

TONE and BODY Tonalization

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Dr. Shin'ichi Suzuki's "Tonalization" is a basis of his teaching. He took the term from the "vocalization" used by singers to concentrate on tone production. We listen to the sound we create, to the tone quality, always wanting natural, ringing, resonant sound, "good tone". We notice how to produce it naturally with aligned bodies, with ease. We elevate this study to become a piece of its own called "Tonalization".

This exercise can be used in many ways. Dr. Suzuki used it always, with his violin students. That we help students be comfortable and natural using their bodies to produce beautiful tone and musical expression through tone is a foundation of Suzuki's techniques.

When we play other pieces, Tonalization will remain in our hands and ears, for singing, expressive, living tone.

Tonalization can be used also for other musical and technical goals. Transpose it into every key. Create various harmonic progressions to go with its long notes. Use different accompaniment patterns, counterpoint, phrasing, styles. Use different physical techniques.

Tonalization was in the original Suzuki Piano Book One when I started as a Suzuki Method teacher in 1972. Tonalization followed the Twinkle Variations, which start Book One. It seems to have been left out of later editions of Book One. We can return it to the repertoire, and use it in endless ways, always listening to produce its ringing, singing long tones.