



THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

October 2025



<https://www.suzuki.org.za/>
suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com

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SASA COMMITTEE 2025



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COUNTRY DIRECTOR
Carol Solomon



TREASURER
Louis van Manen



ADMINISTRATOR
Andrea Kreuter



COMMITTEE MEMBER
Renée vd Westhuizen



DEPUTY TREASURER
Albie Olivier



COMMITTEE MEMBER
Rina Francis

*Beautiful tone,
beautiful heart.*

-Shinichi Suzuki



SECRETARY
Elizna Sonnekus

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

As Term 3 draws to a close, we reflect on a season filled with music, collaboration, and inspiration for the South African Suzuki community with generous, loving support and guidance from our fellow teachers and trainers from the European Suzuki Association.

The recent Suzuki Refresher Course and Annual National Concert stood out as a true highlight. With esteemed European teacher trainers joining forces with our South African colleagues, the event was a celebration of teaching, learning, and friendship across borders. From Pretoria to Cape Town and Paarl, students and teachers alike were uplifted by the joy of shared music-making. The concert at the Hugo Lamprecht Auditorium was a beautiful finale, showcasing around 80 young musicians whose performances radiated energy and heart.

We are equally delighted to share reflections from the International Kodály Course held in Cape Town. Teachers noted remarkable similarities between the Kodály and Suzuki approaches, finding fresh inspiration to carry into their daily teaching. This cross-pollination of ideas strengthens our community and reaffirms our shared commitment to nurturing young musicians.

Looking ahead, exciting news awaits: dates for the 2026 Suzuki Teacher Training are announced in this newsletter! This marks an important step towards re-establishing a sustainable training structure in South Africa – one that will ensure the growth and continuity of the Suzuki Method in our region.

As we enter the final stretch of the year, we wish all teachers, parents, and students a rewarding last term of 2025. May daily practice continue to build not only skill but also joy, confidence, and connection.

Together, we carry forward the Suzuki spirit of music, unity, and lifelong learning.

Warm musical wishes,

The SASA Editorial Team

MEET THE SASA TEAM

In each of our upcoming newsletters, we will introduce you, the reader, to our SASA committee members.

Our third introduction is Committee Member, Rina Francis.



Rina Francis is a passionate music teacher dedicated to nurturing a love for music in students of all ages. She currently teaches class music at Oakmede Prep & Academy, as well as individual lessons in piano and violin in Meyerton.

In 2022, Rina discovered the Suzuki Method and completed her Level 1 training in Suzuki Violin. She was deeply inspired by the approach, which emphasises learning through listening, repetition, encouragement, and parental involvement.

Rina believes the Suzuki Method is a wonderful way to introduce young learners to music.

Rina's teaching philosophy centres on the belief that every child deserves the chance to experience the joy and beauty of music. For her, music education is not just about playing an instrument – it's about opening a child's heart to the beauty in the world, cultivating empathy, and enriching their emotional and creative lives.

THE JOY OF LEARNING TOGETHER

Suzuki Refresher Course & National Concert 2025 A Joyful Collaboration Across Borders



The recent Suzuki Refresher Course and National Concert proved to be a celebration of connection, collaboration, and music-making across borders.

Anticipation ran high as an esteemed team of European Suzuki teacher trainers from Belgium and the UK joined their South African colleagues for a week of intensive teaching, learning, and performance.



The visiting team of six included: f.l.t.r: Koen Rens and Griet Wytnyck from Belgium, Guillem Calvo from the UK, Peter Nys and Veerle Van Gorp, also from Belgium and South Africa's own Lee Marais. Their arrival brought an atmosphere of joy and inspiration, marking the start of an unforgettable experience for both teachers and students.

The week began in Pretoria, where two vibrant days of teaching sessions, group classes, and networking opportunities unfolded. While the classes were smaller than those later held in the Cape, they were rich in impact, with students relishing both group and private lesson opportunities. The thoughtful organization, welcoming venue, and warm hospitality created an environment that supported both learning and camaraderie.



