Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association
Fall 2020

Dear Suzuki Parents,

The Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association is excited to announce the *twenty-fifth* annual Suzuki Graduation Program, culminating in graduation recitals on **Sunday, March 14, 2021. This year the recitals will be held virtually, and the details are still being worked out.** The *required dress rehearsal* is yet to be determined.

Modeled after a similar program initiated in Japan, our Graduation program seeks to raise the standards of students and teachers by providing an incentive to refine landmark pieces in the repertoire. Participants will record two polished pieces on video: the required graduation piece and a performance piece. All will receive a written evaluation, be scheduled to perform on March 14, and receive a trophy. A few students may be selected to perform the graduation pieces. This event is a time of **celebration**.

<u>The general performance standards are as follow:</u>

1. Good posture
2. Memorization required
3. Note accuracy
4. Rhythmic accuracy, steady beat, and sense of meter
5. Clear tone; clean playing
6. Performance tempo (*significantly slower tempo not acceptable)*
7. Appropriate phrasing and dynamics
8. Good intonation. Pianists must use a tuned piano.
9. Balance: of melody and accompaniment for pianists; of soloist(s) and accompanist for other instruments
10. An accompanist is **optional for the recording if using the official GPSA accompanist** (See Student Application Form.)
11. Use Suzuki edition for graduation pieces (violinists)
12. Careful <u>bow</u> *before* playing on video

We look forward to viewing each of the students' videos and then hearing them perform at the Graduation recitals. Please invite family and friends from far and wide to attend this very special virtual event.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Krzywicki and Carole Mayers - Chairpersons