

**'First stages: Suzuki Piano Teacher-Training in Cambridge, UK**

**July 28-31, (Optional Aug 1st).**

Led by Stephen Power

This Introductory short course concentrates on how the basics of piano playing are taught in early lessons. Over four days during our annual Summer Workshop, piano teachers can follow a directed path of observation. The venues are West Road Concert Hall and at the teaching studio of Stephen Power. The first four days will involve observing classes with pupils of Betty and Stephen Power taught by guest teachers, and serves as an introduction to some of the ideas behind Suzuki and to our piano programme, which serves as a practical model for the teacher-training programme. The optional fifth day is for teachers who would like to train over the long-term in the Suzuki approach, leading to qualification as a Suzuki Teacher, following the guidelines of the European Suzuki Association. That day will consist of lessons for teachers with Stephen on the Suzuki beginning stages, and other activities following-on from experiences earlier in the week.

Students at the Summer School are all pupils of Betty and Stephen Power, and the varied Summer Workshop curriculum is designed, at several levels, from beginning to advanced, for those students, making it quite different in content and musical direction to most Suzuki Summer Schools. While we follow the ideas of Dr Suzuki we have, over the past three plus decades evolved and enlarged the scope of teaching so that, although piano centered, it encompasses a wide range of musical experiences. The performances by students from beginning to advanced levels will most clearly illustrate the stages of growth our students go through, as well as the variety of disciplines used.

As the beginning stages are the most significant for the future growth of the student, emphasis is on observing lessons given at these stages both individual, and in the rarer form of 4-piano rehearsals. Following these lessons Stephen will aim to throw further light on the pedagogical process, and teaching style that has been used, especially geared towards the young child ages three to six.

There will be daily student performances (by ages 5-17), in concerts from Monday to Wednesday, with Thursday being devoted mainly to concerts, as well as the keynote talk for parents by a world -renowned Suzuki specialist. There will be composition concerts, duets, solo concerts, multipiano, chamber music with strings, the Bach 4-piano Concerto with strings. A special occurrence will be the finale concert containing the world premier of two duos commissioned for this course from a rising star of British composition, Charlotte Bray, who will also be in residence during the course, coaching her duos with four of our teenage students, as well as teaching composition.

The fee for this non-residential course over four days is £200, with the optional 5th day at £50.

Initial enquiries can be made about teacher-training by e-mailing Stephen Power at [info@suzukipianocambridge.org.uk](mailto:info@suzukipianocambridge.org.uk). Please give a brief history of your musical training and in particular any previous Suzuki training. Please note that Teachers interested in attending the course need to be able to play the piano at least to ASBRM grade 8 standard (UK), or, if from Europe, the Middle East, or Africa, be graduates of a Conservatoire.

Although teachers/students are welcome from anywhere I am particularly interested in encouraging Suzuki teaching in countries where no Suzuki piano training currently exists such as Austria, Portugal, etc. The language of instruction for the course is English.

Stephen Power