

ARE YOU A MUSICIAN or parent

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with interest in SUZUKI METHOD?

Shin'ichi Suzuki (1898-1998), violinist, pedagogue and philosopher started his method in Japan with little violinists, nurturing abilities through the **Mother Tongue Method** based in the way every human learns to talk and walk. Babies learn in a daily environment rich in **fluent examples** of talking and walking, an **environment** which is positive and encouraging, which is also patiently confident that success in talking and walking will come, sooner or later. Thanks to Suzuki's ideas, now pianists, wind players, and string players all over the world learn this way too. **Listening first** to build the ear, memory, motivation, and confidence, little children and older people can all learn to play classical music. **Reading** music notation is a related but at first somewhat separate endeavor; babies learn to talk first, then to read words. Listening to the musical playing of teachers, other students, to Suzuki repertoire recordings, and to all good music around them, **Suzuki kids learn to play by ear first**, and also eventually to play by reading. By the time they learn to read music, the students have good tone production, musical sense, and memory, with good body balance and alignment,. From the beginning, teachers give attention to natural tone production through natural, healthy body use for musical and fluent playing. **Parents and teachers work together** before lessons, and during lessons. Parents and children attend lessons with other families, and practice together at home. **The positive approach** encourages and inspires through good examples and always showing the desired way, and always giving positive feedback so the student musicians know what they are doing "right". Parents and teachers figure out together how to skillfully inspire the children to practice toward their own **mastery and happiness in freely, fluidly, expressively playing music.**

Armena Marderosian is a registered piano teacher trainer for the Suzuki Association of the Americas, and has been teaching Suzuki Piano since 1972, training teachers in Suzuki Method since 1974, first in Oberlin, Ohio where she'd been an Oberlin Conservatory student, then in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1976, Ms. Marderosian was in Matsumoto, Japan at Dr. Suzuki's Talent Education (Ability Development) Institute, watching lessons of Dr. Suzuki and of Suzuki Piano Method co-founder **Haruko Kataoka**. Ms. Marderosian is a member of the International Suzuki Association, of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, and of Piano Basics, which publishes writings of Haruko Kataoka. Suzukiassociation.org <http://core.ecu.edu/hist/wilburnk/suzukipianobasics/>
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Tel: 734-996-1949. Ms. Marderosian's Armenian music website devoted to music of Grikor Mirzaian Suni (1876-1939), her husband's grandfather, is www.suniproject.org
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