"To make a resolution and act accordingly is to live with hope. There may be difficulties and hardships, but not disappointment or despair if you follow the path steadily.

*Do not hurry.
This is a fundamental rule. If you hurry and collapse or tumble down, nothing is achieved.*

*Do not rest in your efforts.
This is another fundamental rule. Without stopping, without haste, carefully taking a step at a time forward will surely get you there."*

Shinichi Suzuki





From there, the trainers travelled to Cape Town and Paarl. At Good Hope Seminary School, they worked with Maria Botha and her ensembles, including the inspiring Muzukidz students, whose outstanding playing left a lasting impression on the international visitors.

Teachers and pupils travelled extraordinary distances to take part – some from as far as Zimbabwe and KwaZulu-Natal – reflecting the depth of commitment within the Suzuki community. Thanks to generous fundraising efforts, several students from rural KwaZulu-Natal were also able to join the experience, accompanied by Slondile Mhlongo, principal of Lions River Primary School.



In Paarl, mornings were devoted to teacher training sessions, while afternoons buzzed with student group classes and concert preparation.

The Frank Pietersen Music Centre proved to be the perfect host for these sessions.

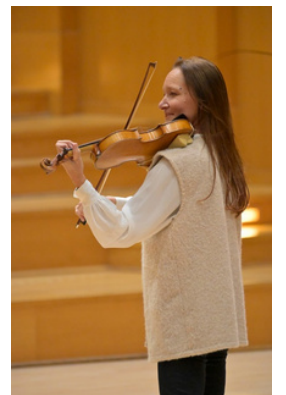
Teachers also enjoyed a memorable evening of fellowship over supper, wine, and conversation with the international trainers.





2025 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONCERT

The Teacher Trainer refresher week culminated in the Annual National Concert, held on 19 July in the Hugo Lamprecht Auditorium. Around 80 young musicians took to the stage, performing with enthusiasm and joy.



Highlights included an African-inspired performance by the Muzukidz, the “Balloon Pop Polka,” played by four children to much delight, and a whimsical moment when Koen Rens led the children offstage to the tune of the “Twinkles,” evoking the image of the Pied Piper and leaving the audience smiling.

The event was made possible through the tireless efforts of many – from the SASA committee and local organisers to the parents, host families, and volunteers who worked behind the scenes. Their dedication ensured that the refresher course and concert ran smoothly, creating lasting memories for all involved.

The success of this gathering underscored not only the musical excellence of the Suzuki community in southern Africa but also its spirit of generosity, collaboration, and shared joy. As the final notes faded, what remained was a sense of connection and inspiration – a promise of continued growth for the Suzuki method in this region.



Watch the joyous playing on SASA's YouTube Channel: [@SouthAfricanSuzukiAssociation](https://www.youtube.com/@SouthAfricanSuzukiAssociation)



**CLICK SUBSCRIBE
AND HELP US GROW!**



WORKSHOPS & NATIONAL CONCERT FEEDBACK



Left: Carol Solomon with some of her students who attended and participated in the 2025 National Concert in Cape Town.



Right: Carol's 2 pupils, Sofia and Noah de Gouveia from KZN, loved their group class with Veerle and then were thrilled to have a private lesson with Guillem.



Participating in the annual Suzuki concert held at the Hugo Lambrechts auditorium in parrow was a unforgettable experience for me as a student violinist. It was the first time the event, usually held in Johannesburg, was hosted in Cape Town, and the atmosphere was filled with excitement & a strong sense of community. Sharing the stage with so many talented young musicians from across the region was both inspiring and motivating. The concert ~~was~~ showcased a wide range of Suzuki pieces, and it was rewarding to see how each performer brought their own unique energy and dedication to the music. Being apart of the event not only boosted my confidence as a performer but also reminded me of how powerful and joyful making music together can be!

By Cait Dawson

I joined the National Suzuki Concert and Workshops, it was lifechanging! My favourite parts were making friends, meeting teachers from Europe, playing on the big stage with kids from all around the country, and learning new methods for practicing. I can't wait for next year. (Dressing up was fun too!)

