



Information on the Suzuki Program

1. What is Suzuki?

Over fifty years ago, Dr Shinichi Suzuki developed a method of teaching music to young children, which he called the “Mother Tongue” method. In other words, children as young as three are able to play an instrument by listening to a recording of their pieces, just as they learnt to speak by listening to their parents.

2. What is the difference between Suzuki and traditional teaching?

- Children can begin playing at an earlier age as they learn to play before they learn to read music.
- The parent is actively involved in the daily practice and learns along with the child
- Parents and children listen to the recording every day, which provides a good model for tone, intonation and musical performance.

3. When do the children learn to read music?

Reading is introduced when the technique is well established. For an older child, perhaps seven or eight, this may be during the first year of learning.

4. Does it matter if I cannot play an instrument?

No! Sometimes this can be an advantage because as a beginner the parent understands what the child is going through!

5. What can I do to help my child?

Be positive and encouraging *all* the time (this applies to the whole family!).

Take your child to suitable concerts.

Listen to music at home.

Buy a music stand for Christmas.

Consider buying an instrument for your child. He or she will take pride in owning an instrument and will be less likely to give up.

For more information about the Suzuki method we recommend you read:

Nurtured by Love – Shinichi Suzuki (*Worldwide Press*)

Talent Education for Young Children – Shinichi Suzuki (*Worldwide Press*)