



# The Life of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki: A Chronology

From the original Japanese by Mikio Shin  
English translation by Lili Selden, and Ruth Miura, editing

## Preface

I am very pleased that the Suzuki Chronology is now available to the public. The chronology is based on the one found at the end of the “Appendix Volume 2 of the Complete Works of Shinichi Suzuki”, published in 1985. It covers events from 1898, when he was born, to before 1984.

At that time, there were clerical staff in the Tokyo office of TERI who were diligent collectors of various records, which must have made this kind of labor possible. On this basis, articles from 1985 onward have been added based on the correspondence and journal articles published by TERI for its members.

In addition, I had the opportunity to see various materials through the production of “Shinichi Suzuki’s Manga Stories”, which were serialized in the journal for seven years from 2005. I also had the opportunity to visit Prof. Kendall’s and Starr’s homes and to interview a number of people involved in the project.

In fact, I am currently researching the facts and background of the encounter between Ichiro Yanagida, a businessman from Hokkaido, and Suzuki sensei in Okitsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. Their encounter led to the Marquis Tokugawa, a schoolmate of Yanagida’s, and thus to a very important event without which the Suzuki Method would not have been born.

My interest in Suzuki-sensei is boundless. I would like to continue to pass on the reflections of those who have shared their thoughts on Suzuki-sensei as I interviewed them in many places around the world.

I hope that this Suzuki Chronology will be useful to everyone and that it will spark people’s interest in learning more about Suzuki-sensei.

Mikio Shin

## Acknowledgements from the International Suzuki Association:

The ISA extends immense appreciation to the TERI Regional Association for permission to translate and publish this Suzuki Chronology. The current Chronology first appeared in the program for the 54th Suzuki Method Grand Concert on April 4, 2018, in celebration of the 120th anniversary of Dr. Suzuki’s birth. Mikio Shin was the principle author of the Chronology. He enthusiastically approved our request to translate the text so it would be available to the world-wide Suzuki community. Our thanks go to Lili Selden and Ruth Miura for their meticulous translation skills; to Jason Hardgrave of the SAA office for his assemblage and computer prowess; and to Aaron van Heyningen of the ISA office for his administrative assistance in shepherding this project along.

Mikio Shin’s *Preface* gives us insight and perspective into the research necessary for this Chronology and his on-going work exploring Dr. Suzuki’s life. Enjoy reading this remarkable document and viewing the beautiful and historical accompanying photographs. The ISA is excited to share this Chronology with Suzuki teachers, students and their families around the globe!

Allen Lieb  
CEO/ISA

# The Life of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki: A Chronology

The late nineteenth to the late twentieth century was an age of the greatest upheaval in human history. Dr. Suzuki raced headlong through that era; simply even following the colorful trajectory of his life, with its extraordinary twists and turns, offers the kind of satisfaction one gets from reading a gripping novel. The mellow bouquet of classical European culture underpinning his outlook, the spark of hope he ignited in postwar Japan through his expansion of the Talent Education movement, the passionate following he attracted in the new American continent—not to mention the fact that he also contributed to the founding of El Sistema, the Venezuelan-born social education movement which has spread throughout the world.... Today, the daily lives of 400,000 students in 46 nations around the world are being enriched through the Suzuki Method.

Dr. Suzuki's thinking remains vital to this day, and in seeking to carve out new horizons has interacted successfully with a number of movements. Recently, with international notice increasingly focused on the importance of non-cognitive skills (cultivating the ability to motivate oneself, sharpen one's powers of concentration, and so forth), Dr. Suzuki's teachings have drawn renewed attention. The Suzuki Method can be found in every corner of the world, and the seeds planted by Dr. Suzuki are now flourishing as large trees. His thought is symbolically expressed in the catch phrase for this year's Grand Concert: "For the Happiness of All Children."

In 2018, we commemorate the 120th year of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's birth and herein present a record of his life and times. We also touch on his relationship with El Sistema.





