



MS. MOLLY'S

STUDIO GUIDELINES



YOUTH MUSIC ILLINOIS SUZUKI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
2020-2021

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DEAR STUDIO FAMILIES,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year with Youth Music Illinois Suzuki School of Music!

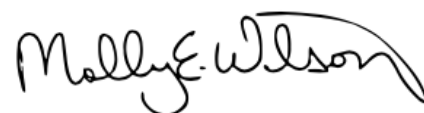
I am honored to guide each of you through the ups and downs of learning to play violin. In the midst of the unpredictable circumstances of this year, I hope your violin studies will serve as a haven of consistency and a source of joy.

In these studio guidelines, you will find important dates and expectations that will lead to a successful and productive year for us all. This document serves as a supplement to the YMI Suzuki School of Music Handbook which can be found on the YMI website.

Please read both the YMI Suzuki Handbook and my studio guidelines carefully and contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

I look forward to a year of musical and personal development with you all!

Warm regards,



Molly E. Wilson
Pronouns: she/her/hers



FIRST CHARACTER
THEN ABILITY

-Sinichi Suzuki

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Contact Information

Molly Wilson

Role: Youth Music Illinois Suzuki School of Music Violin and Viola Faculty Member

Email: molly.eliz.wilson@gmail.com

Phone: (309) 397-7849

- Email and text are the best ways to contact me. In emergencies, feel free to call.
- I welcome questions and comments throughout the week.
- Be sure to read the monthly YMI Suzuki School of Music newsletter for important updates and communication. If you are not already signed up for the newsletter, contact Ms. Molly.

Other helpful contact information:

- **Laura Otto:**
 - Role: Youth Music Illinois Suzuki School of Music Director
 - Phone: (309) 219-2004
 - Email: suzukidirector@ciys.org
- **Lidia Riley**
 - Role: Youth Music Illinois Executive Director
 - Phone: (309) 397-3578
 - Email: execdir@youthmusicillinois.org

In-Person Meeting Information

- All in-person lessons and group classes will take place at the Youth Music Illinois (YMI) Life Together Center (LTC):
 - Address: 3601 N. Sheridan Road in Peoria, Illinois
- Please plan to arrive at lessons and group classes with plenty of time to breathe and prepare to learn in a focused and calm manner.

Remote Meeting Information

- All Zoom lessons will take place via the following Meeting ID Information:
 - Meeting ID: 540 763 5421
 - Password: 129921
- Any virtual group class meeting information will be sent directly to you.

COVID-19 Precautions

In an effort to protect all parties involved, the YMI Life Together Center will be following the most updated CDC guidelines. We understand that this is a quickly changing situation, and your flexibility and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Currently, the following precautionary measures will be enforced at in-person private lessons and group classes:

- As always, please do not come to lessons if you have had a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within the past 24 hours. This includes any parents, guardians, siblings, or guests who may be attending the lesson.
- If you or a person of close contact has tested positive for COVID-19, the next two weeks of lessons will take place online, or lessons will take place online until the close contact COVID-19-positive individual is symptom free for three days.
- At indoor lessons and group classes, all parents, guardians, students, guests, and teachers will be required to wear a face covering that covers both the nose and mouth.
- Upon entering the building, or at the beginning of an indoor lesson/group class, everyone must thoroughly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Upon entering the building, the teacher will take each person's temperature and record this in the guest log.
- Any shared surfaces will be cleaned by the teachers between lessons.
- Make every effort to maintain six feet of distance between each other.
- In an effort to reduce close contact, Ms. Molly will instruct parents or guardians how to assist the student through physical touch. It is important that the parent or guardian is engaged and listening at all times to learn in this way.
- Parents, guardians, students, and teachers reserve the right to meet via Zoom for any lessons or group classes with at least one hour notice.
- In-person lessons will be held outdoors on the YMI lawn whenever the weather permits.

These are the minimum precautions that will be enforced. If you have further precautions you would like to be put into practice, please contact Ms. Molly.

Important Dates

Aug 17	Lessons & group classes begin
Aug 22	10:00AM Fall Kickoff and Play-In
Oct 30	6:00PM Fall Recital
Nov 23-28	Thanksgiving Break- No lessons or group
Dec 21-Jan 3	No lessons or group
Mar 29-Apr 3	Spring Break- no lesson or group
April TBA	Annual Suzuki School Concert
May 31-Jun 5	No lesson or group
Jun or Jul TBD	Summer Intensive

Weekly Group Classes

Group Class - 2020-2021 (August-April)

Violin A Thursdays 5:30-6:10

Violin B Thursdays 5:50-6:30

- Ms. Molly will let you know which group class section to attend.
- All group classes will take place at the YMI LTC.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before class starts.
- You may request to attend the group class via Zoom. This request must be made at least one hour before the group class begins.
- Group classes will occur weekly August through April with some weeks off when things get busier around the holidays and in spring. In May through July there will be monthly group classes at a different time.

