

# GRADUATION PROGRAM

## For Students of GPSA Teachers

### 2024 - 2025

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Graduation Program is in its 29th year, and *NOW* is the time to make preparations for this year's celebration of our GPSA students' musical achievements. The area-wide program culminates in one or two Graduation Recitals, where each participating student is presented with a trophy.

The Graduation Program recognizes student progress through each of many Levels in:  
**Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Guitar**

**Process:** Teachers submit a video link for each student, recording a Graduation Piece *and* a Recital Piece for their Level. The submitted videos are viewed by GPSA teacher committees. The committees of three or four teachers view the videos together and give positive feedback on aspects of the performances, plus suggestions for specific improvements to work on both for the recital performance and the playing in general.

**If a listening committee feels that the quality of a Graduation Level piece does not meet the standards stated in the "Listening Points," a student may be asked to submit a new video of that piece within 4 weeks of notification. The student may also choose to wait until the following year.**

### **Purpose:**

To celebrate each student's musical accomplishment as they reach various Levels of repertoire.  
Each participating student receives written feedback well ahead of the recital, and a trophy for their Graduation Level.

To gradually raise the quality of our students' playing and performing skills, through the opportunity to video their playing, receive constructive feedback, and practice presentation and stage presence in a formal setting.

To raise the standards of teaching through the educational process of listening to other teachers' students, both in video and in performance, as well as preparing students to make a high quality recording of a required graduation piece and a selected recital piece.

### **Dates and Deadlines for 2024-25**

Video Links & Online Registrations Due: January 7

Teacher Listening Committees Meet: by January 28 **Committees will meet in person or on Zoom.**

Sign up for Dress Rehearsal time slots: February 9

Required Dress Rehearsals: Sunday, March 9 **In person**

Recital Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 **In person**

Recital Location: Settlement Music School, Germantown Branch

### **Application Fees:**

All instruments *All Levels \$50*

Piano Preparatory Level: **\$50**

1. Required video link and application
2. Recital observation only
3. Receive evaluation & trophy

A quickly progressing student may graduate more than one level in a year: *Additional \$25 for the additional level*

***String students will negotiate their accompanist fees individually with Rebekah Waggoner, the official GPSA accompanist. Alternatively, a student may use an independent accompanist, but the video must include the accompanist who will also perform on the recital. Approval will be notified.***

## GRADUATION LEVEL REPERTOIRE

### A. Choosing Graduation Levels, Graduation Pieces, and Recital (Performance) Pieces: Guidelines

1. At Levels I, II and III, the performance piece must be *beyond* the graduation level piece.
2. It is recommended that the current repertoire under study be half a book or so beyond the graduation level.
3. For Levels I through III, the performance piece must be from the Suzuki repertoire. At upper levels, pieces outside the Suzuki repertoire may be considered for performance.
4. The graduation piece may be videotaped by the teacher when it is at its most polished state.
5. It is important that students begin with **Preparatory Level for Piano**, and **Level I for other instruments** and proceed through the Graduation program one level at a time without skipping levels. The *exceptions* to this policy are as follows:
  - a. Transfer students who have not had the opportunity to participate in a graduation program may enter at the appropriate level as determined by the teacher. **Transfer piano students at Level I must also submit a video of Preparatory Level. Transfers ready for Level II are exempt from Prep Level & Level I.**
  - b. At the teacher's discretion, students may graduate *more than one level* in a given year. This policy would apply primarily to transfer students, but may also apply to fast-moving students. By choosing to do this, teachers can use the graduation program to motivate students to review earlier repertoire and master certain basic skills.

B. **Specific Standards: Listening Points** for each instrument's graduation level pieces will be sent separately.

### REQUIRED GRADUATION PIECES:

#### PIANO

Preparatory Level:	Twinkles MM 69-72 and Allegro MM 116-132	Suzuki Piano Vol. 1
Level I:	Minuet 2 -- Bach	Suzuki Piano Vol. 2 MM 120-132
Level II:	Sonatina, Op. 36 No. 3, Spiritoso -- Clementi	Vol. 3 MM 100-120
Level III:	2 Minuets and Gigue from Partita in B flat -- Bach	Vol. 4 MM 120-138, 120-152
Level IV:	Sonata No. 48 in C, 1st mvt. -- Haydn	Vol. 5 MM 1/2 note = 69-84
Level V:	Sonata K. 330, 1st mvt. -- Mozart	Vol. 6 MM 54-60
Level VI:	Sonata K. 331, 3rd mvt. -- Mozart	Vol. 7 MM 112-126
Level VII:	Italian Concerto, 1st mvt. -- Bach	Postgraduate MM 88-104
Level VIII:	1st mvt. of a Beethoven Sonata or similar length representative Romantic work, such as: Chopin's <u>Fantasia-Improptu</u> in c# minor; or Schubert <u>Improptus</u> , Op. 90, nos. 2 & 3	
Alumni Level:	One or two pieces of the student's choice. See Alumni Level guidelines.	

