

Gardner Cello Studio
FAQ's
Revised September 2016

1. What do I need for the first lesson?
 - a. Cello, bow, chair, Suzuki book 1 music and CD, "I Can Read Music" volume 1 for cello by Joanne Martin
2. How long should my child practice every day?
 - a. This varies from child to child, but a good rule of thumb is that daily practice should be at least twice as long as a student's lesson
3. How can I get my child to practice?
 - a. Practice is more about learning to work with your child than doing work on the instrument. To that end, I recommend the following books:
 - i. "The Child Whisperer"
 - ii. "Nurtured by Love"
 - iii. "Bonds that Make Us Free"
 - iv. "Nurture Shock"
 - v. "Teaching from the Balance Point"
 - vi. "How to Get Your Child to Practice without Resorting to Violence"
 - vii. Read articles from SAU and SAA (Suzuki Association of Utah, and the Americas, respectively)
4. What are some standard maintenance procedures for the cello?
 - a. Replace strings annually
 - b. Rehair the bow annually
 - c. Clean and polish the instrument regularly
 - d. Wipe off rosin from strings daily
 - i. Occasionally use rubbing alcohol on a rag to clean off strings (do not let alcohol get on varnish!)
 - e. Rosin the bow every other day
5. When is the best time to begin music lessons?
 - a. This varies from child to child, but I prefer to start beginners when they are 5-6 years old. Parents must also be at a point in their life where they can commit to and follow through with daily practice with the child.
6. At what age should my child take responsibility for their practice?
 - a. By age 13, a student should be able to do the majority of their practicing on their own. Work towards this goal, by gradually scaling back what you, as practice partner, are involved with.
7. Are there discounts available for multiple children from the same family taking lessons?
 - a. No
8. May I video record the lesson?
 - a. Yes, provided it is used only for personal reference and not published on any social sites such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram etc
9. Where can I find a small cello chair?

- a. You can purchase one from Richard Hoyt. rcello@sisna.com
- 10. Should I buy or rent an instrument?
 - a. Buy. You will get a better quality instrument, and you can trade in the value of your current instrument when it's time to upgrade to the next size or quality
- 11. Why do you teach the Suzuki method?
 - a. I believe strongly in Dr. Suzuki's philosophy of teaching the whole child, not just creating a musician. I believe in nurturing by love, and I believe in teacher and parent working together to strengthen the child
- 12. Why is listening important?
 - a. It puts the music in a child's mind and heart first, so it more easily comes out through their instrument
- 13. Why is review so important?
 - a. This is where the muscles are trained and gain their strength. Review pieces for us are like swimming laps for Michael Phelps!
- 14. What exactly does my tuition cover?
 - a. Weekly private lessons, group classes, summer concert, studio events such as recitals and parties, trophies for book recitals, teacher's time spent on administrative duties, teacher's attendance at book recitals, various incentives (stickers, candy bars, etc), accompanist fees for recitals, hall rental for events, participation fees for Federation, SAU family dues.
 - b. Monthly tuition accounts for breaks in February (President's Day), March (Spring Break), May (Memorial Day), June (ISSI), Summer, October (Fall Break), November (Thanksgiving), December/January (Winter Break).
- 15. Are there extra costs associated with lessons?
 - a. Yes, there can be. These may include, but are not limited to, other competitions or festivals, accompanist for solo events, Symphony Youth Guild Membership, summer camps, workshops, etc.