCM Suzuki Program is happy to announce the availability of Financial Aid for 2023–2024! Please email Kris.Mandapat@bkcm.org for more information on our application process.

17. WILL MY CHILD LEARN HOW TO READ MUSIC?

Yes! Reading is taught in parallel, as a separate skill. We learn to speak before we learn to write. So, we teach the children to play before we teach them to play from the score. Children take music literacy class starting in the first semester, and once they can play, the two skills are put together.

18. MAY I SEND MY CAREGIVER IN MY PLACE?

The Suzuki Method is designed for parents/primary caregivers and their children, and every effort will be made to create a schedule that meets your family's needs. On the rare occasion that a non-primary caregiver must bring the child to a lesson, your teacher will expect him/her to be adequately prepared for their role in attentive, quiet engagement and note-taking.

19. WHAT IF WE GO OUT OF TOWN EVERY WEEKEND?

Once schedules are available, choose an instrument which meets during the week. Schedules change from year to year, however, and there is no guarantee that the chosen instrument will continue to meet only on weekdays. Another option is to join another Suzuki program offering weekday classes on the instrument of your choice.

20. WHAT ARE THE CLASSES I WILL ATTEND? WHAT WILL MY SCHEDULE BE?

One parent must take the responsibility of being the "Suzuki Parent". Sharing is only possible if both parents are extremely committed, and both attend all the classes. Otherwise, major gaps in information will severely limit the child's progress.

21. WHAT IF I CAN'T ATTEND PARENTS' CLASS?

The parent education component of our program is the most important element. If you cannot attend Parents' Class, then unfortunately, our program is not right for your family.

22. MY CHILD ISN'T READY YET, BUT WE WANT TO PREPARE. WHAT CAN WE DO TO GET READY?

Listen to recordings, go to child-friendly concerts, attend Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE), and observe Suzuki classes as often as you'd like!

23. WHEN DOES MY CHILD GROW OUT OF SUZUKI?

Dr. Suzuki developed a method for learning that can be applied for a lifetime! Students begin instrumental study utilizing repertoire that serves as a vehicle for step-by-step learning across all levels of playing, from Twinkles to Tchaikovsky!

We expect that students will continue in our Suzuki program through high school. Our teachers are able to teach at every level, and age appropriate modifications in approach are made during the tween and teen years. This is a gradual process that involves strong communication between parent and teacher, and we encourage families to engage in ongoing conversations with their teachers and program leaders for guidance and support.

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Suzuki Flute Instrument Info

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FOR STUDENTS:

Curved Headjoint OR Waveline (make sure it's C flute not Alto flute)



Curved Headjoint (preferably), closed hole, smaller key spacing, down to low D, no trill keys

Weismann: Suzuki style flute

OR

Jupiter: JFL700UD/Prodigy 313S (discontinued, but might be able to get the used) OR

Di Zhao: mini D

You might see **Jupiter Waveline JFL700WD**: It is ok to have this model if there is no other option.



The general transition of flute model from prodigy flute to standard flute?

This depends on the student's learning and physical growing:

- Book 1-2: Curved headjoint, low D without trill keys
- Book 3: Curved headjoint with standard body
- Later: Straight headjoint

FOR PARENTS:

Standard flute: straight headjoint, closed hole, either low C or low B footjoint, trill keys

Note: Jupiter, Yamaha, or Trevor James, which comes with both straight and curved headjoints, so the students can use it in the future.

**Resource:**

Some stores may give you extended warranty or other benefits when you inform you are Ti's student in Brooklyn Conservatory of Music

Weismann

Leila Kim:

flutopianmusic@gmail.com

<https://www.manhattanfluteemporium.com/product-category/student-flutes/>

New York Flute Center

Kim Lewis:

kim@flutes4sale.com

307 7th Avenue, Suite 401

New York, NY 10001

(212) 307-9737 | info@flutes4sale.com

Flutistry

info@flutistry.com

617-519-8966

<https://www.flutistry.com/collections/beginner>

Ardsley Music

<https://ardsleymusic.com/rent-now/>

Facebook : Suzuki Flute Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/187711394720111/>

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Guidelines to observe BKCM Suzuki classes

Observations will be suspended for 2023 due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

Observing at least one private and one group class is required. Attending two observations will help your child become comfortable and familiar with the program, and will clarify your child's instrument preference.

To sign up: After attending the Orientation, parents will receive a link from joseph.swift@bkcm.org

When you observe, please keep the following in mind:

Please sign into the Zoom waiting room 5 minutes before the start of a class.

- Plan to have a brief greeting from the teacher at the beginning of the lesson, where he/she will indicate their preferences regarding muting and video on/off.
- Certain group classes will limit the number of observers, depending on the number of students enrolled in the class in order to minimize distractions on the screen and to ensure their continued engagement.
- If a teacher declines to be observed, please respect that request; sometimes unforeseen circumstances come up, and we must respect the teacher's wishes.

Please be aware that unexpected absences do occur and are beyond our control.