## Dr. Suzuki's Birth and His Formative Years



### 1898 (Meiji 31)

Shinichi Suzuki was born on October 17, in the Higashi Monzenchō neighborhood of Nagoya, to father Masakichi and mother Ryō. The Suzuki



Masakichi, his father. Ryō, his mother

family had belonged to the samurai (warrior) class for generations. But after the Meiji Enlightenment—which, in 1868, not only signaled the return of imperial rule in Japan after two-and-a-half centuries of shogunal rule, but marked the phasing out of the samurai clans (“Meiji” is the posthumous name of the Meiji emperor, who ruled Japan from 1868-1912)—the family sideline of producing shamisen (a three-stringed instrument played with a plectrum) evolved into a full-fledged business. Masakichi, who made shamisen, decided he wanted to manufacture violins after he was introduced to western musical instruments. After numerous failures, he plunged into obsessive research and finally produced the first Japanese-made violin in 1888 (Meiji 21). Later on, he founded a violin-manufacturing factory. When the abrupt start of World War I halted the supply of German-made violins, the world turned to Japan to meet its needs. During the Taishō era (“Taishō” is the posthumous name of the Taishō emperor, who ruled Japan from 1912-26), the Suzuki factory became the largest in the world. It employed over 1,000 workers, manufactured 500 violins and 1,000 bows a month, and exported its instruments worldwide.

### 1905 (Meiji 38), age 6-7

Dr. Suzuki entered Takaoka Primary School, a public school in Nagoya. He was greatly influenced by the gentle nature of Mr. Shibata, his homeroom teacher for all six years of primary school.

### 1910 (Meiji 43), age 11-12

Dr. Suzuki enrolled in Nagoya Public Commercial School. The spirit of the school's motto, “Character first, ability second,” served for years as a guide by which he lived. Dr. Suzuki helped out at the violin factory during the summer holidays and after school.

### 1915 (Taishō 4), age 16-17

It was around this time that Dr. Suzuki came across Tolstoy's *Diaries*, which he read with great enthusiasm. Powerfully stirred, he immersed himself in works on Zen and Western philosophy. Around the same time, he was deeply moved upon hearing a performance of Schubert's “Ave Maria” by Mischa Elman on his father's gramophone. This moment led him to start practicing the violin in earnest.

### 1916 (Taishō 5), age 17-18

Dr. Suzuki protested his school's punishment of some of his classmates for cheating that took place during their graduation exams. The protest he organized expanded into a school-wide strike that was eventually resolved when the school withdrew the punishments. He graduated from Nagoya Public Commercial School on March 15 and became an employee of the Suzuki violin factory, where he was assigned to handle export-related affairs.



The Suzuki violin factory, which was inundated with high-volume orders from around the world due to the outbreak of WWI in 1914.

## Dr. Suzuki's Twenties: Studying Abroad in Germany



### 1918 (Taishō 7), age 19-20

Diagnosed in autumn with a respiratory ailment which doctors feared might lead to apical catarrh, Dr. Suzuki spent nearly three months convalescing at an inn in Okitsu, Shizuoka. During this time, he became close to the Hokkaidō businessman Ichirō Yanagida and his family.

### 1919 (Taishō 8), age 20-21

Introduced by Mr. Yanagida, Dr. Suzuki took part in August in an exploratory trip to Kita-Chishima (the Northern Kurile Islands) in a party led by the Marquis Yoshichika Tokugawa. The Marquis and Nobu Kōda, a pianist among the party (one of author Rohan Kōda's younger sisters), encouraged Dr. Suzuki to pursue his study of the violin more formally.

### 1920 (Taishō 9), age 21-22

With his father Masakichi's approval, Dr. Suzuki traveled to Tokyo in the spring. While staying at Marquis Tokugawa's home, he studied violin with Kō Andō (the younger sister of Rohan and Nobu Kōda). Based on Ms. Andō's recommendation, among others, Dr. Suzuki was determined to study at the Tokyo Music School in Ueno (today known as the Tokyo University of Arts). However, disillusioned by the student performances at the Music School's graduation concert, he renounced his intention to take the entrance exam. In addition to the violin, he subsequently studied composition with Ryūtarō Hirota and acoustics as well as other subjects with Hisao Tanabe. He also received instruction from two frequent visitors to the Tokugawa home: the physicist Torahiko Terada and the esteemed linguist Kotoji Satta.