Bianca 11 Cape Town



WORKSHOPS & NATIONAL CONCERT FEEDBACK



IT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER CONCERT

-Sebastian Sonnekus, 15 (Suzuki Piano Book 4)

The National Concert of 2025 was my first one, but I sincerely hope it will not be my last. It was my first time playing in a full-fledged concert hall that was specifically designed for its acoustics. It was also the first time I had ever seen so many violinists together, and all of them were Suzuki students!

From what I've heard, National Concerts in the past were usually mostly attended by violin and cello students. Therefore, I really appreciated being one of Teacher Sonnika's piano students who were privileged enough to join in the concert. The moment I laid my fingers on the keys, although I felt nervous, everything felt right. When I played that first note, it resonated more beautifully than I had ever heard a piano sound before.

Playing a duet alongside a fellow Suzuki student (and friend) is really something special.

I loved every moment of it. Another favourite memory is when Griet Wytnyck spent some time with us during the Teacher Training workshops.

She listened to our duet and helped us to synchronise our breathing, which meant we played together better! I learned a lot. I listened to teachers and students.

And I can't wait for the next time I can attend one of these magnificent events again!

KODÁLY-SUZUKI

Reflections by Robyn Lovemore



From left to right: Elmarie van der Vyver (Muzukidz PE), Sonnika Venter (SASA Chairperson), Rina Francis (SASA Committee Member) and Robyn Lovemore (Muzukids PE).

I recently had the privilege of attending a Kodály International Music Education Course in Cape town. It was a week packed full of both new and familiar concepts. Our modules included musicianship, pedagogy, conducting, and an amazing experience singing in a choir.

This was the first Kodály training I have ever received and as I learn more of the methods involved in the Kodály approach, I continue to notice similarities between it and the Suzuki philosophy.

The careful sequence of skills introduced and developed over time, aimed at creating proficient musicians, reminds me much of the logical sequence and progression of technical and musical concepts in the Suzuki repertoire. Each lesson segment in a typical Kodály-based lesson has a single point of focus and is built on previous preparation.

For both pedagogical approaches, repertoire is also regularly revisited and used to teach new skills systematically. I am reminded of the way that Suzuki repertoire is divided into previews or learning segments (e.g. separating right hand and bow hand), which isolates specific technical aspects to work on separately before playing a piece as a whole.

Music is taught first aurally and then later expressed in symbols. Memory plays a big role in both Kodály and Suzuki approaches, so that the children can integrate the music before learning how to represent it in symbols and on the stave.

Kodály lessons are taught in groups, and those children who still struggle to sing in tune are not removed from the class or put in different classes; instead, the stronger singers help to develop the weaker singers.

In Suzuki group lessons, children are motivated to play as well as their peers who have advanced a little faster and to practice in order to keep up with their classmates. Constant encouragement and learning through play are also aspects of the Suzuki philosophy that seem to exist within the Kodály approach as well.

In my experience at the course, teachers from different backgrounds, levels of study, and cultures all helped each other to achieve the results needed and to understand the concepts taught. Since attending the course, I have received advice and assistance from other Kodály teachers to help me grow as a music teacher.

This kind of professional support and encouragement is something that I had only experienced in the Suzuki community before this course.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn about the Kodály method of teaching, and I look forward to growing as a teacher by implementing these concepts into my daily teaching.

I would recommend this course to any Suzuki teachers.

TEACHER TRAINING

≡ DATES SET FOR 2026 ≡

GAUTENG

20 - 23 February
13 - 18 July

WESTERN CAPE

09 - 12 April
Sept/Oct t.b.c.

*Venues will be announced shortly.
Midrand and Paarl seem to be the most
sensible locations, but more will follow soon.*

R20 000

FOR ALL 4 MODULES OFFERED IN 2026

*Payment Plans Will Be Available

Please reach out to us if you are interested or have any questions regarding the above: suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com

Teacher Training
TEACHER TRAINING

FREE ONLINE INFO SESSION

5 NOVEMBER

20:30

REGISTER HERE

What is expected for participation in Level 1 training?

