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Why Tonalization?

**Beautiful tone, beautiful heart.
—Shinichi Suzuki**

Shinichi Suzuki developed his approach to teaching not to raise generations of musicians, but “for the happiness of children”. He observed that through proper teaching, children could become fine and noble human beings. He believed that the inner beauty of the individual is revealed through careful development of a beautiful “singing” tone, whether that tone is produced vocally or instrumentally.

Dr. Suzuki observed that singers cultivate their voices daily through “vocalization” exercises. He believed that instrumentalists should approach tone in a similar way. Great musicians make their instruments “sing”, developing a concept of tone that is inspired by the natural expression of the human voice. So, for instrumentalists he coined the term “tonalization”.

Toshio Takahashi developed the Suzuki Flute Method based on the philosophy of Shinichi Suzuki and the flute technique of Marcel Moyse. He condensed the tone studies of Moyse to create the flute tonalizations.

Each lesson begins with tonalization because tone is the most basic element of music. No amount of technical work can overcome an undesirable sound. But a beautiful tone transforms a simple melody into musical art. In Suzuki’s words, Sound breathes life—without form it lives”.



FEATURED FLUTIST

ERIN LEWIS

Erin is in 11th grade and is 1st chair in the band at Eastern High School. She is a frequent soloist at Prince of Peace Apostolic Church and has been a member of the All-County Band. Erin is also a vocalist and has participated in the All-State Chorus. She enjoys painting and drawing floral scenes, and playing the music of Earth, Wind and Fire.