

The Big Ear Challenge 2022

Listen to music every day!

All children learn to speak their native language by listening and imitating what they hear. Your child is learning to play an instrument the same way. While the language environment happens all by itself, the musical one must be created. Surround your child with beautiful music. Listening to music will inspire him and create the desire to learn to play the instrument. Let's start the year off by revving up our listening. Beginning on Sept. 1st, we will be holding 'The Big Ear Challenge'. The Big Ear Challenge provides a gentle first step on the path back to the routines of the school year. The goal is to listen to the Suzuki recording every day. Have your child keep track of how many times she listens to it on the Big Ear Calendar. The challenge will run through September 30th.

Bonus Listening

We will get to know the Violin Concerto #5 in A Major by Mozart, a work that students will study in The Suzuki Violin School Volume Nine.

Suzuki writes in *Nurtured By Love*:

“It was Mozart who taught me to know perfect love, truth, goodness, and beauty. I now deeply feel as if I were under direct orders from Mozart, and he left me a legacy. In his place, I am to further the happiness of all children.”

“When I listen to Mozart, he seems to envelop me in his great love. He says: Alright. Life can be sad. But if there is love, see how beautiful life can be. Let us go along together and comfort one another.”

What is a concerto?

A concerto is a musical composition for a solo instrument or instruments accompanied by an orchestra usually consisting of three parts, called movements.

- A quick opening movement in *sonata form* including a *cadenza*
- A slow, expressive movement
- A faster rondo

Here is a link to a recording of the concerto performed by Hilary Hahn:

<https://youtu.be/4mNJ43S1RIQ>

Week One: Movement One, Allegro aperto

Listen for these sections:

Orchestral introduction

Slow violin introduction (Adagio)

Exposition, Development, Recapitulation

Cadenza

Sonata form:

Exposition – introduces the main themes

Development – plays with these themes

Recapitulation – the main themes return refreshed and renewed

Cadenza:

An improvised or written-out ornamental passage played by the soloist alone, usually in a "free" rhythmic style, and often allowing virtuosic display, typically near the end of a movement.

Week Two: Movement Two, Adagio Begins at 10:08

You may want to get comfortable and close your eyes. What images come to mind?

Week Three: Movement Three, Rondo Begins at 20:10

In a rondo, the principal theme alternates with other themes; ABACADA.

The stately Minuet theme returns many times. Listen to the interesting things that happen in between.

Week Four: Minuet from the String Quartet in d minor k421 by Mozart

<https://youtu.be/WxTgm81GR3U>

This piece was written for a string quartet consisting of two violins, viola, and cello.

Suzuki included the First Violin part in his Violin School Volume Seven. You may remember hearing this at last year's group concert.

The form is called Minuet Trio. A minuet is played followed by another minuet (the trio) followed by a repeat of the first minuet

(ABA). Both Minuet in G by Beethoven and Minuet by Boccherini, found in Suzuki Volume Two, are also examples of the Minuet Trio form.

The Minuet section is in d minor and the Trio in D major. Listen for the change.

Draw as you listen. How do the colors and images change as the music changes from minor to major?

For more about Mozart go here: <https://youtu.be/9pddmjHwMs8>

Enjoy!