*Dr. Suzuki, having crossed the seas to Berlin with tremendous hopes for his studies abroad. This photo was taken during a period of intense dedication to his craft in the pursuit of fulfilling his dreams. The photo conveys how rewarding and uplifting he found it to study abroad.*



*A photo of Dr. Suzuki with Prof. and Mrs. Michaelis, who had introduced him to Dr. Albert Einstein, taken in Nagoya when Dr. Suzuki was reunited with them during a brief return from Berlin.*

### 1921 (Taishō 10), age 22-23

In October, Dr. Suzuki joined Marquis Tokugawa and others on a trip around the world. Parting from the group at Marseille, where their ship was docked, Dr. Suzuki made his way to Germany to further his studies. He began attending recitals in Berlin in order to find himself a teacher.

### 1922 (Taishō 11), age 23-24

Dr. Suzuki was profoundly moved by a performance of the Klingler Quartet, which he heard on the recommendation of an acquaintance. He visited Karl Klingler (a professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin) and became the sole private student of Klingler, whom he had been informed did not accept students. Dr. Suzuki learned not only from Professor Klingler's lofty artistic sensibility but also from his example of how to lead life as a human being.



*Prof. Klingler was a disciple of the violinist Joachim, a friend of Brahms. Dr. Suzuki was greatly influenced by Klingler's exquisite playing and his incomparably superior character.*

### 1925 (Taishō 14), age 26-27

Following an introduction by professor of medicine Leonor Michaelis, Dr. Suzuki began to socialize with physicist Dr. Albert Einstein and his circle, whose humanity he found inspiring. Around this time, he met his future wife Waltraud Prange at a home concert hosted by an acquaintance. He returned to Japan briefly that year, and in November gave a homecoming concert to positive reviews at the Hōgakuza theater in Tokyo. He then returned to Berlin.



*Self-portrait by Dr. Albert Einstein.*

## Dr. Suzuki's Thirties: Turning His Gaze to the Potential of Children

### 1928 (Shōwa 3), age 29-30

On February 8, after five years of courtship, Dr. Suzuki married Waltraud Prange in Berlin. Around this time, his artistry having been acknowledged, Dr. Suzuki made a recording of the Franck "Sonata" which was released by Deutsche Grammophon. It was the first complete recording of the Sonata by a Japanese violinist, and was also the first official release overseas of a Japanese musician's recording of classical western music. About four months into the newlyweds' life together, Dr. Suzuki received word that his mother Ryō was critically ill and the couple abruptly moved to Japan. Dr. Suzuki later formed the "Suzuki Quartet" with his three younger brothers Akira, Fumio, and Kikuo. The Suzukis soon moved to Tokyo, where Dr. Suzuki actively began performing on the radio and in live concerts around the country. It was around this time that he started teaching at the Kunitachi Music School.



*The couple possessed the kind of grace and radiance one might have expected of stars from the silver screen. Upon their sudden return to Japan, Mrs. Suzuki was thrust into the spotlight of onlookers curious about the foreigner in their midst. It was of course Dr. Suzuki who supported her through such encounters.*

### 1931 (Shōwa 6), age 32-33

While continuing to perform with his quartet, Dr. Suzuki assumed the post of professor at the Teikoku Music School in Setagaya, Tokyo. The faculty included Kaneko Yanagi (the wife of philosopher and art critic Sōetsu Yanagi), Professors Tamiki Mori and Fumihisa Hirama, voice; Kenkō Aoki and Kōichi Nomura, music theory; pianist Tōroku Takagi; cellist Constantine Shapiro; and Alexander Mogilevsky, violin. Around this time, the four-year-old Toshiya Etō began his studies with Dr. Suzuki.



*The Suzuki Quartet, which was active in the 1930s.  
From left: Dr. Suzuki, Fumio, Akira, and Kikuo.*

### 1932 (Shōwa 7), age 33-34

In October and November, Dr. Suzuki published an article each for the journal, *Lectures on Music* (published by Bungei Shunjū Press). The first was "Research on the Violin and Bow" for Issue 9, whose theme was "Music for Strings," and the second was "A History of the Violin in Japan" for Issue 11, whose theme was "Chamber Music."



