



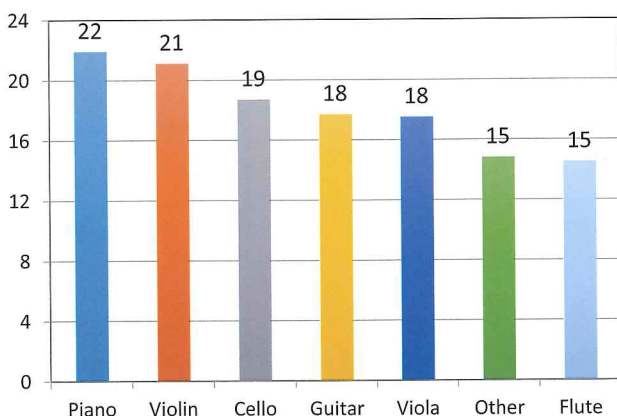
Part 3: What do Suzuki studios look like?

By Nancy Mitchell, Karin S. Hendricks, Kathleen M. Einarson, Elizabeth M. Guerriero, and Patricia D'Ercole

This is the third article in a series reporting the findings of a large-scale demographic study of 1128 North American SAA member teachers. The first article introduced the International Research Symposium on Talent Education and the group's current research interests. The second installment in the series focused on Suzuki teachers and included basic demographic information and information on teachers' training. In this article, we will explore what Suzuki studios look like, examining data such as studio size and structure of group classes.

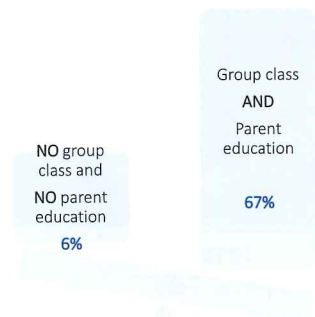
Studio Size

Teachers who responded to the survey reported studio sizes ranging from zero to 100 students. The average reported studio size was 20.4 students. The chart below shows the average number of students in each studio/program according to different instruments. Teachers of piano had the largest studios, while teachers of flute had the smallest.



Studio Offerings

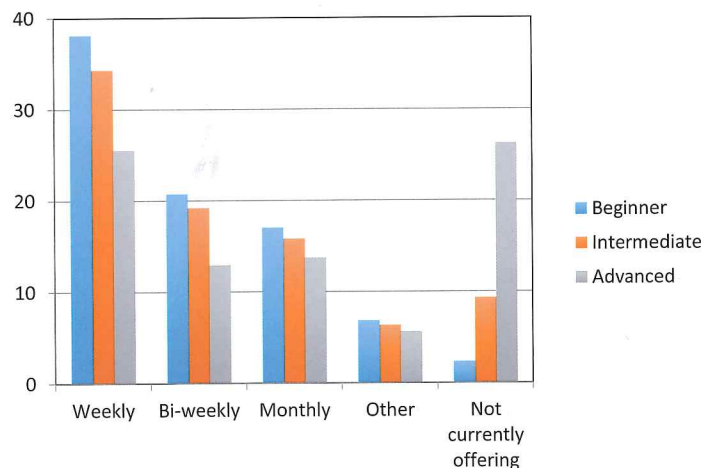
In addition, survey respondents were asked to provide some information about two aspects of their studios that are unique to the Suzuki approach: parent education and group class. The chart below compares percentages of teachers who are not offering either of these elements to those who are offering both.



Not included in this chart are the 11 percent of respondents who offer parent education but no group classes and the 16 percent who offer group class without offering parent education. It is encouraging to see that a strong majority of teachers have embraced both of these facets of Suzuki

teaching. Some teachers reported obstacles to offering parent education and/or group class in spite of their desire to do so. Future articles will examine some of the challenges reported by teachers in these areas and some possible solutions that could increase the number of teachers who are able to offer comprehensive parent education and group classes.

The chart below provides more detail regarding the frequency of group classes for students of different levels of learning. Many teachers offer frequent group classes for beginning students (who likely make up the largest number of students in many studios); however, classes for advanced students are less common. Whether or not a teacher offered group class was also related to the instrument being taught. While only 15 percent of violin teachers reported not offering group class at all, 23 percent of piano teachers stated that they did not offer group classes. Reasons for the differences in group class offerings will be explored in more depth in the fifth article of this series, which will focus on the challenges of group class.



In summary, Suzuki studios average approximately 20 students with piano and violin teachers reporting the largest studios. Most teachers are endeavoring to offer both parent education and group classes in their studios, with group classes being most commonly offered for beginning string students. ☺