

# Suzuki Student Graduation

Current March 2018

Dr Suzuki chose milestone pieces from the violin repertoire that he felt demonstrated accomplishment and skill development. The graduation pieces are not an indication of book completion and are not necessarily the last piece in the book. Over the years each instrument group has chosen its own relevant milestone pieces. Currently, NZSI offers graduation opportunities for Cello, Flute, Guitar, Piano and Violin. The Listeners for NZSI student graduations are NZSI registered trainers and experienced teachers who have undertaken professional development in graduation assessment.

## Benefits for participating in Suzuki Graduations Process:

- ♪ Nurtures excellence in both students and teachers.
- ♪ Collectively raises the standard of instrument playing overall.
- ♪ Provides a goal for students and teachers.
- ♪ Gives a personal record for posterity.
- ♪ Creates a valid reason to maintain and revise repertoire.
- ♪ Validates the revision/review concept “when children know a piece deeply they can become free to express the music.”
- ♪ Gives the Suzuki community the opportunity to recognise the accomplishment of the student, i.e. graduation published in the NZSI journal.
- ♪ The reports issued can assist the home teacher in student evaluation.
- ♪ Home teachers receive clear guidelines of standards expected.

## Specifics of the Suzuki Graduation Recording:

- ✓ It is recommended that students be one book beyond the graduation level before making their graduation recording.
- ✓ The recording should demonstrate mastery and refinement according to the criteria set for each instrument.
- ✓ The recording should be a collaborative effort between student and teacher.
- ✓ The private teacher must assure the set criteria is achieved before the recording is submitted. (Teacher’s will be required to confirm they have listened to the recording and it meets the criteria.)

If the Listener finds the recording does not meet the required criteria, they will communicate with the private teacher in order to help the teacher to prepare the student thoroughly, and they may invite the teacher and student to make another recording and resubmit this at no extra cost.

When preparing and applying for Student Graduations, please take note of the following:

**Deadline Dates:** 15 May and **15 September** (deadline will be strictly adhered to in order to facilitate the process.)

**Pre-requisites:** Student must be current NZSI members and learning from a NZSI Registered teacher on the instrument of the graduation submission ([click here](#) for the current registry)

**Cost:** \$30 per student for each level and instrument

**Recording:** Digital format audio recording is strongly preferred and can be submitted as an audiofile recording(s) in .mp3 format or on a USB drive. Alternatively, recordings can be submitted on CD. All recordings should be posted to NZSI Administrator, PO Box 633, Wellington 6140.

**Announcing:** The piece should be announced by the performer prior to the recording. The announcement should include:

- The performer name and age (if under 18)
- The piece and composer
- The teacher's name

And conclude with "Thank you for listening" at the end of the announcement.

**Graduation Form:** Online registration is required. [Click here](#)

## **Suzuki Graduation Levels and Pieces**

### **Instrument: Cello**

[Click here for Cello Criteria](#)

Level 1:	Minuet no. 2 by J S Bach
Level 2:	The Witches Dance by N Paganini
Level 3:	Minuet in G by L.V. Beethoven
Level 4:	Sonata in C major 1 <sup>st</sup> movement by J. Breval
Level 5:	Sonata in E minor 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> movements by A Vivaldi
Level 6:	The Swan by C Saint Saens
Level 7:	Gavotte in D major by D Popper
Level 8:	Elegie by G Faure
Level 9:	Concerto in C major 1 <sup>st</sup> movement by J Haydn
Level 10:	Concerto in Bb major (complete) by L Boccherini
Level 11:	Concerto in A minor (complete) by C Saint Saens (beyond the Suzuki book)

### **Instrument: Flute**

[Click here for Flute Criteria](#)

Level 1:	Bourree by Handel
Level 2:	On Wings of Song by Mendelssohn
Level 3:	Minuet by Bizet
Level 4:	Sonata mvts 1, 3 & 4 by Blavet
Level 5:	Swiss Air Variations by Boehm
Level 6:	Carnival of Venice Variations by Genin. Book 7
Level 7:	Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy by Doppler. Book 7
Level 8:	Concerto in D major by Mozart. Book 9
Level 9:	Concerto in G major by Mozart. Book 11

Level 10:	Concerto by Taka
Level 11:	Concerto by Ibert

### **Instrument: Guitar**

[Click here for Guitar Criteria](#)