Scheduling

- Please be sure to review the attendance policy in the YMI Suzuki Handbook - consistent attendance is of the utmost importance to the student's progress.
- At the beginning of the school year, Ms. Molly will schedule a weekly lesson time with you.
 - This will be your consistent weekly lesson time for the school year.
 - You may request to change your weekly lesson time at any point throughout the year. Ms. Molly will make every effort to make the change possible, but please know that this may be difficult.
- The 2020-2021 school year is from 08/17/2020 to 07/26/2021 - a total of 50 weeks
- Tuition includes 40 private lessons and 30 group classes
 - 33 lessons during the school year (8/17-4/26)
 - 7 lessons during the summer (to be scheduled with some flexibility in the weeks of 5/3-7/26)
 - 5 weeks of no lessons/group are scheduled for holidays the weeks of 11/23, 12/21, 12/28, 3/29, and 5/31.
- An additional (optional and billed separately) Summer Intensive opportunity will take place in June or July, dates TBD.
- No makeup lessons or rescheduled lessons will be offered when missed or requested by the student for any reason, although in some instances Ms. Molly may choose to offer a rescheduled or makeup lesson via Zoom subject to her availability.
- As an active performing artist, Ms. Molly will occasionally need to reschedule lessons for performing opportunities. These instances will be made known to you in advance.

Materials

All students will need the following materials for a successful education experience:

- A properly sized violin and bow - see suggested rental companies below
- A shoulder rest - Ms. Molly will work with you to find a good fit
- Rosin
- A spare set of strings in case a string breaks - Dominant or Evah is recommended
- A Zoom account and the ability to attend lessons or group classes remotely via Zoom
- A way to listen to the Suzuki recordings consistently three times every day
 - Students must listen to the [Hillary Hahn recordings](#) which are currently only available as a CD or digital download through the Alfred Music website.
 - Soon the recordings will be available for digital download on iTunes and Amazon.
- The International Edition of the appropriate Suzuki book
 - Beginning students will not need Book 1 until notified by Ms. Molly

Suggested Rental Companies

- Kenneth Stein Violins
 - Phone: (630) 782-0273
 - Email: steinviolins@gmail.com
 - Website: steinviolins.com
 - Location: Elmhurst Illinois
- StringWorks
 - Phone: (630) 454-5714
 - Website and online contact: stringworks.com
 - Location: Geneva Illinois

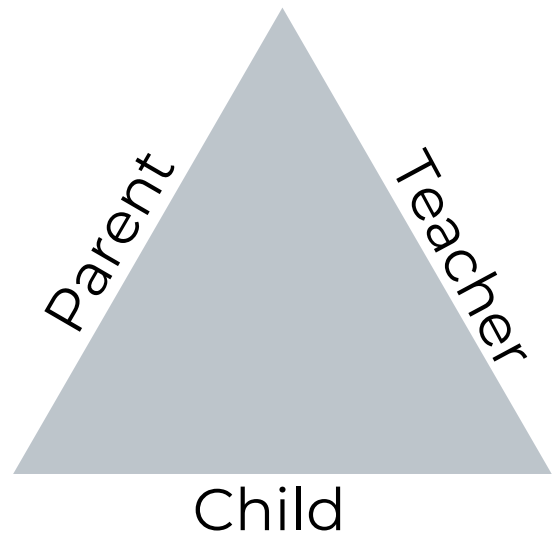
Instrument Care

- Bow Care
 - Always set the bow in the case or an elevated surface - never on the floor or ground
 - Rosin the bow about once or twice a week
 - Tighten the bow hair when unpacking the violin
 - Loosen the bow hair when packing up the violin
 - Clean the underside of the stick with a soft cloth once a week
 - Never apply pressure to the tip of the bow - the tip of the bow can easily break
- Violin Care
 - Always set the violin in the case or an elevated surface - never on the floor or ground
 - Change the strings at least once a year
 - Families will provide the strings and Ms. Molly will change the strings for you at a lesson
 - Gently wipe the strings and front body of the violin with a soft cloth every time you pack up the violin
 - Never set the violin face down on a surface - this may cause the bridge to collapse
 - Never leave the violin in extremely hot or cold environments such as the car.

The Suzuki Triangle

The Suzuki Triangle is dependent on...

