

Suzuki Association of Minnesota Graduation Overview

SAM Graduation is a chance to celebrate students' progress and connect with the statewide Suzuki community. Here is an outline of the graduation process:

Dr. Suzuki had a graduation system in Japan for many years. The Suzuki Association of Minnesota has followed Dr. Suzuki's philosophy for graduation since 1995. The purpose of graduation is:

- To continue to raise standards for students and teachers
- To provide incentive for polish and review of literature
- To provide a means of recognition for students who have achieved certain goals

<p>Preparation and Recording</p> <p><i>Teachers invite students to participate in graduation and help them prepare video recordings</i></p> <p><i>Detailed info on video requirements can be found on suzukimn.org/graduation-registration</i></p>	<p>Preparation and recording takes place throughout the year (<i>videos are submitted with student registrations--see deadline below</i>)</p> <p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi-movement pieces for advanced levels do not need to be recorded all at one time -Students graduating from multiple levels do not need to record all of their pieces at one time
<p>Graduation Registration</p> <p><i>Teachers register their students and submit their students' videos</i></p>	<p>The registration window is December 1 - January 15</p>
<p>Teacher Comment Forms</p> <p><i>After registration closes, every teacher is sent a set of videos to watch as well as a PDF comment sheet to fill out for each video</i></p>	<p>Videos are sent to teachers a few weeks after registration closes</p> <p>Comment forms are due by graduation day</p>
<p>Recital Preparation</p> <p><i>Students continue to polish their graduation piece AND the pieces for <u>all levels below their graduation piece</u></i></p>	<p>Throughout the year (with special focus in the weeks leading up to graduation!)</p>
<p>Recitals and Recital Days</p> <p><i>Exact recital dates change yearly. Detailed info about dates, recital times, and locations can be found on suzukimn.org/graduation</i></p>	<p>Saturdays in Early March</p> <p>All graduation recitals typically occur within the first two weeks of March, with Piano and Upper Level Soloists Preview Recitals being the earlier Saturday and all other instruments the following Saturday</p>

Graduation Levels:

- Certain pieces in the Suzuki repertoire are designated as Graduation Levels. When students have studied *beyond* the piece for a given level, they may graduate from that level. Teachers present

students only when they are certain that the performances are secure and musical. Graduation is not an examination, and every child succeeds

- Detailed information on prerequisites for each level can be found on your instrument's graduation page (*i.e.* suzukimn.org/viola-graduation)
- On recital day, students of string and wind instruments perform in groups until reaching the highest playing levels (pianists perform solo for all levels)
- Once students reach the highest playing levels, they can be apply to be selected as an Upper Level Soloist (the level at which this distinction begins varies by instrument)

Graduating from Multiple Levels:

- To graduate at any level beyond Level 1, a student must have graduated at all previous levels. More than one level may be presented at once when needed
- Students can graduate from a maximum of 3 levels per year
- Please reach out to the graduation committee (graduation@suzukimn.org) for special situations such as transfer students, onboarding a whole studio into graduation at once, etc

Making Graduation Videos:

- Videos should be made with teacher guidance
- Cameras should be set up to view the student's full range of motion and there should be a minimum of background distractions
- Multi-movement pieces for advanced levels do not have to be recorded all at one time
- Students graduating from multiple levels do not need to record all of their pieces at one time
- Detailed recording guidelines can be found at suzukimn.org/graduation-registration

Graduation Day:

Students:

- Students attend a rehearsal with all of the graduates at their level directly before their recital (*see your instrument's Graduation Day Resources page for info on timing and location: <https://suzukimn.org/graduation-resources/>*)
- Students perform in a play-down style, beginning with upper level soloists and then adding in each level of graduating students
- Including arrival time, rehearsal, and the recital, Graduation Day itself is typically a 3-4 hour commitment for students

Teachers:

- Teachers of graduating students attend their instrument's graduation recital and carry out various volunteer duties (leading pieces/rehearsals, assisting with check-in, tuning instruments, etc.)
- Teachers disperse trophies to their students after their recital
- Teachers share comment forms with their students (usually post-recital day)
- Including arrival time, volunteer duties, and the recital, Graduation Day itself is typically a 3-4 hour commitment for teachers