Level 1:	Meadow Minuet by Longay
Level 2:	Waltz by Calatayud
Level 3:	Variations on Arietta by J Kuffner
Level 4:	Bouree by L. Mozart
Level 5:	Gavottes 1 & 2 by J.S. Bach
Level 6:	Rondo, op.48 by Fernando Sor
Level 7:	Concerto in D, RV 93 (Complete) by Vivaldi
Level 8:	Prelude, Minuet 1 & 2 by J.S. Bach
Level 9:	Variations on a theme of Mozart, op.9 by Fernando Sor

### **Instrument: Piano**

[Click here for Piano Criteria](#)

Level 1:	Minuet 2 by Bach
Level 2:	Sonatina in G, 1 <sup>st</sup> Movt only
Level 3:	Spiritoso from Sonatina op 36 no 3 by Clementi
Level 4:	Minuets & Gigue from Partita no 1 by Bach
Level 5:	Sonata K 545 by Mozart
Level 6:	Sonata K 331 by Mozart
Level 7:	Italian Concerto by Bach

### **Instrument: Violin**

[Click here for Violin Criteria](#)

Level 1:	Gavotte by Gossec
Level 2:	Minuet in G by Beethoven
Level 3:	Bourree by Bach
Level 4:	A Minor Concerto (1 <sup>st</sup> movement) by Vivaldi
Level 5:	G Minor Concerto (1 <sup>st</sup> movement) by Vivaldi
Level 6:	Suzuki La Folia by Corelli
Level 7:	A Minor Concerto (complete) by Bach
Level 8:	Sonata in E Minor (complete) by Veracini
Level 9:	D Major Concerto (complete) by Mozart
Level 10:	"Hafner" Rondo by Mozart & Sicilienne by Paradis
Level 11:	Chaconne by Vitali
Level 12:	Concerto (complete) by Mendelssohn

## Information for Teachers

1. There are instrument specific criteria for each graduation level that establishes the acceptable standard.
2. Not all of your students may be able to meet the criteria for a given level. Alternatives to submitting a graduation recording might be;
  - A. Studio book party
  - B. 'In house' graduation recording with teacher supplying feedback and recognition.
  - C. Solo or Group performances
3. It is your responsibility to listen to the recording that will be submitted.
  - A. Assure the sound quality and volume (including the spoken introduction) are acceptable.
  - B. Check the performance meets the criteria for the given level.
4. If you have a student that does not meet the criteria and feel there are mitigating circumstances, please write a note of explanation for the Listener when you confirm the student's graduation submission. **\*Please note this would be allowed for that particular student only on one occasion**
5. If the Listener finds the recording does not meet the criteria the following may happen;
  - A. The listener may request the recording be made again.
  - B. The Listener may ask that the teacher does not submit further graduations for that student until they are able to meet the criteria.
6. In some cases the Listener may correspond directly with the teacher beyond the Student Report.
7. For each graduation period, general feedback will be given via the teachers newsletter or journal. It may include statistics, encouragement, reminders etc.

## Exemplars for Teachers

Exemplars 1 and 2 can be read in conjunction with the audio track provided. [Click Here](#).

They provide examples of how two assessors responded in slightly different ways to the same performance while utilising the same report structure and piece specific criteria.

Exemplar 1    Violin Level 1    Gossec Gavotte

Thank you for a well prepared performance. You chose an appropriate tempo and overall there was a musical feel to the piece. Well done. Intonation was reliable throughout as was the string crossing. The semi-quavers in bar 20 were good in the repeat, so be sure to continue to work at developing finger fitness by playing scales and finger exercises so they will be secure every time! The pizzicato notes had a clear and ringing tone. An area to work on is more contrast in the tone and dynamics and a slightly faster tempo. Thank you again for an enjoyable performance that demonstrates you are well on the way in your violin learning journey.

Exemplar 2    Violin Level 1    Gossec Gavotte

Thank you, ..... for this very enjoyable performance of Gossec Gavotte. You showed that you have a well-developed bow hold with tidy string crossings and well-prepared bow retakes. The intonation was reliable and you managed most of the semiquavers with clarity and ease. The final pizzicatos were clear and the return to the opening theme was well placed. When you play this piece again you could experiment with a slightly faster tempo – it will be fun to find out how quickly your fingers can manage the fast notes. Congratulations on your Level 1 Graduation.