

Welcome to Suzuki Niagara Piano Program for 2010-2011

The most important part of being a Suzuki family is the willingness and commitment to devote regular time to your child. Working closely with the teachers and other parents in building a strong relationship for the sake of the child's growth and development is imperative. Upon registration with Suzuki Niagara, parents become participating members of this parent-teacher organization.

Questions about Suzuki Niagara and its programs may be addresses to Kathleen Hoffe at 905.346.1759

The Parent's Role:

- a) Attending each lesson with the student and practicing with the student at home on a daily basis;
- b) Playing the recordings at home each and every day;
- c) Helping to create a total environment of affection, support, encouragement and understanding;
- d) Attend our annual general meeting each year and volunteer at Suzuki events such as our annual fundraiser or monthly bingo. For more information about our bingo please visit our website.

Terms & Conditions of Registration:

1. Students will receive 36 individual lessons and 13 hours of group lessons during the term (Sept 1 - June 30). Group and individual lessons are important for your child's music education. ***It is expected that a student will attend both individual and group lessons.*** Attending group classes is a unique and integral part of the Suzuki Method and it enhances the learning experiences of any instrument significantly. Failure to attend group classes regularly not only minimizes the optimal learning environment of your child individually, it also negatively impacts the entire group dynamic, team spirit, performance level and the teacher.
2. The length of lessons is to be determined by the teacher in discussion with the parent.
3. There will be a NO REFUND for registration or group fees. Should it be necessary to withdraw from the program, a written notice to the teacher 30 days in advance of the withdrawal date must be provided and a forfeit of one month's tuition fees.
4. Any lessons missed by the teacher will be rescheduled or reimbursed by the teacher. Any make-up lessons should be completed by July 16, 2011.
5. A 24 hour cancellation policy is in effect. A student is required to give his/her teacher a minimum of 24 hours notice of lesson cancellation, or the lesson fee is forfeited. Lessons cancelled less than 24 hours in advance will **NOT** be rescheduled.
6. The parent will provide the child with an appropriate instrument, adjustable bench and footstool. Visit our website for locations to purchase an adjustable bench and footstool.

Good Piano Posture

Suzuki Piano students study their instrument with adjustable seating (bench or chair) and adjustable foot stools arranged to meet the physical needs of the child. If the child is seated properly at all stages of growth, the development of good posture and body balance ensures ease in the production of beautiful tone. An adjustable bench and footstool is available online from Jubilee Shoppe's online store <http://www.jubileeshoppe.com>

For the beginning student (between three and five years of age) the following principles apply:

1. Good seating at the piano begins with the lower back firm and upright. The head is erect while the shoulders and arms are loose and relaxed.
2. The height of the adjustable bench or chair is such that the forearm extends from the body to the keyboard at a level parallel to the floor. Pay particular attention so that the elbows are not lower or higher than the keyboard.
3. At the elbow, the arm bends to form a right angle (90 degrees).
4. At this early age the child's legs will not reach the floor. A simple foot stool is used to support the child's feet.
5. The ideal distance between the chair and the piano allows for freedom of movement. When the chair is too close, the body gets in the way of the elbows. If the chair is too far away, the torso bends too far forward, impairing the correct posture.

When the legs are sufficiently long to reach the floor, the following principles apply:

1. The weight of the upper body is supported by the feet, lower back and pelvis. The torso bends towards the piano, the head is held erect while the shoulders and arms are loose and relaxed.
2. The height of the chair allows the forearm to extend from the body to the keyboard at a level parallel to the floor.
3. At the elbow, the arm bends to form an angle slightly greater than 90 degrees.
4. The feet are placed securely on the floor: the right foot placed forward toward the pedals and the left foot placed midway between the pedals and the chair.
5. The ideal distance between the chair and the piano is maintained to allow for freedom of movement.

Lesson Fees

Lesson fees are based on four 9-week terms and cover solely the private lessons. Group lessons are paid for with the registration fee. Recitals and other social events are paid for through funds received from our involvement in Bingo & Fundraising events throughout the year. The proceeds are essential to fund these events. It is imperative that one parent participate in at least one Bingo per year. We also request your involvement and / or help with our fundraising. Full participation in the Suzuki Niagara program involves attending private and group lessons, all concerts, recitals and applicable workshops.

Private lesson fees are as follows:

30 minute private studio lesson...\$175.50 per term (\$200.50 if opted for *home lessons)
 45 minute private studio lesson...\$263.25 per term (\$288.25 if opted for *home lessons)
 60 minute private studio lesson...\$351.00 per term (\$376.00 if opted for *home lessons)

**home lessons are only available upon the approval of the teacher*

Payment Information

Cheque 1 - Dated September 1st or current day thereafter

I. Registration (per family)	\$35
II. Group Lessons (per child) - 13 one hour group lessons	\$65 / child
III. General Meeting Fee - This is refunded upon attendance at our AGM	\$20
	Total \$120

Cheque 2 - Dated March 14th, 2011 in the amount of \$100.00. Once you have fulfilled your bingo obligation, this cheque will be returned in full. The cheque will be cashed if you fail to sign up and attend a bingo.

Cheques 3,4,5,6 - Dated Sept. 13, 2010; Nov. 15, 2010; Jan. 31, 2011; Mar. 14, 2011 for the amount based on your lesson duration.

Please send your registration cheque along with the five post-dated cheques made payable to Suzuki Niagara with your completed registration form to:

Suzuki Niagara
 c/o Kathleen Hoffe
 26 Goodman Cres.
 St. Catharines, ON L2S 3Z5

Full Name of Students(s)	Birth Date	Lesson Length	Previous Experience (if applicable)	
	mm/dd/yyyy	30 45 60	Book Series	Current Piece
	mm/dd/yyyy	30 45 60	Book Series	Current Piece
	mm/dd/yyyy	30 45 60	Book Series	Current Piece
	mm/dd/yyyy	30 45 60	Book Series	Current Piece

Parent Name(s)	Relationship to Student	Home Phone	Work Phone
		() -	() -
		() -	() -

Street Address	City	Postal Code

Email

Suzuki Niagara is a non-profit parent run organization that relies strongly on parental involvement. Please check off at least one area below where you can volunteer:

Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Board <input type="checkbox"/>	Auction Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter Publisher <input type="checkbox"/>	Food Preparation for Events <input type="checkbox"/>
Recital Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/>	Website Admin <input type="checkbox"/>	Printing Programs <input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing/Promotion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decorating <input type="checkbox"/>

I/we understand the importance of our commitment to participate in at least one Bingo and Fundraising event as these are our means of paying for additional musical activities. I/we have read and agree to the Suzuki Niagara Policies as attached.

Signature

Date

Office Use Only		
Date Registered	Teacher	Lesson Day/Time/Location
mm/dd/yyyy		
Cheques Received / Amounts		
Term 1 \$ _____	Term 2 \$ _____	Term 3 \$ _____
Term 4 \$ _____	Reg/Group/GM Fee \$ _____	Bingo Deposit \$ _____