Report the observations you've attended here: <https://goo.gl/forms/kEpp6dtsCB6agmR63>

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Siblings/ Transfer Students/ Musical Parents

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As a returning family OR a family transferring from another location/program, you may have questions about required attendance in Parents' Class or in the first 6 weeks, when our newest families will be attending Group/Theory/Private lessons without their child. While the requirements may vary slightly between departments, our collective principles remain constant throughout the program.

Community: Parents' Class is not only the foundation of instrumental instruction and Suzuki philosophy, but is the place where a community of support and connection between families is established. Attendance and participation in this vital element of our program serves to connect families in a way that proves to be motivational for both you and your child for many years to come!

A Fresh Start: You are a different parent now than when you may have attended in the past! AND this is a different kid! You bring a unique perspective to the class that our Beginning Parents are eager to learn from, but there's also enormous value in re-visiting all that was covered in a previous class.

Keeping A Beginner's Mind: Each instrument has its own distinct culture and approach, with some slight and some significant differences. Similarly, every teacher even within the same department has a unique approach. For all, including those who have studied an instrument already, who are professional musicians, and even Suzuki teachers, it will be important to approach a new instrument and a new teacher with fresh eyes and ears, and to be prepared for differences in terminology, pace, and classroom expectations. Observing will help prepare you, and we'll be happy to put you in touch with other parents. Families will have choices about private teacher, depending on teacher availability and scheduling compatibility, whereas group/theory teachers will be assigned based on overall program needs.

As you'll see in the following sample scenarios, requirements may vary between departments. Each Department Head structures their Parents' Class differently and will guide returning families appropriately to ensure that their attendance is scheduled such that they are receiving the full benefit of instrumental review and connection with other families. If attendance requirements are not met, parents may be asked to attend Parents' Class again the following year.

Different Instruments:

Events for different instruments often take place on the same day, and while we do our best to coordinate the schedules, it can involve two separate locations and somewhat conflicting times.

Events have different formats from instrument to instrument, so please also know that you will need to ask teachers and department heads for details about who performs in what way on each event.

MUSICIAN PARENTS

The Suzuki Parent who is also a musician (or even a Suzuki teacher!) is required to attend all classes along with other new families in the program for the reasons described above. For these families, it is especially important to keep an open mind about approach, to be prepared to defer to your teachers' decisions, and to keep good communication with teachers about these issues.

SIBLINGS***Same Instrument/Same Parent (within 3yrs of previous enrollment)***

1. Attend Orientation, Interview, Observations.
2. Attend Parents' Classes (requirements differ between departments)
3. Attend Group/Theory/Private without child at the beginning of semester (requirements differ between departments)
4. Adult-sized instrument needed. (requirements differ between departments)
5. Suzuki First Year Material Fee (required):
 - Distributed at Registration
 - Tote, Puppy Packet (prorate possible)
 - Books: Nurtured By Love (Suzuki) and Helping Parents Practice (Springer) (prorate possible)
 - Vol. 1 & CD (prorate possible)
 - Distributed at Parents' Class:
 - Parent Handbook

Same Instrument/Different Suzuki Parent (within 3yrs of previous enrollment) OR Different Instrument/Same Suzuki Parent (within 3yrs of previous enrollment)

1. Attend Orientation, Interview, Observations
2. Attend ALL Parents' Classes
3. Attend ALL Group/Theory/Private lessons without child for first 6 weeks.
4. Adult-sized instrument needed.
5. Suzuki First Year Material Fee (required, with same prorates as first example possible)

What if our previous enrollment was more than 3 years ago?

Thanks for asking!

Same Instrument/Same Suzuki Parent (previous enrollment 3+ yrs)

1. Attend Orientation, Interview, Observations.
2. Attend Parents' Classes (requirements differ between departments).
3. Attend Group/Theory/Private lessons without child at beginning of the semester (requirements differ between departments).
4. Adult-sized instrument needed.
5. Suzuki First Year Material Fee (required, with same prorates as first example possible)

Different Instrument/Same Suzuki Parent (previous enrollment 3+ yrs)

1. Attend Orientation, Interview, Observations.
2. Attend ALL Parents' Classes.
3. Attend ALL Group/Theory/Private lessons without child for first 6 weeks.
4. Adult-sized instrument needed.
5. Suzuki First Year Material Fee (required, with same prorates as first example possible)

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transferring into the program is not always possible.

An audition is required. Other factors include alignment of previous study with BKCM Suzuki approach as well as scheduling limitations – some age/level groups are full.

Book 1 (ages 4-7yrs)

1. Attend Orientation, Interview/Audition, Observations (private/group)
2. Attend ALL Parents' Classes.
3. Attend ALL Group/Theory Classes.
4. Attend 3 (minimum) Private Lessons without the child (Director discretion.)
5. Adult-sized instrument needed.
6. Suzuki First Year Material Fee (required, with same prorates as first example possible)

Book 2 (ages 4-7yrs)

1. Attend Orientation, Interview/Audition/Theory Evaluation, Observations (private/group)
2. Attend initial Private Lessons without child (teacher discretion).

Books 3-10 (ages 8-17)

1. Attend Orientation or Private Interview (parent).
2. Attend Observations of appropriate level/age Group/Private Lesson.
3. Audition and Theory Evaluation for class placement.