



THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

December 2025



<https://www.suzuki.org.za/>  
[suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com](mailto:suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com)

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# SASA COMMITTEE 2025



**CHAIRPERSON**  
Sonnika Venter



**COUNTRY DIRECTOR**  
Carol Solomon



**TREASURER**  
Louis van Manen



**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Andrea Kreuter



**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Renée vd Westhuizen



**DEPUTY TREASURER**  
Albie Olivier



**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Rina Francis

*Thank you for  
your service  
during 2025*



**SECRETARY**  
Elizna Sonnekus

# NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

**Dear Readers,**

As we arrive at the end of another meaningful year for the South African Suzuki Association, we are reminded once again of the extraordinary community that makes this work possible.

Across the country, in studios big and small, teachers, trainers, parents, and, of course, our young musicians have contributed to a year filled with growth, collaboration and beautiful music-making. Thank you for the passion, patience and dedication you continue to offer so generously. It is the foundation upon which our shared mission rests.

Before you slip fully into well-deserved festive rest, please take note of a few important events happening in the year ahead:

Annual General Meeting (p. 9); Teacher Training 2026 (p. 13); Annual National Concert 2026 (p. 17) and Membership Renewals (p. 18).

As we close the chapter on 2025, we hope the coming festive season brings you rest, inspiration, joyful family moments and time to reconnect with what matters most.

May the new year meet you with fresh energy, a renewed sense of purpose and many opportunities to share the gift of music with those around you.

Thank you, once again, for everything you do. Not only for the Suzuki community, but for every student whose life you help shape through mindful, compassionate teaching. It remains an honour to walk this journey with you.

Wishing you peace, warmth, and a melodious start to 2026.

*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 fourth introduction is Country Director, Carol Solomon.



Carol Solomon lives in the KZN Midlands.

Besides her role as SASA Country Director, she also chairs the Pietermaritzburg branch of the South African Music Teachers' Association. Her role includes attending international Suzuki board meetings in Europe, where she finds networking with colleagues from around the world both enriching and invaluable.

Carol's Suzuki journey began in 2016 after hearing a national concert in Johannesburg. Encouraged by Andrea Kreuter, she went on to complete Violin Levels 1–2 and, in 2025, Piano Level 3. She teaches piano and violin at The Wykeham Collegiate, leads the Junior String Ensemble and oversees the Grade 3 violin programme. She also teaches privately in the Midlands and at Lions River Primary. Carol values the Suzuki “triangle” of teacher, pupil, and parent, with concerts and group classes helping to keep progress steady. Her family embraces the method too – her son, David, completed Brass Level 1 in 2024. Grateful for the Belgian Suzuki team's mentorship, she remains hopeful for the continued growth of Suzuki teaching in SA.

# REFLECTIONS

Suzuki is growing in South Africa – not only in numbers, but in depth, connection, and shared purpose. Across the country, we are seeing more large-scale concerts come to life, with even more planned for 2026. Our children step onto grand stages, perform in world-class auditoriums, and experience the rare privilege of sharing their music in beautiful, professional spaces. These moments are powerful. They affirm effort, build confidence, and show young musicians what is possible when dedication meets opportunity.

Yet alongside these impressive events, we continue to treasure the quieter moments – the studio concerts, the living room play-togethers, the small gatherings where children perform for familiar faces and loving ears. These spaces are just as vital. They remind us that music-making begins in community, nurtured through encouragement, patience, and belonging. In these intimate settings, courage is built gently, and confidence grows naturally.





As Suzuki teachers, parents, and trainers, we are each on our own journey. We hold individual goals, studios, and dreams for our students. But the Suzuki philosophy calls us to something greater than individual success. It asks us to work together – to share stages, ideas, challenges and victories – always placing the student at the centre of our efforts.

When we collaborate, we create continuity for our students. We model cooperation over competition, generosity over isolation and long-term vision over short-term gain. Our collective efforts ensure that children experience music not as a solitary pursuit but as a shared language that connects them to others, across studios, cities, and provinces.

The future of Suzuki in South Africa depends on this spirit of unity. Large concerts and small gatherings alike thrive when we recognise that every contribution matters – whether organising, teaching, accompanying, hosting, or simply showing up.