#### VIOLIN (for VIOLA, contact the chairpersons)

Level I:	Gavotte -- Gossec	Suzuki Violin Vol. 1 MM 112-120
Level II:	Minuet in G -- Beethoven	Vol. 2 MM 76-88/112-126
Level III:	Bourree -- Bach	Vol. 3 MM 72-84
Level IV:	Concerto in a minor, 1st mvt. -- Vivaldi	Vol. 4 MM 92-108
Level V:	Concerto in g minor, 1st mvt. -- Vivaldi	Vol. 5 MM 76-80
Level VI:	La Folia -- Corelli	Vol. 6 MM
Level VII:	Concerto in a minor, 1st. mvt. -- Bach	Vol. 7 MM 80-92
Level VIII:	Concerto in D major, 1 <sup>st</sup> mvt. -- Mozart	Vol. 10 MM 112-144
Level IX:	Rondo -- Mozart/Kreisler and Paradis Siciliani	Postgraduate MM

#### CELLO

Level I:	Minuet 2 -- Bach	Suzuki Cello Vol. 1 MM 108-120
Level II:	Minuet in G -- Beethoven	Vol. 3 MM 76-88/112-126
Level III:	Sonata No. 5 in e minor, 1st & 2nd mvts. -- Vivaldi	Vol. 5 MM 58-66/80-92
Level IV:	Sonata in g minor, 1st & 2nd mvts. -- Eccles	Vol. 7 MM 56-60/88-100
Level V:	Concerto in B flat Major, 1st mvt. -- Boccherini	Vol. 10 MM 96-108

#### GUITAR

Level I:	Meadow Minuet -- Longay	Suzuki Guitar Vol. 1
Level II:	Waltz -- Calatayud	Vol. 2
Level III:	Celeste y Blanco -- Ayala	Vol. 3
Level IV:	La Folia Variations -- R. Vidali	Vol. 4
Level V:	Kojon Tzuki -- Taki (arr. Longay)	Vol. 5

# GPSA GRADUATION

## Performance Standards and Recording Requirements

### I. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- General Standards:**
1. *Good posture*
  2. Memorization required
  3. Note accuracy
  4. Rhythmic accuracy, demonstrating steady beat and sense of meter; no stops
  5. Clear tone; clean playing
  6. Performance tempo (*significantly slower tempo is unacceptable*)
  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***, when using the ***required official GPSA- provided accompanist*** who will accompany the performance. Accompanist fee for rehearsal and recital will be negotiated with the official GPSA accompanist.  
***If applying for approval*** for an independent accompanist, the video must include the accompanist who will also perform on the recital. Approval will be notified.
  11. Use Suzuki edition for graduation pieces (violinists)
  12. Careful bow ***before*** playing on video

### II. RECORDING REQUIREMENTS \*\* It is recommended that the graduation piece be recorded by the teacher whenever it is at its most polished state.

NOTE: *If the recording requirements are not followed, a teacher may be asked to re-submit a video link.*

1. The teacher must supervise the student's recording session.
2. Use the best possible recording equipment, and a high quality digital video link
3. Keep background noise to a minimum.
4. The recording should ***begin*** with a ***dignified bow***.
5. The video link should include the Graduation Piece ***followed by*** the Performance Piece to be considered
6. YouTube UNLISTED is best, as passwords sometimes don't work. The link(s) should be emailed to the appropriate chairperson.

### III. SUBMITTING VIDEOS and FEES: TEACHERS

1. Teachers collect all fees and submit a ***single payment on the Eventbrite registration page.***
2. Teachers fill out one online registration form for each participating student. The link to that form will be on Eventbrite. Please submit complete information as requested, including full names with correct spelling and composers' full names. This form will be used for recital program information.
3. **Email all video links to [janetskeyboard@gmail.com](mailto:janetskeyboard@gmail.com) (piano) or [annie.barley.givler@gmail.com](mailto:annie.barley.givler@gmail.com) (strings)**
4. **Registrations, payments, and video links are all due by January 7, 2025.**

## STUDENTS

**ALL** students who submit a video will graduate and receive a trophy, and will perform on the graduation recital. If a student is unable to attend, s/he will still graduate and receive the trophy.

Please remind your families to do ***additional repeated listening*** in preparation for this event, so that we can continue to enjoy more musical and secure performances.

ALL students are required to attend the dress rehearsal with their teacher at their teacher's assigned time.

## TEACHERS

We highly recommend that teachers and their students attend one (or more) GPSA Graduation recitals the year before they participate in the program. Concert observation would make performance expectations more clear as well as make the candidate and his/her teacher more comfortable with the Graduation experience.

Distribute the ***Parent Information***: There is an official letter to parents that should be copied and distributed. Please ask them to **read all of the information carefully**. Specific **listening points** for each instrument's graduation level pieces will be sent in a separate email. At the recital, parents will be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging that the GPSA Graduation Recitals may be photographed and/or filmed for GPSA social media, website, and promotional use. No names of performers will be used.

The graduation fee is **\$50.00** for all instruments, and all levels. Those needing accompaniment will negotiate an additional fee with the GPSA official accompanist.

All participating teachers will be on a **listening committee** that will meet between ***January 7 and 28, 2025***. A committee chair will contact you to arrange date and time. **Committees will meet in person or on Zoom.**

## DRESS REHEARSAL INFORMATION

All graduating students *and their teachers* are **required to attend the Dress Rehearsal**, held this year at the Settlement Music School, Germantown Branch, on Sunday, March 9.

**By February 9, teachers are to sign up for a 45-minute time slot between 1:00 and 5:00 PM on March 9.**

Piano and string students will have separate rehearsal times, but there may be more than one teacher scheduled in each time slot. **Students are required to wear performance attire, including dress shoes, to the rehearsal.**

Teachers are expected to be present for at least two 45-minute rehearsals for support and help. In the case of unavoidable conflict with the rehearsal or recital, a teacher is advised to submit his/her students the following year. Should an emergency arise on the day of rehearsal or recital, please be prepared to compensate another teacher for their assistance.

## RECITAL INFORMATION

All participating teachers who submit *1 to 3* students will be expected to attend a minimum of **two** recitals. Teachers who submit *more than 3 students* will be expected to attend **all** recitals.

Closer to March 16, teachers will be assigned specific Recital day jobs.