



# ETOBICOKE Suzuki MUSIC

2011-12



## Information for Parents of Beginning ESM Students

### Welcome to our 30<sup>th</sup> season!

We are pleased that you have decided to register with Etobicoke Suzuki Music for the coming year. We are looking forward to sharing in your child's musical development and supporting you, the parent, in any way we can. Margot Jewell (violin coordinator) and Tricia Balmer (cello coordinator) are Co-directors. Ann Balmer is the Administrator. If you have any questions or problems throughout the year, please do not hesitate to call your teacher, Tricia, Margot, or the ESM phone (416-239-4637) or contact us at [info@essm.ca](mailto:info@essm.ca).

Your program will consist of four elements: lessons with your private teacher, group classes, music and movement classes and parent education classes. Note that the latter three classes do not take place every week throughout the year. See the ESM calendar for the time and location of these lessons.

Lessons begin the week of September 12 and finish June 9. Note that Monday and Tuesday students will have their first lesson *before* the Supergroup.

The opening group class (Supergroup) will be held on Wednesday, Sept 21 at 6:00 p.m. All students will meet in the lunchroom of Dixon Grove School, 315 The Westway at Kipling Ave. Beginning students will observe the class. You do not need your instruments for this.

Beginning September 28, you and your child should come to group class and your child will start Music and Movement class as well. Although the focus in the instrumental class will be on the children, you need to be there.

You are welcome to observe your child's first couple of Music and Movement classes. After these initial classes, parent education sessions will take place during some of these periods.

### Violin



Violin students 5 years old and younger will begin on a box violin included in your beginner package received after you register.

Most violin parents will be expected to rent a full-sized violin for the first year in order to receive some instruction along with their child. ESM has three full-sized violins available for \$125/year on a first-come first-served basis for first year parents. If you are interested in renting one of the ESM violins, please contact ESM at 416-239-4637 or [info@essm.ca](mailto:info@essm.ca). Your violin should be obtained before the first lesson and your child will need his or hers within 4 to 12 weeks.

### Cello



All cello students will need a chair, preferably of adjustable height, and a rug. Cello students do not use a "box" as the violin students do, although a fair amount of work is done without the cello at the beginning.

Cello parents are strongly encouraged to rent a full-sized cello. Long and McQuade, 925 Bloor St. W. (416-588-7876) offers the most reasonable rental prices, although rental cellos are available at other music stores. Bring your cello to the first private lesson and your child's cello to the first cello group class.

### Small Instruments

Following the opening Supergroup session, teachers will be available to measure children for instruments. It is very important that the correct size of instrument be obtained.

There are several options for acquiring small instruments:

(a) You may rent from ESM (small cellos only for \$290/year),

**The Sound Post** (416-971-6990) or **Long and McQuade**.

(b) You may buy a new or second-hand instrument through a string shop such as **The Sound Post, Long and McQuade, Remenyi House of Music** (416-961-3111) or **Heinl** (416-363-0093).

(c) You may buy a second-hand instrument privately. We have an ESM parent volunteer to facilitate a second-hand instrument directory by keeping a list of all the instruments available through our families. This latter course is worth investigating as you will have lower prices and no taxes. Many of the families with instruments for sale will have them at Supergroup for your inspection.

### Supplies

You will be receiving the 'beginner package' including the first music book and recording of your child's repertoire. Please begin listening to this every day. This will greatly facilitate your child's ability to learn the pieces when the time comes. Also included will be *Ability Development from Age Zero* by Dr. Suzuki and *Helping Parents Practice, Making it Easier* by Ed Sprunger. We strongly encourage you to read these as they will give you a better understanding of the Suzuki philosophy.

Also available are *Nurtured by Love*, by Dr. Suzuki and *To Learn with Love* by William Starr.

These materials are available at various music stores such as **Queensway Music Centre**, 701 The Queensway, Etobicoke (416-259-9723), **The Sound Post**, **The Royal Conservatory Book Store** (416-585-2225) **Remenyi House of Music** and your local **public library**.