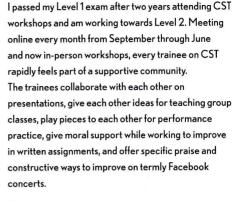
ON BEING A TRAINEE IN CAMBRIDGE

by Catherine Godden

I discovered Jenny Macmillan and Cambridge
Suzuki Training in August 2020 during the crazy
days of lockdowns. At my first CST workshop, which
was for me in California at 3:30 am, I sat mesmerised,
watching Caroline Fraser in Peru helping a child in
Cambridge produce amazing sounds in Chant Arabe,
while being observed by teachers from Finland, Spain
and the UK. I knew this was something special that
I had to be a part of.

Having been a Suzuki cello teacher in San Diego for many years, I wanted to branch out and teach Suzuki piano. I was incredibly nervous at my first lesson with Jenny on the Twinkles with the other trainees observing, but I received encouragement, specific praise, things to work on, and clear step by step instructions. I knew what to practise, how to practise and why I had to practise it, to develop mastery. I was eager and excited to work hard and improve before the next lesson. A perfect Suzuki lesson!



Being a multi-level group also mirrors what we want our own students to learn from observing others. I am inspired by the ease with which some more advanced trainees teach and choose just the right point to work on. I feel privileged to have heard presentations and masterclasses from some amazing teachers;

Caroline Gowers, Sue Bird, Graham Rix and Ed Kreitman to name a few. I have even learnt about yoga and tai chi along the way!

I know I will be able to help my pupils become beautiful musicians with beautiful hearts because of the rigorous training I am receiving and the knowledge I am gaining. And that is why I get up at 3.30am for the CST workshop every month! Thanks to all my wonderful fellow trainees and of course to Jenny Macmillan!

