

**Suzuki Music Association of California/Los Angeles Branch  
Instructions for Cello Graduation 2023**

**Graduation Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023  
2:00 p.m.**

The Suzuki graduation program is designed to offer the student, parent and teacher an especially meaningful and memorable music experience. It continually raises the standard of students and teachers and provides incentive for in-depth study, polish and review of the literature. It also recognizes students who have achieved certain goals.

Graduates will record the appropriate piece for their respective graduation level. Evaluators will make comments on their video based on criteria outlined in the performance guidelines for the graduation pieces.

The graduation fee is \$60. This fee will cover the cost of the certificate, trophy, postage for the trophy and certificate and the evaluator's listening time. If registering for more than one level, each level must be registered individually. The fee is the same for every level.

Please register, pay the graduation fee NO LATER than FEBRUARY 12, 2023.

NOTE: Your teacher must be a SMAC-LA teacher member.

Concert Dress for the Graduation Concert:

Girls: Dresses or skirts below the knee length or dress pants and blouses. Dress shoes.

Boys: Dress slacks and dress shirts and dress shoes. No tennis shoes, T shirts or jeans.

Any correspondence or questions about the Cello Graduation should be sent to [tarajatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:tarajatkinson@gmail.com) (Tara Atkinson) for questions.

**Instructions for Making Cello Graduation Videos**

1. All videos should be approved by the private teacher.
2. The entire body of the student with the cello (frontal view) should be visible
3. Cello accompaniment is acceptable if piano accompaniment is unavailable.
4. It is recommended that the graduation piece be a review piece and that the student should be studying material well beyond the graduation level so that the graduation piece will reflect the highest quality performance. Students graduating from the Twinkle Level must be on or beyond Perpetual Motion.
5. Type information about the student (name, age, private teacher, size of cello, name of graduation piece, name of current piece they are studying at the time of making their recording), in the 'about' section of their YouTube video or have the student announce the above information prior to performing their graduation piece.
6. Links for graduation videos will be submitted via the registration portal.

## Cello Graduation Pieces Guidelines

### **Preparatory Level: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Variations & Theme**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 80-88
2. Clear distinction between detaché and staccato bowing
3. Stopped bows (non-legato) in Theme
4. Accurate intonation
5. Clear, ringing tone
6. Clean string crossings
7. Right/Left hand coordination

### **Level 1: Minuet No. 2 by Johann Sebastian Bach**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 104-118
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Accurate intonation
4. Clear, ringing tone
5. Clear string crossings maintaining an even tone
6. Musical phrasing in an appropriate style
7. Dynamics
8. Both repeats

### **Level 2: Theme from "Witches' Dance" by Nicolo Paganini**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 108-118
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Accurate intonation
4. Clear, ringing tone
5. Clear articulation
6. Style and dynamic contrast (meno mosso)
7. Finger and bow velocity

### **Level 3: Minuet in G by Ludwig van Beethoven**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 92-100
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Accurate intonation
4. Clear, even, resonant tone
5. Bowing: portato, up-bow staccato, legato
6. Smooth and accurate shifts
7. Phrases end gracefully
8. Uses vibrato (as appropriate)
9. Dynamics
10. All repeats and Da capo

### **Level 4: Sonata in C Major by Jean Baptiste Brevet, I. Allegro**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 112-116
2. Rhythmic precision

3. Accurate intonation
4. Clear, resonant tone
5. Proper execution of chords, trills and grace notes
6. Dynamics
7. Musical phrasing
8. Performance conveys character of the piece
9. No repeat

**Level 5: Sonata in E minor by Antonio Vivaldi, I. Largo, II. Allegro**

1. Tempo: Largo - eighth note = 69-72
2. Tempo: Allegro - quarter note = 88-96
3. Rhythmic precision
4. Clear articulation of staccato eighth notes in Allegro
5. Accurate intonation
6. Clear, resonant tone
7. Proper execution of ornaments (Largo)
8. Dynamics
9. Musical phrasing
10. Performance conveys character of the piece
11. First repeats only in both movements

**Level 6: The Swan from Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens**

1. Tempo: quarter note = 66-69
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Legato bowing
4. Bow control – even bow speed and distribution
5. Accurate intonation
6. Clear, resonant tone
7. Sustained vibrato
8. Fluid shifting
9. Phrases end gracefully
10. Performance conveys character of the piece

**Level 7: Sonata in G minor by Henry Eccles, I. Largo, II. Allegro con spirito**

1. Tempo: Largo – eighth note = 63-66
2. Tempo: Allegro con spirito – quarter note = 104-112
3. Rhythmic precision
4. Legato bowing in Largo
5. Notes in Allegro are articulated appropriately and consistently
6. Clean string crossings
7. Accurate intonation
8. Clear, resonant tone
9. Sustained vibrato (Largo)
10. Fluid shifting

11. Dynamics
12. Performance conveys character of the piece
13. First repeats only in both movements

**Level 8: Elegie by Gabriel Fauré**

1. Tempo: eighth note = 60-63
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Bow control – shows understanding of bow distribution, speed, placement, weight
4. Accurate intonation
5. Clear, resonant tone
6. Sustained vibrato
7. Secure and fluid shifting
8. Dynamics varied to create expressive effect
9. Musical phrasing
10. Performance conveys character of the piece

**Level 9: Concerto in B-flat Major by Luigi Boccherini, I. Allegro moderato**

1. Tempo: eighth note = 100-112
2. Rhythmic precision
3. Bow control – shows understanding of bow distribution, speed, placement, weight
4. Accurate intonation especially in thumb position and double stops and chords
5. Clear, resonant tone especially in high positions
6. Vibrato when appropriate
7. Secure and fluid shifting
8. Dynamics varied to create expressive effect
9. Musical phrasing
10. Ability to execute improvisatory nature of the cadenza
11. Performance conveys character of the piece