
Suzuki Violin Program



LORETO
Mandeville Hall Toorak

“I want to make good citizens. If children hear good music from the day of their birth and learn to play it themselves, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. Each will get a beautiful heart.

– Shinichi Suzuki

Suzuki Method

Do you ever wonder how a toddler is able to talk at such an early age without any knowledge of grammar or the alphabet? Therein lies the secret of Shinichi Suzuki’s innovative program.

The renowned Japanese violinist and pedagogue believed that every child has infinite potential, and that the most effective way for a student to learn music is to be exposed to beautiful music from an early age. His approach is based on the ‘mother tongue’ method of learning: young students learn music by listening, absorbing and copying, the same way they learn their native language.

The success of the Suzuki method depends on a nurturing environment; parental involvement is vital for a child to achieve optimal results. Ideally, parents attend every lesson and thus attain an understanding of good posture and quality tone production to support children in their home practice.

Celebrated globally, Suzuki Method is recognised as one of the most effective and successful ways of teaching very

young children to play music from an early age. Research shows that music education for young children:

- improves fine motor skills and coordination;
- improves language development;
- improves focus and memory;
- improves fundamental mathematical skills;
- improves executive function: discipline, teamwork, emotional control;
- improves self-confidence and self-esteem.

Suzuki Violin Lessons

Private lessons are central in the Suzuki Method; they are designed to develop playing techniques in small, carefully planned steps. Emphasis is placed on listening, observation, repetition and memory to build confidence in young violinists. By attending the weekly lesson, parents will acquire a practical understanding of the instrument, be able to guide and encourage their children during their daily practice, and facilitate daily listening of the Suzuki repertoire.

Daily Listening

Daily listening to the Suzuki repertoire enables the child to become familiar with the melodies they are learning and to develop the concept of a beautiful tone. Repetitive listening develops auditory and memory skills, essential for students in all facets of their learning. It can take place at any time: in the car, during meals, at bath time or during playtime.

Suzuki Group Classes

Group classes are also an essential component of the Suzuki approach. These give students the opportunity to come together, learn from one another, revise their pieces collectively, refine their playing technique and, importantly, have fun. These classes are specifically for the students, and parents are not expected to attend.

Suzuki Association Membership

Loreto Toorak Suzuki families are encouraged to become members of the Victorian Suzuki Association. Such membership enables students to participate in an array of performance events and forums including the Annual Festival.

Contact

To find out more about Suzuki Violin at Loreto Toorak, please contact:

Mrs Camilla Martin

Suzuki Violin Teacher

camilla.martin@loretotoorak.vic.edu.au

“The Suzuki program at Loreto Toorak has been amazing as it has allowed me to witness my daughter's love of music. It has been a privilege to participate and assist her in developing her skills and overcoming challenges which is useful for all aspects of life.

- Jacinta Lung, Parent

Enrolment Information

Suzuki Violin lessons will be offered from Term 1, to students in Preparatory, Year 1 and Year 2.

- 30-minute individual lessons will be offered
- Enrolment will be for one semester, rolling over automatically into the following semester/year
- Attendance at weekly lessons by a parent is essential to support the student's development, through active supervision of home practice
- Parents will be advised to take notes of the essential focus areas during lessons to help with the daily practice sessions at home
- Suzuki Violin Enrolment Forms and Instrument Hire Forms should be completed and returned to Rathfarnham Reception.

Two introductory parent information sessions will be held in Term 1. Dates and times of these will be confirmed after consultation with the parents of enrolled students.

Timetabling of Lessons

- Weekly individual lessons will be scheduled on agreed fixed times and days.
- Lesson duration will be 30 minutes and timetables will be published on SEQTA.

Lesson Day Procedure

- The parent will sign in at Rathfarnham Reception, collect the student from her classroom and accompany her to the teaching studio.
- Parent and student will wait outside the studio for the teacher to invite them in at the set time.
- At the conclusion of the lesson, students will return to class; parents sign out at Reception.

Weekly Group Class

In addition to the individual lesson, a 30-minute Group Class will be scheduled on a weekly basis. Times will be published on SEQTA. These classes are specifically for the students and parents are not expected to attend. These classes are complimentary.

Instrument Hire

- Instrument Hire is for one semester, automatically rolling over into the following semester/year.
- The School must be notified immediately of any loss or damage to an instrument and the instrument should be returned promptly.
- Under no circumstances should the student or her family organise private repairs or replacement.
- It is the responsibility of the student's family to pay for all repairs or replacement costs.
- Cost for instrument hire.



Purchase of Music and Resources

Students will be asked to purchase:
Suzuki – Violin School Volume 1, Part 1, Book

Please note that Copyright regulations prohibit the photocopying of any sheet music for instrumental lessons.

Missed Lessons

- It is the parent's responsibility to notify the teacher, at least seven days in advance, of any absence due to an excursion or for any other reason. Unless this courtesy is offered, the lesson will be counted as given and not rescheduled.
- In the case of sudden illness, the Music Office must be notified by 8.00am on the day of the lesson. Unless this courtesy is offered, the lesson will be counted as given and not rescheduled.
- Teachers are under no obligation to make up lessons due to family holidays or forgetfulness. This will be considered an unauthorised absence and the lesson counted as given.

Cancellation

- If you wish for your daughter to discontinue lessons, a term's notice must be given.
- There will be no refund of tuition fees after this time since provision will have been made for lessons and the fees to be paid to the teachers engaged to take the lessons the following term.
- Any concerns regarding the actual teaching of your daughter should be directed to the Director of Music as soon as they arise.

Fees

The cost of 15 lessons per semester .

- In Term 4, once a student has been given her quota of lessons, she can have additional lessons.
- Parents will receive a letter detailing the number of additional lessons recommended.
- Commitment to payment for additional lessons is required prior to these lessons taking place. The Business Office will issue parents a co-curricular statement for these lessons.





Performances

Suzuki Violin students will have the opportunity to perform at the Rathfarnham Recitals, which are held throughout the year.



LORETO
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**THE CHALLENGES
SHE NEEDS**

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