

Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association
Fall 2024



Dear Suzuki Parents,

The Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association is excited to announce the *twenty-eighth* annual Suzuki Graduation Program, culminating in graduation recitals on **Sunday, March 16, 2025**. The *required dress rehearsal for Levels I through VIII* is on Sunday, March 9, between 1:00 and 5:00 PM. Your teacher will schedule you in a 45-minute time slot that day and will be there to assist you. You are required to stay for the entire 45 minutes.

Piano students at the *Preparatory Level* are required to attend one of the Graduation Recitals on **March 16, 2024**, as audience members. ALL participants will receive a trophy. Preparatory Level students do not need to attend a rehearsal on March 9.

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. Level I through VIII 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 16 (except Preparatory Level), and receive a trophy. A few students may be selected to perform the graduation pieces.

The general performance standards are as follow:

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**
11. Use Suzuki edition for graduation pieces (violinists)
12. Careful bow *before* playing on video

At the recital, parents may 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.

We look forward to viewing each of the students' videos and then hearing them perform live at the Graduation recitals. A time to **celebrate!**

Sincerely yours,
Joan Krzywicki and Carole Mayers - Chairpersons