*

How will the course be structured?

*

How do the auditions work and what is expected?

*

How many modules will be presented?

*

What about examinations?

.... and more.

CHILDREN CONVENTION 2026



Suzuki

12th EUROPEAN CHILDREN CONVENTION



3 - 7 APRIL 2026 | ATATURK CULTURAL CENTER



APPLICATIONS
1 AUGUST - 1 DECEMBER 2025



STAY UP TO DATE

Let's grow our Suzuki online community 🌱🎻

Did you know that the South African Suzuki Association now has official social media pages?

These platforms have been carefully set up by dedicated volunteer committee members to help share news, resources, and inspiration from across our growing Suzuki community.

Now, we need your help to make them thrive!

By simply **liking, following, sharing,** and **subscribing,** you can play a direct role in growing SASA's online presence.

A STRONGER DIGITAL FOOTPRINT MEANS

***Greater awareness of the Suzuki Method in South Africa**

***More parents, teachers, and students**

discovering the joy of learning through this philosophy

***An easy way to stay connected, celebrate successes, and share updates with friends and family**

👉 Your action makes a difference. Each click and share helps us reach more people who may benefit from Suzuki education.

Follow SASA today, invite others to join, and help us spread the joy of Suzuki across South Africa! 🎵



PASSIONATE ABOUT SUZUKI?

Join the SASA Committee in 2026 and help grow the movement in South Africa!

The growth of the Suzuki community in South Africa depends on passionate volunteers – and we need you!

If you are a teacher or parent who values the Suzuki method and philosophy, please consider joining the SASA committee for 2026.

Whether your skills lie in organising, fundraising, communication, or simply lending a helping hand, your contribution can make a real difference.

Together, we can create more opportunities for children, support our teachers, and strengthen Suzuki in South Africa.

Step forward and be part of shaping the future! If you are interested or would like to nominate someone as a committee member for 2026,

please email: suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com



SASA SUPPORT



SASA would like to thank the Khodu Foundation for the generous support bestowed upon the association in June 2025.

We trust this is the start of a long and beautiful relationship with like-minded entities to the benefit of Suzuki music education.

SASA MEMBERSHIP

Take pride in being part of



SASA falls under the umbrella of the European Suzuki Association. Your SASA membership, therefore, also includes ESA membership. We encourage our teachers and students to become members of our national association.

SASA is a non-profit organisation, and all monies collected go towards our events, teacher training, and growth of the Suzuki Method in South Africa.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

A wealth of expertise, experience and friendship from all the Suzuki students, parents and teachers in our community through inter-studio interaction and various functions.

Participation in the Annual National Concert and masterclasses at Teachers Training sessions with our ESA Teacher Trainers.

Other ad hoc functions such as Suzuki Saturdays, Twinkler's tea parties, Suzuki workshops and parent talks.

The knowledge that with your membership, the Suzuki Method will continue to grow and develop.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

R550 per year A-Membership

Fully qualified Suzuki teachers (ESA-level 5, ESA Diploma)

R550 per year B1-Membership

ESA level 3 or 4 (ESA Accreditation)

R550 per year B2-Membership

Suzuki teachers with ESA level 1 or 2

R550 per year B3-Membership

In training for ESA level 1

R350 per year C3-Membership

Friends of Suzuki Association SA (interested, but not actively teaching)

R350 per year C1-Family Membership

R350 per year C2-Friends Membership

Membership fees for 2026 will be announced in Term 4.

To register is an easy 2-step process:

1. Fill in the online form (found on www.suzuki.org.za or here: [REGISTER NOW](#))
2. Send POP to suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com

Banking Details

South African Suzuki Association

Standard Bank

Menlyn Branch

Account No: 424324806

Reference: your name & membership

POP: send to suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com

Membership Queries

Contact Andrea Kreuiter at

Suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com / akreuiter83@gmail.com / 064 659 1998