Together, we are building something enduring: a musical community rooted in respect, care, and the belief that when children are placed first, excellence follows naturally. Let us continue to grow – not only upwards, but together.

# TEACHERS' CONCERT IN JOHANNESBURG

Collaboration between colleagues is always a fun and enriching way to extend students' learning. This was exactly the case on 1 November 2025, when four Suzuki violin teachers came together with their students to present a wonderful concert at St Mary's school for Girls in Waverley.

The Edge Auditorium, at the school, was filled with the students of Lee Marais, Engela Scheepers, Louise Frahm-Arp and Christine Geldenhuis, where they joined together to perform a varied programme of music ranging from the Baroque to the Romantic period, featuring composers such as Vivaldi, Bach, Brahms, and Paganini.

Dressed smartly in black and white, and playing in two parts, the students, whose ages ranged from 5 to 30, played beautifully. A strong sense of community and shared purpose was felt throughout the morning.



As we look ahead, it's clear that the future of Suzuki in South Africa will be shaped by collaboration – teachers supporting one another, sharing ideas and building a strong, unified community.

When we work together, we multiply our impact, strengthen our legacy and ensure that every child and every teacher can flourish.

**Here's to growing the Suzuki spirit, side by side, across our country.**

# Annual General Meeting

## SASA AGM

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

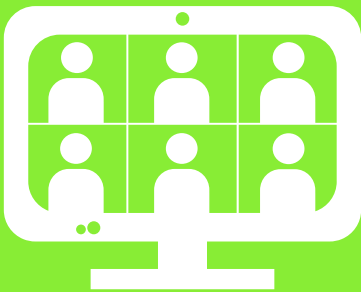
The growth of the Suzuki community in South Africa depends on passionate volunteers – and we need you!

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

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

If you are interested or would like to submit nominations for **Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer or General Member** please email: [suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com](mailto:suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com)

Online



**ANNUAL SASA AGM**

**SUNDAY**

**1 FEBRUARY 2026**

**17:00**

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!**



# A DECADE OF MUZUKIDZ

by Maria Botha

## A Journey of Music, Dedication, and Hope

This year marks a significant milestone for Muzukidz: ten years of impact, growth, and success. Reflecting on this journey, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we've accomplished together.



When I first launched Muzukidz in 2015, my primary motivation was curiosity. I wondered what results we could achieve by teaching children from underprivileged communities to play the violin using the Suzuki method. The opportunity to create a school environment that incorporated Suzuki principles during regular school hours was groundbreaking. It allowed us to provide children with consistent access to violin lessons, even without their parents present, and create the same conditions of regular practice and group classes every day. In essence, I became a "second parent," practising alongside the students daily, building a unique bond with them.



The school setting also allowed us to introduce violin lessons to children as young as three or four years old, offering them an opportunity to stay in the program for 8-10 years, until they transitioned to high school.

Throughout this journey, my teacher and mentor, Christophe Bossuat, played a pivotal role in inspiring and supporting me. As a teacher trainer, Christophe motivated me to pursue this Suzuki journey in Cape Town and provided invaluable guidance each year. His consistent input helped ensure that we stayed true to Suzuki's principles and enabled me to evaluate my own teaching, ensuring that each student received the best 'ingredients' of this method as possible.

I committed to staying in South Africa for as long as it would take to create the first generation of Muzikidz students capable of performing the Bach Double Concerto on stage. What initially began as a simple Suzuki violin teaching project soon evolved into a much more complex endeavour – one that went far beyond just teaching violin.

The children we served faced numerous challenges, from difficult living conditions to limited access to basic necessities. The needs of these children became a project in itself. We found ourselves addressing issues such as providing food, transportation, medical assistance, and, of course, raising funds to ensure that we could continue supporting more generations of students each year.

I am forever grateful to the generous teachers, friends, and the European Suzuki network who helped keep our vision alive, even when the road ahead seemed insurmountable. Covid-19, in particular, was one of the many challenges we faced, but the support from these incredible individuals kept our spirits high and our focus intact.

