



Private String Lesson Syllabus 2025-2026

Instructors: **Violin/Viola:** Dr. Eric Siu, Dr. Heather Couture, Helen Lundy
Cello: Elizabeth Massad, Dr. Liz Lee
Guitar: Michael Keplinger

Contact information:

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Office: Schuech Fine Arts Center - consult instructor for lesson location

Office Hours: By appointment

A Calendar of Private Lesson dates and performances, and the CMA Private Lessons Attendance Policy and general expectations may be found online at www.tlucma.org

Course Description: Private string instruction for no credit; 30, 45, or 60-minute lesson per week

Course Objectives:

Applied Suzuki method study of the violin, viola, cello and bass based on these Suzuki teaching elements:

- Suzuki teachers believe that musical ability can be developed in all children.
- Students begin at young ages.
- Parents play an active role in the learning process and **are expected to be in attendance at lessons.**
- Children become comfortable with the instrument before learning to read music.
- Technique is taught in the context of pieces rather than through dry technical exercises.
- Pieces are refined through constant review.
- Students perform frequently, individually and in groups.

Through these Suzuki teaching elements the following student goals and objectives will be taught:

- 1) To play the instrument with a balanced and relaxed posture, conducive to the ease of performance at all times.
- 2) To acquire technical proficiency in areas including, but not limited to:
 - beautiful and varied tone colors
 - facility and organization of the left hand in speed, shifting, and vibrato
 - mastery of all varied bow strokes (detaché, martelé, collé, spiccato, etc.)
 - intonation
 - scales and arpeggios

- 3) To learn and perform repertoire with technical proficiency and musical expression, as well as reflect on successes and areas for improvement in performance.
- 4) To gain a knowledge and appreciation for a range of repertoire for the instrument both through performance and listening.
- 5) To be encouraged to continue lessons and performance at Texas Lutheran University upon graduation from High School.

TLU IGG- Knowing: a depth of knowledge in a single discipline sufficient to understand its methods, language, content, history, and value.

TLU IGG- Doing: use appropriate tools for problem solving (ie: overcoming a technical road block) and for finding, analyzing, and communicating information (or musical intent.)

TLU IGG- Becoming: a commitment to active community service (through musical performance) and a will to pursue continued cultural, intellectual, and spiritual growth.

Required Materials:

Instrument, assigned Suzuki Books and Recordings, Lesson and Practice Journal, Pencil, Assigned scales and technique materials.

Minimum Practice Requirements:

Daily practice requirements will be decided upon between teacher, student and parents.

A breakdown of how to organize your practice will be discussed in your lesson, and your practice journal will be an essential tool in practicing effectively.

Required Performance Dates:

December 15, 2025 - Private Lessons Recital (In two parts)

TLU Chapel of the Abiding Presence 5:00 / 6:30 p.m.

- Rehearsal on Dec. 8 at scheduled time between 3-7:00 PM

May 11, 2026 -Private Lessons Recital (In two parts)

TLU Chapel of the Abiding Presence 5:00 / 6:30 p.m.

- Rehearsal on May 4 at scheduled time between 3-7:00 PM