*Dr. Suzuki started to write prolifically. "Music for Strings" is one example.*

### 1936 (Shōwa 11), age 37-38

Dr. Suzuki contributed the article "Practicing the Kayser Etudes" to *Practical Skills for Stringed Instruments*, the 6th volume of the Major Arts Lectures on Music series (published by Arts).

### 1937 (Shōwa 12), age 38-39

Dr. Suzuki published *Anyone Can Do It: How to Improve Your Violin Tone* (Greater Japan Music Association Books) through Kyōeki Shōsha Bookstore. During this period, he served on the jury of the Mainichi Music Competition and on the faculty of the Kunitachi Music School, among others. He also taught private violin lessons to a number of young children, including Toshiya Etō, Kōji Toyoda, the brothers Takeshi and Kenji Kobayashi, Yōko Arimatsu, Hidetarō Suzuki, and Nejiko Suwa. His work with them attracted notice when three-year-old Kōji Toyoda played Dvořák's "Humoresque" at a recital and was written up in the papers as "A Child Prodigy Appears," and again when eleven-year-old Etō placed first at the Mainichi Music Competition and was awarded the Minister of Education prize.



*In teaching Toshiya Etō (top) and Kōji Toyoda (bottom), among others, Dr. Suzuki became aware of the promise of creating a pedagogical approach for children.*



## Dr. Suzuki's Forties: Starting the Talent Education Movement in Matsumoto after the War

### 1941 (Shōwa 16), age 42-43

In September, Dr. Suzuki published *A Potent Education* (Tōyō Bunka Library) with Meguro Bookstore. This was his first attempt at revealing the concepts and methodology of Talent Education. His book *Primary School Educational Reform Using the Mother-Tongue Method* was published during the war but was banned by the authorities.

### 1943 (Shōwa 18), age 44-45

Teikoku Music School was dissolved when wartime demands became too great. Dr. Suzuki became the manager of the Suzuki Violin factory in Kiso-Fukushima, which had been forced to convert itself into a site for manufacturing pontoons for seaplanes. Fighting off hunger, he worked to procure cypress wood for the plant's operations.



*Talent Education for Young Children: A Methodology, which was issued in 1946 by the National Fellowship for Early Childhood Education.*

### 1944 (Shōwa 19), age 45-46

On January 31, Dr. Suzuki's father Masakichi died at age 84. As the "King of Japanese Violins," Masakichi was still passionately devoted to making violins until three days before his death.

### 1945 (Shōwa 20), age 46-47

When World War II ended, some notable cultural figures in Matsumoto—Ikutarō Watanabe, Tokuji Fujimoto, Yutaka Nosé, Heishirō Kanda, and the Chūbu Nippon Newspaper journalist Kuniji Kajikura—set out to establish a music school led by the singer Tamiki Mori, one of Dr. Suzuki's colleagues from his Teikoku Music School days. Hoping to convince Dr. Suzuki to join in their efforts, Mr. Kajikura visited him in Kiso-Fukushima.

### 1946 (Shōwa 21), age 47-48

In September, the Matsumoto School of Music opened its doors in Shimo-Yokota, Matsumoto, after the founders accepted Dr. Suzuki's desire to focus on

teaching children. Initially commuting from Kiso-Fukushima, Dr. Suzuki took up the position he was offered as the director of the school. The main violin instructors were Dr. Suzuki, Teisaburō Okumura, Hironaka Matsui, and Tadayuki Maeda, while Shizuko Suzuki and Ayako Aoki taught piano and Tamiki Mori and Tadao Tateishi taught voice. The "National Fellowship for Early Childhood Education," a precursor to the Talent Education Research Institute, was formed in December. It was this group that published *Talent Education for Young Children: A Methodology*. The Talent Education movement had started in earnest. Kiyoshi Katō created the first branch in a studio in Tokyo. Around this time, Dr. Suzuki welcomed Kōji Toyoda, who had lost both of his parents, to Kiso-Fukushima as a member of the family.