- **A Common Goal:** character development through learning to play violin. "First character, then ability." - Dr. Sinichi Suzuki
- **Equilateral Cooperation:** an encouraging, supportive, and respectful environment is always prioritized.
- **Honest Communication:** all parties ask questions openly and often to mitigate misunderstandings.



Each member of the triangle has responsibilities described below:

Parent Responsibilities

- To attend all lessons, group classes, performances, and parent enrichment opportunities
- To listen and take notes diligently at the lessons and group classes
- To physically adjust the child as per Ms. Molly's instruction in lessons and group classes
- To have a clear understanding of the assignment for daily practice
- To be the at-home teacher, guiding practice as if it were a lesson
- To help accomplish the goals set by the teacher
- To create various daily listening environments for the Suzuki recordings
- To create a distraction-free space in the home and a routine for daily practice
- To ask questions
- To be a model of patience, consistency, and joy
- To maintain a positive attitude

Child Responsibilities:

- To listen diligently at home practice sessions, private lessons, and group classes
- To learn with an open mind
- To listen to the recordings and practice with the parent at home, eventually independently
- To face challenges with courage and determination
- To ask questions
- To maintain a positive attitude

Teacher Responsibilities

- To be an active, well-rounded musician
- To maintain a long-term vision for the child
- To create concrete assignments
- To be purposeful and playful
- To speak to the child and explain to the parent
- To establish authority
- To create a positive learning environment
- To respond to feedback
- To guide the student to mastery
- To empower the parent to help the child
- To foster a studio community
- To provide a model to imitate
- To ask questions
- To maintain a positive attitude

Listening Expectations

- The Suzuki Method uses the Mother Tongue approach to learning music:
 - Children learn to speak by hearing conversation in their environment and imitating what they hear. Their imitations may not be perfect at first, such as "wawa" for "water." Parents nonetheless encourage the child to repeat the word with peace knowing that with continued observation and repetition, "water" will soon be the word of choice. All the while, new words are being added to the vocabulary and used daily.
 - Similarly, the Suzuki Method teaches music by ear through creating an environment of music. Through repeatedly listening to the Suzuki recordings, the child's ear becomes so familiar with the melodies, articulations, tempos, and tone that their ear naturally guides their own playing to produce the sounds they have heard. As the child progresses on to new pieces, the previous pieces remain in the child's daily repertoire and are perfected.
- The child should listen to the recordings both passively (in the background) and actively (closely listening for something specific such as articulation, rhythm, tone, emotion, etc.)
- Through developing this listening skill, children learn valuable life skills such as self evaluation, critical thinking, and detail-oriented observation.
- The child's attitude toward listening to the Suzuki recordings is often a direct reflection of the parent's attitude toward listening.
- If the child has difficulties with intonation, memorization, articulations, notes, rhythms, or patterns, the first solution is always to listen to the recordings more. Then if needed, other additional solutions will be explored.



Practicing Expectations

- Consistent daily practice is an essential part of a child's Suzuki studies
- Since the goal of the teacher and parent is to develop character through learning to play violin, the adults in the Suzuki triangle should always praise consistency over accomplishment.
- Through consistent practice, children gain life skills such as determination, discipline, patience, positivity, and honesty.
- As with any fine motor skill, daily repetition for 20 minutes is more beneficial than one 120 minute session.
- Even if the practice session is 5 minutes long, that is better than no practice at all.
- Ms. Molly strives to help her studio practice mindfully and effectively. Please contact her frequently asking for assistance, tips, and advice for effective at-home practice.



Media and Observation Agreement

Please read the following media agreement carefully.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise by the parent or guardian of the student, by being a member of Ms. Molly's studio you (as the parent or guardian of the student) are giving consent for the following statements:

- Ms. Molly may photograph, video record, and audio record students for training and promotional purposes.
- Photos, video recordings, and audio recordings of the student may be published online or on social media for training and promotional purposes.
- Students may appear on the Zoom streamings and recordings of any Zoom lessons, group classes, meetings, or office hours.
- Private lessons and group classes may be observed in person or remotely by any relevant parties.

Occasionally, Ms. Molly will provide additional instructional materials via unlisted YouTube video links. Do not share these links with anyone. Do not share the Zoom meeting ID and password with anyone.

Zoom Office Hours

Have a question? Need help practicing? Is a rhythm challenging? Need help tuning? Want to chat about your child's progress?

- Tune in to Ms. Molly's weekly Zoom Office hours!
 - Every Monday 7-8 pm CST on Zoom
 - See Zoom information on page 4
 - This is an added benefit of being in Ms. Molly's studio at no additional cost.
 - No sign up necessary, just tune in.
 - All parents and students welcome!

