



INTERNATIONAL SUZUKI ASSOCIATION

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Dear Suzuki flute colleagues,

The International Suzuki Association Flute Committee has had its third meeting in Matsumoto, Japan on the 8th and 9th of November 2015. The representatives of the regions of the SAA, PPSA, ESA and TERI had interesting and fruitful discussions. We would like to share the results of these discussion in this update.

The representatives on the ISA Flute Committee have had extensive consultation with teacher trainers and senior experienced teachers in their regions, have collated the opinions of the teachers, and at the meeting represented the views of the majority of teachers in their regions. Proposals for changes, arise from many years of practical teaching experience with the Suzuki Flute Method.

At the Flute Committee Meetings, we particularly focused on Book 1 and 2 correlating the printed music with the recordings. We suggested adjustments to both the editions and the recordings to better reflect the required musical intentions, and to avoid misunderstandings. As general change we would like to see book and CD sold as package. We added track and title numbers as well as bar numbers for each of the repertoire pieces. We also discussed at length the articulation in the Baroque pieces to reflect period performance practice, as it is strongly felt that this will greatly increase the acceptance of Suzuki flute in the world, and contribute to its future growth.

For many years there has been a strong call for new recordings of the Suzuki Flute repertoire. In today's world, professional musicians expect performances that respect decades of research into period performance practice and a high level of recording fidelity. We believe that high quality new recordings are essential to the growth of Suzuki flute.

Several potential recording artists have been mentioned during our meetings.

The committee was very clear that, no matter what may happen in due course with availability of additional recordings, they wish the current recordings of Book 1 and 2 to continue to be available for all Suzuki flute teachers and students.

The ISA Flute Committee has discussed the possibility of a handbook of Mr. Takahashi's excellent exercises and articles concerning flute technique and tone development, which would be a wonderful aid to teacher trainers and new trainee teachers into the future. We suggest that this handbook could include all the explanatory texts and diagrams from the published books, all the versions of tonalisation, and all the exercises from each book, as well as many other tone exercises and technical and musical exercises that Mr. Takahashi has created over the years, but which have not been published. There are certainly many more teaching ideas that Mr. Takahashi has shared with teachers throughout the world that are not contained in the Suzuki Flute books, and that could be incorporated into this handbook. Mr. Takahashi suggests we ask you as Suzuki flute teachers and trainers to help us compile such articles and exercises. Also repertoire which Mr. Takahashi has designed to help prepare for book 3 is very welcome. We eagerly await your response to this suggestion. We feel it would make a wonderful legacy for future generations.