

About the Suzuki Piano teacher training course at CSYM

This European Suzuki Association (ESA) accredited course is built around the learning opportunities provided, by studying to teach in a practical situation through observing lessons in the studio of Stephen Power, together with the year round special activities that 'Cambridge Suzuki Young Musicians' (CSYM) puts on for their students, most especially the annual Summer School which takes place the end of July in Cambridge, UK.

Course Structure:

Participants will study the basics of Suzuki Piano teaching through masterclass style piano lessons to improve the candidates playing as it relates to teaching children, through a thorough study of the core Suzuki repertoire, through reflecting on and developing the candidates own teaching, and lastly through implementation of the many educational ideas that originate from the co-founders of the Suzuki Piano School, namely Dr. Suzuki and Dr. Kataoka. A lot of this is achieved through observing piano lessons given to children in our studios, most relevant the day-to-day situation of the piano teacher, but if there are enough trainees from any one country some of it will take place in that country.

Aims:

We aim for the candidate to be able to learn the basics of Suzuki Piano teaching in tone, technique, pedagogy and philosophy, in a practical way, that will enable them to be better teachers in their own teaching situation. We hope that they will gain stimulus through contact with colleagues, and through observing the difficulties and achievements of the children, and how the children grow through music over time. In our teaching practice our principle musical aim has always been to foster musically rounded pianists, and trainees will be able to observe how we nurture that ideal.

Qualifications:

Participants gradually take the five levels of examinations under the ESA that lead to qualified Suzuki teacher status. The ESA qualifications are not only valid in Suzuki teaching situations in the ESA's where of responsibility (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa), but are also respected by other Suzuki Associations worldwide (such as the Suzuki Association of the America's).

At CSYM we offer training for all levels from 1 to 5, as well as Continuing Professional Development beyond level 5.

The New Course:

Following our change of venue, a new course for 2018-2019 will start with the Summer School July 21-27. It is advisable to visit and observe some teaching, a concert, and talk through what is involved before then, including what to prepare for the audition. Therefore, from Friday March 23-Sunday March 25 we will have a short course entitled 'An introduction to the Suzuki Piano Teacher Pathways Training programme at CSYM'

FAQ

How long will it take me to qualify as a Suzuki teacher?

It is not possible to answer this question as each trainee is an individual, with individual strengths and weaknesses. For example, if the trainee is a former Suzuki Piano student who has learnt all the repertoire and already plays to a high level then it will probably be shorter than someone who is coming to that repertoire fresh.

How much will it cost?

The short course 'Introducing Suzuki Piano Teacher Training at CSYM' is non-residential and will cost £75. The course July 21-27 will cost £400. Dates after that are to be arranged and the cost will depend on the number of participants, but is likely to be c. £2500 a year.

Are there auditions?

Yes, they are required by the ESA, and these take place between July 21 and 27. The cost is £50 and the candidate will play the 'Minuets and Gigue' from Bach's 1st Partita from memory. Candidates will be advised in March as to whether to apply for the full course.

On what dates in 2018-2019 will the course take place?

This depends on the number of participants, what countries they come from, if there are any sessions in their own country, so will be advised at the end of the July course. In general I aim that there will be at least 21 days of contact, usually in blocks, where possible taking into account individual circumstances.

Questions?

If you want to find out more, or have any questions, contact Stephen on stephenpower14@gmail.com

About the tutors

Stephen Power first came into contact with Suzuki Piano in 1981 at a teacher training Summer School with the co-founder of the piano school Dr. Kataoka. Subsequently he was one of the first pianists to Graduate in Europe as a teacher of the Suzuki approach (alongside Christine Magasiner, and Eunice Morley), after having taken part in the first European Suzuki piano teacher training course, jointly taught by Ruth Miura and Anne Turner. He graduated after two years in 1983. Receiving a scholarship in 1984 he made the first of three, three month long study trips to Japan to study with Dr. Suzuki and Dr. Kataoka. During the 1980's and early 90's he attended conferences in Europe and the USA where he continued to study with Dr. Kataoka. He was on the faculty of the European Suzuki Convention in Cork in 1985, and the International Suzuki Conference in St. Andrew's, Scotland, in 1991.

In 1994 he was appointed a teacher trainer for the ESA. In the late 90's he served as for three years as director of piano teacher training for the British Suzuki Institute, and in 2007 was approached by the Spanish Suzuki Federation to set up a piano teacher training programme in Madrid and Barcelona which he led until 2009.

He has been invited to sit on the jury for ESA examinations for programmes in Italy/Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Holland.

In 2000 he gave a presentation on the Suzuki Method at the EPTA European conference in Budapest.

Stephen is passionate about chamber music, and that children come into contact with the composers of today, both through working with them and playing their music. As part of his Suzuki teaching practice over the last 17 years Stephen has led the commissioning of new chamber music for his students to perform from 11 European composers, including Charlotte Bray and Graham Fitkin. A new work by Regis Campo will be premiered at the Summer School in 2018.

His students have also been awarded 1st prize and 'prix d'excellence' at International competitions in France and Switzerland that feature new music.

Betty Power spent three and a half years at Dr. Suzuki's school in Matsumoto and is one of only 4 Matsumoto piano Graduates teaching in Europe. Her pupils have gained places at Chethams specialist music school, and at the specialist scheme Aldeburgh Young Musicians, as well as at

Conservatoire, with a considerable number being awarded chorister places in choirs such as King's College and St. John's, amongst others, due to her experience as a Kodaly teacher.