



Edmonton  
**SUZUKI**  
Piano School

a publication of Edmonton Suzuki Piano School

# TWINKLING THE IVORIES

June 2020

## WE DID IT!

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Edmonton Suzuki Piano School has been providing Suzuki piano programming for more than 40 years, and nothing could have prepared our society for the unprecedented circumstances that we all found ourselves in back in mid-March. When COVID-19 landed in Edmonton, everything changed. We had to cancel events and quickly shift from in-person to virtual programming. Teachers and families came together to learn the most effective ways to connect online. It took a little time to adjust, but gradually everyone grew more comfortable with this new normal.

Now that it is June and we are finishing up with the last of our graduation performances and virtual recitals, it is very clear that the commitment of our students, parents and teachers has paid off. Our online recitals demonstrated that ESPS students were ready for the challenge, featuring so many wonderful performances that made all of us proud. We enjoyed the jokes, stories and even the odd card-trick that our students shared. Best of all, our friends and family from all over the world were able to join in for the fun and offer support to our ESPS musicians!

It's been a challenging time, but we are inspired and rewarded by our ESPS family. Thank you to our ESPS parents, who have kept it going over the past few months. It has not been easy, and we have noticed your commitment, whether it was to find the perfect camera angle or getting in a little more practice time now that your schedule is a bit lighter. With your support, ESPS students have persevered and progressed and this June we have celebrated one of our largest graduating groups ever.

Over time, it is likely that students won't remember many specifics about what they learned at a lesson or at practice, but it is safe to say that they will recall your encouragement and love, especially during such a difficult time. Hats off to you all!

## BACK TO SCHOOL: WHAT TO EXPECT IN SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

We are looking forward to another year of individual and group lessons, with recitals, graduation concerts and other special events for the 2020/21 term. While we hope that we can offer this programming in-person, we do recognize that we may need to revert to virtual learning or temporarily change how we offer programming should the events of the day dictate that. We'll be making decisions based on the guidance from Alberta Health Services and we'll be focused on risk reduction for students, parents and teachers.

Over the past few months, we have shown how we can adapt, learn and persevere in these unprecedented times. We have gathered knowledge and experience in virtual instruction, and we feel confident that we'll be able to apply that effectively in the coming year. Whether we meet in-person, virtually or in some kind of combination, we'll be ready to teach, learn and grow together.

## JUNE GRADUATION PERFORMANCES - ONLINE

Graduation concerts celebrate the musical accomplishments of ESPS students when they complete a volume of repertoire. The determination and tenacity of our students was in evidence this June as we celebrated a near record number of graduates despite COVID-19 and the shift to virtual lessons.

Each student performs three pieces at a concert. Some are mandatory pieces selected by ESPS teachers and some are student favourites from the volume. Since we couldn't do that in person this June, we recorded each student performance and compiled videos for each studio. The links to these videos is at our website and we encourage you to share them with friends and family.

<https://www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca/june-2020-graduation-concerts/>

Additionally, we recently celebrated two students who have completed Volume 7 and the Edmonton Suzuki Piano School program, Micah Truong and Ksenia Pankratyeva. They each performed in a virtual concert and their videos are well worth a watch. You can find profiles for these two fine musicians on our website.

Hats off to all of our graduating students. Well done!

**THANK YOU!** *Edmonton Suzuki Piano School gratefully acknowledges the support of the **City of Edmonton** and the Community Investment Operating Grant program and the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts** and their Community Support Organizations funding programs for their generous funding support of ESPS programs.*

## 2020/2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

September 29, 2020 Annual General Meeting

October 25, 2020 Graduation Concerts

February 7, 14, & 28, 2021 Winter Recitals

March 14, 2021 Graduation Concerts

May 30, June 6, 14 & 20, 2021 Summer Recitals

June 20, 2021 Graduation Concerts

## CONGRATULATIONS JUNE GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following students for graduating from their volume of repertoire. Your achievement has been hard-earned and is well-deserved!

### **Volume 1**

Jonathan Aghedo

Joseph Aghedo

Vasylyna Bodnar

Armando Buch

Mia Buch

Alyssa Chew

Cadence Chow

Finn Gutteridge-Hingston

Corrie Kim

George Kim

Hejun Li

Jaiden Maharaj

Clara Nguyen

Michael Rico-Lam

Iyed Sahbi

Maksym Sokha

Elowyn Temme

### **Volume 3**

Riley Chan

Noah Chow

### **Volume 4**

Benjamin Davie

Chloe Giesbrecht

Rhys Guillaume

Dahlia Smaidi

Jocelyn Zhou

### **Volume 5**

Lauren Huang

Rachel Mack

Mira MacMillan

Ethan Zhang

### **Volume 6**

Hamish Chan

Jane Chen

Erik Mierzewski

Hannah VandenBorn

### **Volume 7**

Ksenia Pankratyeva

Micah Truong

### **Volume 2**

Gianne Cables

Gavin Chung

Rafael Jordao

Elliot Kim

Hannah Kim

Joshua Koop

Sahana Maan

Jolene McAlear

Amanda Mella-Rodriguez

Mofe Oladunni

Julia Tao

Brandon Thai

Alexander Zubritsky

Ephraim Zubritsky

***“Always seek finer music, finer performance. Eventually this will change from a learning attitude to a joyful quest which will last throughout our lives.”***

Shinichi Suzuki