

KNOXVILLE SUZUKI

A C A D E M Y

July 2026

The incredible benefits of music study

Playing a musical instrument is a powerful investment in your child's future. From physical coordination to focus and emotional regulation, the benefits of music study abound. Over the next few months, I'll highlight some of these benefits for you and your child.

First, music study develops the brain in measurable ways that last for a lifetime. Just as we help our children develop physical health, we now know that brain stimulation and challenge in younger years increase the chance for a long, healthy life, both mentally and physically. The adage, "Use it or lose it" is true for the brain too! Every part of the brain is activated when playing music, creating neural connections and building neurons - exponentially in childhood. These connections contribute to growing skills in language acquisition and usage, listening and auditory processing (understanding what you hear), physical coordination and focus.

Next month: music, math and memory!

Musically yours,
Pam Schneller

July & August Group Classes

Cello - July 18; August 1 & 29

10-11 am Cello Pre-Twinkle & Book 1
11 am-12 Cello Books 2-3
12-1 pm Advanced Cello

Piano - July 18; August 22

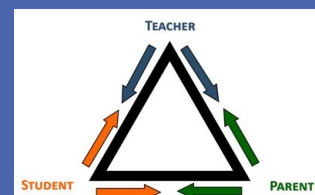
12-1 pm Piano Group Class

Violin - July 18; August 15 & 29

11 am-12 pm



From the Practice Files



Episode 10 of [From the Practice Files](#) is now live on the KSA website. Active children get into scrapes that disrupt practice. Suzuki mom Jacqueline Whittemore shares tips for getting back on track and enjoying the process!

FfPF is no longer password protected. Enjoy!



Teacher of the Month – Alyssa Burnette, piano

Pianist Alyssa Burnette began her Suzuki piano studies at age four. In middle school, she attended the preparatory division of the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. It was there, immersed in music that she decided to become a piano teacher. Alyssa says, “Playing the piano is one of the things in life that makes me feel most alive. One of the greatest compliments I receive is ‘Your playing brought me to tears.’”

Alyssa’s favorite thing about teaching is inspiring students “to do things they didn’t think they were capable of doing.” She gets deep satisfaction in hearing her students perform or audition.

In addition to her private teaching, Alyssa teaches the piano group class. She credits one of her college teachers with inspiring her with ideas, and she develops more ideas through research and working with students. Thanks for all you do, Alyssa Burnette!

Audition for Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestras

The thrill of playing with others in an ensemble is hard to beat. KSA encourages all students to audition for this fine organization that has served the Knoxville community for over 50 years! Six orchestras comprise the KSYO program: Junior Orchestra (minimum age 6), Preludium (ages 6-14), Philharmonia (ages 8-16), Sinfonia (ages 11-18), Chamber Orchestra (ages 13-18), and Youth Symphony (ages 14-18). Auditions will be August 20-23 at Bearden Middle School. Sign up for an audition [here](#).

Youth Orchestras Audition Workshop – August 15, 10 a.m.



Thinking about auditioning for the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra program? Not sure how to prepare or hoping to be more prepared this time? KSA offers a workshop that’s all about auditions. You’ll learn what to expect at the audition and how to prepare in a relaxed, supportive environment. You’ll even practice your audition and get helpful feedback.

KSA faculty and Knoxville Symphony member Jennifer George leads the workshop. String players of all levels are welcome to attend. *10 a.m., August 15 in the Joy Room of the Parish House.*

[Knoxville Suzuki Academy](#)

knoxvillesuzukiacademy.com

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