



Suzuki School of Newton 09-10

Concert Guidelines for SSN Students

Students and families of SSN can look forward to several performance opportunities throughout the year, including book recitals, community outreach, special events, teacher workshops, Suzuki Festivals and others yet to be determined events! This makes for a very active school for the families, board members and faculty all to organize. Please realize we do not expect you all to participate in every event. We do ask you to plan and to let your teacher know as early as possible for sign-ups. Last minute cancellations or changes are more and more difficult, as you can imagine.

Our solo concerts are distributed at various times throughout the year. This is to avoid the saturation that often happens at the end of each semester. Nevertheless, the end of the year is still (happily) a busy time to celebrate accomplishments and share performances with family and friends.

A. Performances and Rehearsals – Basic Policies

1. All students should expect to have **one “public” rehearsal before they perform** in a solo concert. This is usually during group class, but may also happen at a lesson with another student asked to come in early or stay late to hear a performance. Students in books 3 and up should sign up for a rehearsal time with an accompanist. For Sunday concerts this is usually Saturday, the day before the concert. For Saturday concerts this is usually the Saturday the week before the concert. Your registration fee has covered a maximum 7 minute rehearsal with the accompanist. For additional time beyond that, we will ask you to cover the cost of the accompanist’s time. There is a “rehearsal request” form, and payment should be made prior to the rehearsal.
2. Students should expect to play for **one solo concert per semester or two concerts per year**. Sign-ups are through your individual teacher only. If you are only enrolled in group classes, you may also sign up for solo recitals. A list of available dates follows these guidelines. In this case, the parent should notify the group class teacher at least 3 weeks in advance of the concert of the desire to participate in a particular solo concert. All students are urged to plan early in the school year as space is available on a first come-first served basis. Furthermore, in the interest of our young students, recitals are limited in length to a maximum of 60 minutes. As you can imagine, we cannot require all faculty to be available for all the concerts in the year, but they do like to be present during their own students’ performances. Please realize that it is increasingly difficult for us to accommodate special requests for being placed early or late in a concert, and that we prefer to decide upon program order based upon musical decisions, not on a family’s schedules. Also, in consideration for all children who patiently wait during an entire performance, we ask you to sign up for a concert only if you are planning on **staying for the entire concert**.
3. **Concert Dress for group performances is white tops, black bottoms and black shoes**. Skirts are preferred for girls. Accessories should be kept to black or red. For solo concerts, appropriately “dressed-up” attire is fine. At our outreach concerts, even for solos, white and black concert attire will be used in order to properly identify our students as SSN students.
4. We will use **one chord** for the bow. If you practice at home the concert bow, we ask that you use just one chord. We are trying to train all our students this way, so that our accompanist will be able to play the chord the same way for all concerts.
5. We ask that concert audience members turn off cell phones, pagers, etc., before recitals. Please refrain from flash photography during performances. Please enter or exit the hall only between pieces.

B. Recital Sign-Up Procedure

1. Teacher fills out the RECITAL REQUEST FORM and gives it to the student (piece to be played, suggested recital day/time, rehearsal time, etc.)
2. Parent completes remainder of information: sibling performances bring a snack, etc.
3. Parent submits the completed form to the office. Michelle, Tung or Sachiko initials the form and puts it in Michelle's mailbox (M is typing programs this year).
4. Sign-ups will be listed and uploaded to the SSN website www.suzukinewton.org NOT IN CONCERT ORDER.
5. Changes less than 72 hours before a concert are not guaranteed to be incorporated into the printed program.
6. When a concert is full, 3 additional students may be waitlisted (in the order in which the forms are received) in case of a cancellation.
7. Teachers may not reserve spaces without a completed form. However, if one of the students of a particular teacher cancels, the teacher may substitute another of his/her own students in priority over the waitlisted student(s) IF the teacher notifies the office of the cancellation/recital swap at the same time AND has a completed form for the student taking the vacated place. This idea is similar to the lesson swap.

C. Refreshments

SSN asks each family to contribute refreshments for events. To assure an ample and varied selection, please consult the following. Refreshment requests are divided by the first letter of the family's last name.

October-January

A-J Baked goods, crackers,

K-P Drinks

Q-S Paper goods

T-Z Vegetables, fruit, etc.

February-April

A-D Paper Goods

E-J Vegetables, fruit

K-S Baked goods, bread

T-Z Drinks

May-June

A-G Drinks

H-J Paper Goods

K-S Vegetables, fruit

T-Z Baked goods, bread

D. Solo Recitals

Teachers will be present for all recital times on that day (1:30PM, 2:45PM, and 4:00PM) unless otherwise noted. All recitals are scheduled in the small gym, but occasionally we will have the privilege to use the auditorium. Please let us know in advance if you will need ground floor accessibility for any of these concerts. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the recital time for tuning and settling down. Recitals are a special and exciting time. Students will have a better performance experience if they arrive with plenty of time, do not feel rushed, and have time to focus and prepare internally. Please plan to stay for the entire recital which usually lasts about 45- 60 minutes.