

2025 MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp & Adult Summer String Ensemble



14th MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp

Welcome to our 2025 MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp, now in its 14th year! We will run the camp from July 7-11, 2025 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Extended care is available as well from 8:00-9am and 4:00-5:30 pm daily (additional cost).

Camp is open to all **violin, viola, cello, piano and guitar** students who study by the Suzuki method and have had at least one full year of instruction. We offer all levels, from those who have learned Twinkles with fingers to beyond Book 8. We hope to share Shinichi Suzuki's philosophy and nurturing approach to learning with all children and parents who attend. Along with a basic daily foundation of semi-private lessons, Suzuki group repertoire lessons and string orchestra/ beginner note reading ensemble, campers will also participate in two enrichment classes with a choice from the following list: arts and crafts, drumming, fiddling, pottery and swimming. Campers will have the opportunity to perform in an optional solo recital on Thursday afternoon, as well as the Friday concert featuring class demonstrations from a variety of our week's activities.

To parents of children 10 years and younger, we encourage you to attend your child's semi-private, and group class. If you are unable to do this, we will assign your child a "Suzuki Buddy," (one of our responsible MNjcc Suzuki Program teens, and program grads) who will be

responsible for writing down the assignments and helping your child with their instrument. Our “Suzuki Buddies” will be responsible for several children at once.

Lunch will not be provided. Campers must bring their own lunch (nut free), plus two snacks, and a water bottle daily. During the lunch-hour from 12-1pm we will have use of the rooftop playground area for outdoor recess (weather pending). The beautiful saltwater pool is available for our use, and we will again have a designated camp swim time this summer. Extended care will be available before and after Suzuki camp hours.

If you would like more information about our camp, please contact camp directors, Gretchen Paxson Abberger at gretchena@mnjcc.org or Kate Shaner at kates@mnjcc.org. Registration will open in February 2025 in the Amilia registration portal.



Music & Arts Camp Class Descriptions:

Semi-Private lessons – violin, viola, cello, piano, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped with 3 or 4 other students according to instrument, age, and level. Students observe each other’s lessons in a masterclass style environment and learn from each other. Be sure to talk with your private teacher in advance of camp to select a Suzuki piece from the books to work on at camp with your camp teacher. ***Semi-private lessons are not optional.***

Suzuki group repertoire classes – violin, viola, cello, piano, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped according to instrument and playing level. Group class teachers will use selections from the traditional Suzuki repertoire books. A repertoire list of pieces to review will be sent out in advance of camp for students to practice and polish. Piano students will have a musicianship and/or theory class, depending on age and level. Advanced pianists will be assigned to a chamber group. Pianist and group class students will perform at our Friday afternoon concert. ***Group classes are not optional.***

String Orchestra / Beginner Note Reading Ensemble/ Guitar Orchestra – violin, viola, cello, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped according to their note reading level. The beginner note reading ensemble will work on basic foundational note reading skills while the string orchestra will be more for our intermediate and advanced students who have experience playing in an ensemble. Be sure to list your note reading level on the Amilia registration portal for correct placement in the note reading and string orchestra. All the ensembles will perform at our Friday afternoon concert.

Music Through the Ages: Daily – 50 minutes. Will be offered to all levels and instruments, and will be our first class of the day.

Music tells a story – a good story – and everyone loves a story! These entertaining presentations/performances are sometimes comic, sometimes dramatic, and sometimes moving - but always lively. Come hear Clayton Scott bring the stories of the great operas, ballets and symphonies to life. Composers will be taken off their pedestals and revealed as real people living in a real time. The audience will be inspired by the music, enthralled by the dramatic stories and fascinated by the creative process behind these masterworks. ***Music Through the Ages is not optional.***

“This master story-teller and eloquent musician exquisitely entwines words and music. Her dramatic presentations enthrall listeners of all ages and must be experienced to be believed.” Susan Hammond, Classical Kids (“Beethoven Lives Upstairs”)

For more details and photos, visit www.claytonscottmusic.com.



ENRICHMENT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS: (choice of two)

Arts & Crafts: Daily – 50 minutes. Children of all ages and levels are welcome.

Our Art & Craft classes through the years, have offered the opportunity for children to explore:

- Creating collages
- Creating Pinatas
- Creating instrument drawings with various methods
- Relating music with art, and art with music
- Watercolour painting
- Marble Painting
- Decorating a craft bag
- Finger painting, and more...

Please be aware that there may be glue or paint splattering. Comfy clothes are recommended! A display of the camp art project will be on display during the Friday afternoon concert for parents and friends to view.

Drumming class: Daily – 50 minutes. Classes will be grouped by age and playing level.

This is open to everyone. Campers will explore drumming technique, using unique simple homemade bucket drums, combining rhythm, popular tunes, improvisation, and

discipline, to create unique original compositions which will be heard at our Friday afternoon concert.

Fiddling class: Daily – 50 minutes. Two levels – Beginner and Intermediate /Advanced.

Traditional fiddling is more than reading the music off the page. In fact, most "real" fiddlers don't read a note. Of course, it's an advantage to be able to read music and learn by ear. The students in this class will be doing a bit of both. Incorporating rhythm is another key aspect to great fiddle playing. Students will learn arrangements of familiar and more obscure fiddle music and will have fun with ensemble skills. Classes will be determined according to Suzuki playing level. Students in fiddling will perform at our Friday afternoon concert.

Pottery: Daily – 50 minutes – offered to both Junior & Advanced students.

This class is designed for students who want to explore their creativity with clay- the oldest of mediums– using hand building techniques such as coiling, pinching, slab building and texturing, to create three directed projects over the course of the week. We will be using air-dry clay at camp so that families can pick up on Friday.

Swimming: Daily – 50 minutes. All levels.

Swimming will fill on a first come, first serve basis and spots are limited. As there will be many MNjcc camps sharing, our Suzuki camp will be given use of the pool in the afternoons during our camp week (schedule yet to be confirmed). The pool staff are fully trained in water safety. Some of our Suzuki Buddies will also be on hand to assist the youngest children. Please be sure to list your child's swimming level when you register in Amilia if they want to go swimming. Life vests must be worn by children who do not pass the swim test, which will be on the first day of camp.

MNjcc Adult Summer String Ensemble



July 7-11, 2025 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

This week-long session is for adults who are keen to connect with other like-minded string players (violin, viola, cello), to further their instrumental skills, explore interesting ensemble music, and more!

The atmosphere is focused, yet supportive and relaxed.

We recommend having completed at least two years or more of study. The note-reading level for the ensemble is at a grade 3-4 RCM.

Semi-private lessons, sectionals and group classes will be scheduled during the week.

Our ensemble instructor for the week will be Nancy Lokan. The ensemble will perform in the Friday afternoon concert.

For more info please contact camp co-directors Gretchen Paxson Abberger at gretchena@mnjcc.org or Kate Shaner at kates@mnjcc.org.