Today, thanks to their generosity and the unwavering faith of one person – Christophe Bossuat – we celebrated our 10th anniversary with a concert in which our first generation of students performed the Bach Double Concerto on stage.



None of this would have been possible without the support of my Suzuki European family. Together, we've created something remarkable, and I'm so thankful that it was all captured recently in a documentary filmed by TV Channel ARTE, and broadcast a few weeks ago. This film enables us to treasure in our hearts the memories of an incredible Suzuki journey at the most Southern point of AFRICA!!

# LEVEL 1 & 2 VIOLIN TEACHER TRAINING IN SA

Earlier this year, SASA had the privilege of hosting Suzuki Teacher Trainers from Belgium and the UK, alongside our own South African Teacher Trainer, Lee Marais-Nel.

Their visit brought rich learning, energising collaboration and a renewed sense of possibility for Suzuki education in our country.

As you may already be aware, [Level 1 & 2 Suzuki Teacher Training](#) will officially be offered in South Africa in 2026 – at only a fraction of the usual international cost!

This is an extraordinary opportunity for students or music teachers who have dreamed of beginning their Suzuki journey but have found the travel and financial requirements too challenging.

## **This is your moment!**

If you (or someone you know) would love to train in the internationally respected Suzuki Method, now is the time to step forward. Remember, if you are already Level 1 certified, you can attend the training at no cost at all or enrol for Level 2!

## **Please help us spread the word!**

We're asking all SASA committee members, member teachers, studio parents and supporters to share the flyer on the following page widely:

- on your WhatsApp status
- on community groups
- on social media
- with fellow musicians, teachers, and students
- and anywhere else it might reach the right future candidates

The more visibility this training receives, the more teachers we can empower and the more children across South Africa will ultimately benefit.

Together, let's open the door for a new generation of Suzuki educators. The flyer will also be sent to you separately.

Thank you for helping us take this important step forward!



# SUZUKI VIOLIN TEACHER TRAINING LEVEL 1 & 2

**REGISTRATION CLOSING  
31 DECEMBER 2025**

R20 000 for  
16+ full days training  
over the course of  
12 months

**SUBMIT VIDEOS  
BETWEEN  
23-31 DECEMBER**

**GAUTENG  
20-23 February  
13-18 July**

**WESTERN CAPE  
09-12 April  
24-28 Sept**

 [www.suzuki.org.za](http://www.suzuki.org.za)

 [suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com](mailto:suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL NOTE

Guillem Calvo (UK) will be in KZN for two days (18 & 19 Feb) before the first set of 2026 training days in Gauteng. A wonderful opportunity for yet more meaningful learning. If you are in the region or plan to visit, please get in touch with Carol at [carolsolomon123@gmail.com](mailto:carolsolomon123@gmail.com) for more details.



# MEET THE TEAM





“Perhaps it is music that will save the world.”  
Shinichi Suzuki, Nurtured by Love



# 2026 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONCERT

Plans for the **SASA Annual National Concert in 2026** are already well underway, and we are excited to share some important dates and intentions with our members.

The concert has been scheduled for **Thursday, 24 September 2026**, a public holiday – a deliberate choice that allows families, teachers and students to plan well in advance and travel more easily from across the country. This early planning opens the door for broader participation and an even stronger national representation on stage!

The 2026 National Concert will once again be accompanied by a rich programme of workshops and masterclasses, thoughtfully aligned with the Suzuki Teacher Training taking place during the same period. This creates a valuable opportunity for students to learn alongside the energy and inspiration of ongoing teacher development, while benefiting from exposure to experienced educators, collaborative learning, and ensemble playing at a high level.

We encourage teachers and families to diarise the date now and begin planning.



**24 September 2026 promises to be a meaningful celebration of learning, growth, and music made together.**

# ZERO MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

We are delighted to confirm that there will be  
**no increase in SASA membership fees for 2026!**

This is likely to be the final year that membership can be offered at the current rate, and we are pleased to extend this courtesy to our members as a gesture of appreciation for your continued commitment to Suzuki in South Africa.

