

20 June 2022

Dear Lauderdale Parents,

It has been a year of joyful renewal at Lauderdale Suzuki Group. I am so glad that we could continue to come together as a community during such uncertain times to support the children and one another. Sadly, many educational arts organisations did not make it through the last two years, and it is a great testament to our community that Lauderdale Suzuki has. Thank you all for your energy and efforts this year.

Congratulations to all of the performers in this term's soirees, the LSG ensembles concerts, and the North London Music Festival. Your performances were exciting and beautiful, and your preparation really showed. What a great way to end the academic year!

We have a few events remaining this term, with more details on the website:

22 June: Group Showcase for Bach/Mozart, Clarke, Beethoven Groups @ 4.30 pm & Ensemble Showcase @ 6 pm

29 June: Extra Day - Play together for current students and alumni. Bring a picnic to enjoy on the tea lawn.

As the year comes to an end we are already busy planning for the coming year. **You can now find the term dates for 2022-2023 on the website**, including the date of our **Winter Concert, Sunday 4 December**. Please save the entire day for this lovely holiday concert. Our first week of classes is September 21.

Other things we would like you to know for next year:

- When planning your next school year please be aware that your class timings may change from year to year. Classes will remain between 3.55-7pm on Wednesdays, please check your email and the website for more information over the summer.
- The **fees for next year will increase to £220/term and £200/ term for siblings. Theory will be £90/term**. The increase in fees will help to cover rising costs at each of our venues as well as other operating costs that have arisen due to the pandemic. These costs, coupled with lower enrolment numbers, has made this increase necessary.
- After many years of concerts at the Amadeus Centre, we have outgrown the space, and so we will be moving our winter concert to the Dyne Auditorium at Highgate School.
- We have begun to offer online information sessions for prospective Lauderdale families. If you know someone who might be interested in joining us please have them contact us for more information about our next meeting, in September.

Theory classes - Is your child aged 7 or older? At this time of year, we would like to invite children aged 7 or older in September to join our theory classes, taught by Clare Clements and Johanna Byrne. Clare and Johanna have many years of experience teaching children theory and preparing them for theory exams and we highly recommend any child who may eventually want to do a grade exam enrol in theory around age 7.

It takes about one year to pass each grade, and in order to take the practical ABRSM exam in Grade 6 and above you must have previously passed Grade 5 Theory. A foundation in the earlier grades is necessary to progress to Grade 5.

Theory classes are held at Highgate Society Hall in Highgate Village directly after school at 3.50 and 4.30. If you have more than one child then another parent can help your child in theory come to Lauderdale House safely after class.

Please email us at lauderdalesuzukigroup@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the class this September. The classes are limited in size so please register your interest now to avoid disappointment.

Are you certified in first aid? We try to ensure that we always have a parent at Lauderdale who is trained in first aid. Thankfully, we hardly ever need to call on their skills, but we would like to know who does have these skills in case of emergency. If you are certified in first aid would you please let us know so that we make staff aware of who to call in an emergency? Please email lauderdalesuzukigroup@gmail.com if you are qualified to help in an emergency.

We need parent volunteers. Thank you to all of the parents who have served in volunteer roles this year, from parent reps to those who help supervise at concerts and everyone in between. We are always in need of parent volunteers. We know parents in our group are very busy and called on to do a lot in all areas of their lives. However, with a small staff and so many wonderful events each year we rely on your help to make it all run smoothly. If you would like to be a class representative, can help with events, refreshments, organising parents, or other odd jobs please let me know by emailing me at cluggishstudio@gmail.com.

Communication ahead of next academic year. Please check your emails toward the end of the summer for your family timetable. The term dates for next year are now available on the website and the timetable will be posted in the coming weeks. Please check the website over the summer for further information about the year.

On behalf of the entire Lauderdale team, I wish you all wonderful summer holidays, filled with music and sun. Enjoy your travels, summer workshops, and of course your practices together!

With best wishes,
Amy

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