

Suzuki Music Association of California / Los Angeles Branch
Instructions for **Guitar Graduation 2023**
Graduation Date: Sunday, March 5

Location: The Pasadena Conservatory of Music
100 N Hill Ave. Pasadena 91106

Time: 3:30pm

Admission to the Graduation Concert is free, DO invite friends and family!

In May of 1979, SMAC/LA initiated a thrilling graduation event for violin students, inspired by Dr. Suzuki's annual graduation in Japan each March. The Japanese concerts include about 3,000 children. Ours, while smaller, have been very beautiful and exciting. The number of violin graduates has grown with each graduation, now numbering around two hundred, twice the number graduated in 1979.

Suzuki graduations in other instruments are beginning to grow as well. This year will be our seventh Guitar Graduation in Los Angeles, and will be held in the Pasadena Conservatory of Music's auditorium. The graduation program is designed to offer the student, parent, and teacher an especially meaningful and memorable musical experience and is intended to:

- 1) continually raise the standards of students and teachers,
- 2) provide incentive for in-depth study, polish and review of the literature,
- 3) provide a means of recognition for students who have achieved certain goals.

Steps to Registration:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Record a video of the student playing their piece under Teacher supervision with an introduction that includes the student saying in clear words their Name, Age, Date, Instrument Size, Name of Piece, and Name of Teacher. (guitar accompaniment is required for all Book 1 pieces).
- 3) The entire body of the student with the guitar (frontal view) should be visible
- 4) Post the video on Youtube and use the link to submit in the online registration. <https://smac-ca.org/la-branch/graduations/guitar>

Listener-Teacher-commentators make recorded comments based on the following criteria used by Dr. Suzuki: tone, intonation, rhythm, tempo and musical interpretation, and will send comments 1-2 weeks after registration. Registration opens January 12th, and closes February 12th at midnight.

A student may be graduated from a maximum of two levels at any one graduation. Students should be prepared to play a solo in the event there are no other graduates in his/her level. The graduate has the

option to decline playing at the performance if they are uncomfortable playing alone. A certificate of graduation and a trophy will be presented to graduates at the graduation performance.

The student and their families do NOT need to be SMAC/LA members. NOTE: Your teacher **MUST** be a SMAC/LA Teacher Member.

Fee: To cover the cost of teacher's time, trophies, certificates, and listeners' time, a fee of \$60 is required for each student for each level. The Suzuki graduation application process is online only.

DEADLINE: 11:59pm: February 12th, 2023 (NO Exceptions)
Please submit the form, fee, and recording(s) at the following address:

<https://smac-ca.org/la-branch/graduations/guitar>

Any other correspondence or questions should be sent to suzukilessonsla@gmail.com (Molly White) for guitar related questions. Once the recording is processed, the link will be sent to the appropriate listener. The family and teacher will receive a confirmation that we have received the recording. Allow 1-2 weeks for processing.

If this is a hardship for some families, the teacher should contact Molly White at suzukilessonsla@gmail.com.

Guitar Levels:

Twinkle Level: Twinkle Theme and Variations (with accompaniment)

Level 1: Perpetual Motion (with accompaniment)

Level 2: Meadow Minuet (with accompaniment)

Level 3: Waltz by B. Calatayud

Level 4: Arietta Theme and Variations by J. Kuffner

Level 5: Bouree by L. Mozart OR Variations on La Folia by R. de Vidali

Level 6: Gavotte I & II by J.S.Bach

Level 7: Sounds of Bells by J. Guimaraes

Level 8: Prelude from Prelude, Fugue and Allegro by J.S Bach

Level 9: Any piece at this level

Concert Dress:

Girls – Long Dresses or dress pants / blouses, no gym shoes, T-shirts or jeans.

Boys – Dress pants / shirts; no gym shoes, T-shirts or jeans.

* If nothing dressy is available, do your best to have a polished appearance for this special event!