To register is an easy 2-step process:

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

## Membership Queries

Contact Andrea Kreuiter at

[Suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com](mailto:suzuki.association.sa@gmail.com) / [akreuiter83@gmail.com](mailto:akreuiter83@gmail.com) / 064 659 1998

<b>R550 per year</b>	<b>A-Membership</b> Fully qualified Suzuki teachers (ESA-level 5, ESA Diploma)
<b>R550 per year</b>	<b>B1-Membership</b> ESA level 3 or 4 (ESA Accreditation)
<b>R550 per year</b>	<b>B2-Membership</b> Suzuki teachers with ESA level 1 or 2
<b>R550 per year</b>	<b>B3-Membership</b> In training for ESA level 1
<b>R350 per year</b>	<b>C3-Membership</b> Friends of Suzuki Association SA (interested, but not actively teaching)
<b>R350 per year</b>	<b>C1-Family Membership</b>
<b>R350 per year</b>	<b>C2-Friends Membership</b>

# SASA MEMBERSHIP

## Take Pride in Being Part

The South African Suzuki Association (SASA) is affiliated with the European Suzuki Association (ESA), meaning that your SASA membership automatically includes ESA membership. We warmly encourage both teachers and students to join our national association and become part of this wider Suzuki community.

As a non-profit organisation, SASA reinvests all membership contributions directly into workshops, events, teacher training and the continued 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.



# 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! 🎵**



# NOTES FROM PARENTS

Our previous newsletter was wonderfully full after the Teacher Trainer Refresher Workshops in July, which meant we couldn't include all the heartfelt feedback received from parents whose children participated in the National Concert and workshops.

As we close off our 2025 newsletter, we are delighted to share these voices from families near and far – words that so beautifully affirm the vision we hold for Suzuki in South Africa: a thriving, connected community where children are nurtured through music, excellence, and care.

We wish all our members a blessed and restful festive season, and we look forward to making more meaningful music together in 2026.

*Dear Suzuki Concert Organisers*

*I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt congratulations to all the participants and organisers of the Suzuki concert held in Cape Town, South Africa! The event was truly inspiring, and it was wonderful to see the young talents shine on stage with such confidence and poise. The participants were outstanding, and they should be proud of their hard work and dedication. The calibre of the teachers at the event was exceptional. Their expertise, patience, and dedication to the Suzuki method were evident throughout the performances. The way they brought out the best in each child was truly impressive, and it was clear that they had a deep understanding of the music and the ability of the students. Their teaching style and approach were not only effective but also engaging and enjoyable to watch.*

*One minor suggestion for future events would be to consider having some catering options available for participants and attendees, given the lengthy duration that participants were at the venue. A few snacks and refreshments would have been a lovely addition to an already wonderful experience.*

*Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed the concert and appreciated the hard work that went into making it a success. The organisation, atmosphere, and overall experience were all top-notch, and we feel grateful to have been a part of it.*

*Thank you for organising such a wonderful experience and for providing a platform for our young musicians to showcase their talents.*

*Best regards, Lee-ann Sewmangal*

*We were thrilled to see our child grow in confidence and skill after attending the July teacher training and national concert. The training was exceptional, and the concert was a fantastic showcase of talent. 🎵*

*It's wonderful to see the impact it's had on our child's musical journey, and we're grateful for the dedication of the teachers.*

*Thank you for organising such an incredible experience! 😊"*

*Parent of Vuyo Gcaleka*



*The Annual National Suzuki Concert experience in Cape Town this year was truly spectacular. Getting to witness teachers Gulliem and Peter connect with the children was something special. Their natural ability to bring their love of music and teaching children through their fun methods was a different experience to any other one we've been to with Suzuki.*

*So grateful for the experience*

*Miss Allison Donnelly*

*What a soul-stirring experience at the Annual National Suzuki Concert!*

*Watching my daughter Jazmine play the violin alongside talented young musicians from across the country was pure magic. A reminder of how music transcends borders, ages and backgrounds to unite hearts in harmony.*

*We are deeply grateful to the international teachers who so generously shared their time, kindness and expertise through the masterclasses, a gift we'll carry forward in every note kids played.*

*This concert was more than a performance it was a celebration of connection, passion and the beauty of young musicians finding their voice, together. ❤️*

*D'lène Haines*