

2026 MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp & Adult Summer String Ensemble



15th MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp

Welcome to our 2026 MNjcc Suzuki Summer Music and Arts Camp, now in its 15th year! We will run the camp from July 6-10, 2026 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Extended care is available as well from 8:00-9am and 4:00-5:30 pm daily (additional cost).

Camp is open to all **violin, viola, cello, piano and guitar** students who study by the Suzuki method and have had at least one full year of instruction. We offer all levels, from those who have learned Twinkles with fingers to beyond Book 8. We hope to share Shinichi Suzuki's philosophy and nurturing approach to learning with all children and parents who attend. Along with a basic daily foundation of semi-private lessons, Suzuki group repertoire lessons and string orchestra/ beginner note reading ensemble, campers will also participate in two enrichment classes with a choice from the following list: arts and crafts, drumming, fiddling, pottery, chamber music, STEAM-R, multisport, and swimming. Campers will have the opportunity to perform in an optional solo recital on Thursday afternoon, as well as

the Friday concert featuring class demonstrations from a variety of our week's activities.

To parents of children 10 years and younger, we encourage you to attend your child's semi-private, and group class. If you are unable to do this, we will assign your child a "Suzuki Buddy," (one of our responsible MNjcc Suzuki Program teens, and program grads) who will be responsible for writing down the assignments and helping your child with their instrument. Our "Suzuki Buddies" will be responsible for several children at once.

Lunch will not be provided. Campers must bring their own lunch (nut free), plus two snacks, and a water bottle daily. During the lunch-hour from 12-1pm we will have use of the rooftop playground area for outdoor recess (weather pending). The beautiful saltwater pool is available for our use, and we will again have a designated camp swim time this summer. Extended care will be available before and after Suzuki camp hours.

If you would like more information about our camp, please contact camp directors, Gretchen Paxson Abberger at gretchena@mnjcc.org or Kate Shaner at kates@mnjcc.org. Registration is open now in the Amilia registration portal.





Music & Arts Camp Class Descriptions:

Semi-Private lessons – violin, viola, cello, piano, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped with 3 or 4 other students according to instrument, age, and level. Students observe each other's lessons in a masterclass style environment and learn from each other. Be sure to talk with your private teacher in advance of camp to select a Suzuki piece from the books to work on at camp with your camp teacher. ***Semi-private lessons are not optional.***

Suzuki group repertoire classes – violin, viola, cello, piano, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped according to instrument and playing level. Group class teachers will use selections from the traditional Suzuki repertoire books. A repertoire list of pieces to review will be sent out in advance of camp for students to practice and polish. Piano students will have a musicianship and/or theory class, depending on age and level. Advanced pianists will be assigned to a chamber group. Pianist and group class students will perform at our Friday afternoon concert. ***Group classes are not optional.***

String Orchestra / Beginner Note Reading Ensemble/ Guitar Orchestra – violin, viola, cello, guitar: Daily – 50 minutes.

Students will be grouped according to their note reading level. The beginner note reading ensemble will work on basic foundational note reading skills while the string orchestra will be more for our intermediate and advanced students who have experience playing in an ensemble. Be sure to list your note reading level on the Amilia registration portal for correct placement in the note reading and string orchestra. All the ensembles will perform at our Friday afternoon concert.



ENRICHMENT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS: (choice of two)

Arts & Crafts: Daily – 50 minutes. Children of all ages and levels are welcome.

Our Art & Craft classes through the years, have offered the opportunity for children to explore:

- Creating collages
- Creating Pinatas
- Creating instrument drawings with various methods
- Relating music with art, and art with music
- Watercolour painting
- Marble Painting

- Decorating a craft bag
- Finger painting, and more...

Please be aware that there may be glue or paint splattering. Comfy clothes are recommended! A display of the camp art project will be on display during the Friday afternoon concert for parents and friends to view.

Drumming class: Daily – 50 minutes. Classes will be grouped by age and playing level.

This is open to everyone. Campers will explore drumming technique, using unique simple homemade bucket drums, combining rhythm, popular tunes, improvisation, and discipline, to create unique original compositions which will be heard at our Friday afternoon concert.

Fiddling class: Daily – 50 minutes. Two levels – Beginner and Intermediate /Advanced.

Traditional fiddling is more than reading the music off the page. In fact, most "real" fiddlers don't read a note. Of course, it's an advantage to be able to read music and learn by ear. The students in this class will be doing a bit of both. Incorporating rhythm is another key aspect to great fiddle playing. Students will learn arrangements of familiar and more obscure fiddle music and will have fun with ensemble skills. Classes will be determined according to Suzuki playing level. Students in fiddling will perform at our Friday afternoon concert.

Pottery: Daily – 50 minutes – All levels.

This class is designed for students who want to explore their creativity with clay- the oldest of mediums- using hand building techniques such as coiling, pinching, slab building and texturing, to create three directed projects over the course of the week. We will be using air-dry clay at camp so that families can pick up on Friday.

Swimming: Daily – 50 minutes – All levels.

Swimming will fill on a first come, first serve basis and spots are limited. As there will be many MNjcc camps sharing, our Suzuki camp will be given use of the pool in the afternoons during our camp week (schedule yet to be confirmed). The pool staff are fully trained in water safety. Some of our Suzuki Buddies will also be on hand to assist the youngest children. Please be sure to list your child's swimming level when you register in Amilia if they want to go swimming. Life vests must be

worn all week by children who do not pass the swim test, which will be on the first day of camp.

Chamber music: Daily - 50 minutes - Book 5+

For violin, viola, and cello students in book 5+. Subject to run based on enrollment.

Unlike orchestra or group class, chamber music focuses on small, independent ensembles where every student plays a unique part. Students are placed into trios, quartets, or quintets. Each group is assigned a faculty "coach" who guides them through rehearsals. Instead of conducting, the coach teaches students how to listen to one another, lead with their instruments, and make collaborative musical decisions. Unlike other camp activities, chamber music usually requires students to learn their parts before arriving at camp. Sheet music is often sent out in advance so the class time can be spent polishing rather than note-learning.

Young Engineers Club - STEAM-R: Daily - 50 minutes - All levels

Back for a second year after its very popular debut last summer! Run in partnership with the Young Engineers Club.

"At Young Engineers, we're all about inspiring kids to explore and create through hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math - Robotics (STEAM-R). Our program is designed to be fun and engaging for kids of all backgrounds and learning styles. We're passionate about making sure every child has access to these opportunities. Our program is a hands-on, project-based experience where kids get to build with legos, experiment, and discover. It's a great way to spark a love for engineering and technology while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills."

Multisport: Daily - 50 minutes - All levels

Multisport is a daily sports class that focuses on fun and moving our bodies. Each day will focus on a different sport (baseball, soccer, basketball, etc) and it will be supervised time in the gym at the JCC. The sports class will be taught by a certified and registered fitness instructor.

MNjcc Adult Summer String Ensemble



July 6-10, 2026 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

This week-long session is for adults who are keen to connect with other like-minded string players (violin, viola, cello), to further their instrumental skills, explore interesting ensemble music, and more!

The atmosphere is focused, yet supportive and relaxed.

We recommend having completed at least two years or more of study. The note-reading level for the ensemble is at a grade 3-4 RCM.

Semi-private lessons, sectionals and group classes will be scheduled during the week.

Our ensemble instructor for the week will be Nancy Lokan. The ensemble will perform in the Friday afternoon concert.

For more info please contact camp co-directors Gretchen Paxson Abberger at gretchena@mnjcc.org or Kate Shaner at kates@mnjcc.org.

