

**SUZUKI PIANO TEACHER TRAINING  
AT  
'CAMBRIDGE SUZUKI YOUNG MUSICIAN'  
LED BY STEPHEN POWER**

This course will be based around my teaching practice in Cambridge, but will also include our annual Summer School, and depending on numbers, workshop weekends with the trainees own students, in their country of residence. The course will also include some distance learning.

The course **Practical procedure:**

In implementing teaching-training for piano, there are three main study areas that are at the core of Suzuki Piano Teacher-training:

- 1/ Study in how to model appropriate tone/technique during the child's lessons.
- 2/ Study of the underlying teaching principles, and methodology, suitable particularly to the very young child, but also through to more advanced levels.
- 3/ The study of Dr Suzuki and Dr Kataoka's ideas on education, their practical implementation, and, in particular, the role of the parent.

Because learning through example is our principle tool of study, observation of children's piano lessons and group classes in the teaching studio, and at the Summer School are a basic feature.

Use is also made of DVD's to show children's lessons from the teacher-trainer's studio, and of concert performances.

Teacher trainees study in depth how to play the Suzuki repertoire so as to build solid musical/technical foundations from the very first lessons with the child, and how to build these basics through later stages.

**Course Preparation**

- a/ Read 'Nurtured by Love' by Dr Suzuki
- b/ Memorise the first book of the Suzuki Piano Repertoire, and the second book, up to and including 'Minuet II'.

**Auditions**

Teacher's wishing to take the course must first take an audition. The audition pieces are: 'Minuet II' from the second volume of the Suzuki Piano repertoire, and a movement from a Mozart sonata. Pieces should be played from memory. Please send your C.V., including a few words on your reasons/motivation for doing the course, to the course teacher-trainer Stephen Power at: .Auditions can take place at any time during the year, but more normally during the Summer School in July.

## **Examinations**

At a suitable time, as advised by the teacher-trainer, trainees progressively take the five levels of examinations run by the European Suzuki Association. A Suzuki teacher is deemed qualified at level three, with level five the highest level. (Note: trainees are advised to start their own Suzuki teaching practice after having spent a year on the course). There is no time-scale for examinations, as each person is different, and proceeds at their own rate.

### **Policy regarding Examinations:**

The trainee will be ready for an examination when they can demonstrate during the course:

- a) an ability to play all the required repertoire with appropriate fluency, and musical understanding.
- b) an ability to give a lesson that shows understanding of the underlying pedagogical essentials (or basics), and how to put these across successfully to young children.
- c/ a video of their pupils in performance, and during lessons, that displays a level of accomplishment for the examination level.

### **Examination notes from the ESA guidelines:**

“Candidates will be examined on performance and teaching with equal weighting.”

“Course teacher-trainers will advise for which level trainee teachers should enter.”

#### **“Examination rules”**

The examinee must:

- a) take all levels in progressive order.
- b) know all teaching points at the level presented and be prepared to answer questions on all previous levels.
- c) have a thorough knowledge of all pieces in the level, having previously studied and memorised them.
- d) give a child a lesson.”

#### **“Examination Pieces**

All set examination pieces must be played through in full unless the examiners indicate that they are satisfied with a candidate’s performance.

Candidates may be asked to play the Twinkle Variations in an examination at any level.”

### **When and where exams take place**

Entry on to the course does not guarantee that a candidate will be entered for examinations at any particular stage of the course.

Examinations will usually be taken at the Summer School in July. Trainees will be entered for one level at a time.

### **How to find out more**

There are several ways of finding out more about this programme of study. To find out about our teaching the best thing is to come and hear our students, watch our pupil's lessons, and to have a consultation lesson. There are various ways of doing this: come to a concert of our pupils where you can see ages 3-17, beginning to advanced levels. Come to a weekend course, or come to the Summer School. Suzuki teaching is very varied, and it is important to find the right teacher and programme for the individual to follow.

### **The tutors**

Stephen Power is a European Suzuki Association teacher-trainer. His most significant Suzuki training was with Dr Suzuki and Dr Kataoka. He studied with Dr Kataoka on her visits to Europe and the USA between 1981 and 1995 (UK, Finland, Berlin, Brussels, Dallas and Philadelphia), as well as in Japan in 1984, 1987, and 1990. Dr Suzuki he also saw in Europe as well as Japan between 1983 and 1991.

Betty Power first studied with Dr Kataoka at Stephen's Point in the early 1980's, and, inspired by the experience spent three years in Japan, and is the only piano Graduate of his Talent Education Institute in the UK.

We also bring to those experiences our own backgrounds and interests, which are reflected in our teaching.

### **Contact**

E-mail Stephen Power at [www.info@suzukipianocambridge.org.uk](mailto:www.info@suzukipianocambridge.org.uk) to find out more or to arrange a visit or to find out about forthcoming weekend or 5-day courses.