

Student-to-Student Mentoring Program:

2019-20 is the 6th year of my student-to student mentoring program. I am now in the third year of training mentors. The mentor needs to be in Sophomore year or higher.

The process of becoming a mentor involves about 5 hours of observation of lessons, discussion of those lessons, and actual playing of the repertoire with me. It gives me a chance to re-teach the young adult the material she learned intuitively as a 6 year old. For me, the training represents an aspiration of the Mentor to be a life-long learner of music. It also marks that Mentor as a person of great humility and devotion. It is a mark of great maturity for a 16 year old to play the Twinkle Variations and all of Book 1 beautifully. That is the first criteria for a successful teacher: to be able to play well. Next, the student studies how to teach the pieces with me. So essentially it is a mini teacher-trainer course , modified to a young adult High School student's mind-set. I encourage these teens to apply (through video application) to take teacher training through the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

It enriches the entire studio to establish the student-to-student mentorship. The teens bond with the younger students and the practice parent. The cross-relationships benefit all of us in terms of shared learning, collaboration and community.

Kate