*Matsumoto School of Music*



*A shot of the Matsumoto School of Music at the time. Dr. Suzuki developed a variety of approaches to develop the children's ability, including having them walk while playing the violin.*



*People who responded eagerly to the ideals of "Character development through music" and "Every child can be developed; it all depends on how we raise them" made their way to the Matsumoto School of Music. The school gradually began to bustle with activity.*

### 1947 (Shōwa 22), age 48-49

After falling ill with gastric atony, Dr. Suzuki regained his health at the Asama hot springs. Although his condition had deteriorated severely, he recovered by undergoing a regimen of traditional Chinese medicine. He once again took up his work, moving to Matsumoto around this time so he could teach and lead more effectively at the Matsumoto Music School.



*Instructor Ayako Yamamoto (lower left, at the piano) was one of Dr. Suzuki's students from the Teikoku Music School and an outstanding Suzuki teacher. Sadly, she died at a young age.*

## Dr. Suzuki's Fifties: Spreading the Talent Education Movement

### 1948 (Shōwa 23), age 49-50

In April, the Fellowship changed its name to “Talent Education Research Institute” (TERI) and opened both its head office in Matsumoto and another office in Tokyo. Kenkō Aoki (a trustee at the time) was appointed the general manager of the Tokyo office. That same month, an experimental Talent Education classroom “which produces no dropouts” was set up at Hongō Elementary School in the suburbs of Matsumoto, thanks to the considerable efforts of principal Shigeru Kamijō and instructor Shigeki Tanaka. The experiment continued for three years, until Mr. Kamijō fell ill. In November, the Tokyo Office issued the inaugural edition of “Talent Education,” an in-house publication (tabloid format). During this period, Dr. Suzuki lectured actively throughout Japan, including Nagano, Aichi, Mie, and Gifu prefectures as well as in the Tokyo metropolitan area. One branch after another was established in each region. TERI began to publish *Talent Education*.

### 1949 (Shōwa 24), age 50-51

In April, an “Experimental Memory Cultivation Classroom” was opened on the second floor of the Matsumoto Music School. The aim of the classroom, which later came to be called “The Early Childhood School,” was to provide preschool education based on the tenets of Talent Education. Dr. Suzuki discussed his philosophy nationally over the radio, in addition to presenting open-air performances by children and lectures all over Japan. The result was a soaring number of members in the Talent Education movement. 35 violin studios catering to 1,500 students were in operation in metropolitan areas and the Chūbu region. In December, the journal “Talent Education” was renamed “Talent” (A5-sized magazine format, issued monthly).

### 1950 (Shōwa 25), age 51-52

In August, Dr. Suzuki and students from the Matsumoto School of Music visited the juvenile prison in Matsumoto. He gave a lecture to about 600 youths and had the students perform for them. Subsequent visits took place annually to motivate the young inmates. In September, the publication “Talent/Tarento” was issued by Talent Co. in Tokyo. On October 25, the Ministry of Education approved the founding of “Talent Education Research Institute” as an incorporated association. Dr. Suzuki published *Violin Playing and Practical Exercises* through Ongaku-no-Tomo Co.



In March 1955, the 1st Grand National Concert was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. The Crown Prince (the newly retired Heisei Emperor who reigned from 1989 to 2019) and many members of the Imperial family, along with members of the diplomatic corps, were among the audience, listening intently to the performances of 1,200 children.



French pianist Alfred Cortot being sent off from Matsumoto Station in 1952 by children playing a Vivaldi concerto.

### 1951 (Shōwa 26), age 52-53

In May, Dr. Suzuki was awarded the Chūnichi Culture Award. In July, he published *Talent is Not Inborn* through the Ashi Association. In August, the 1st Summer School was held in the Kirigamine highlands of Nagano prefecture. 109 children and 11 instructors from 25 branches throughout Japan gathered for the event. In December, Zen-On Music Co. published *My Violin Playing Method*.

### 1952 (Shōwa 27), age 53-54

In January, “Talent/Tarento” was replaced (after 22 issues) with the “Talent Education Bulletin” (A4-sized; issued twice a month). The “Bulletin” was published by the TERI Head Office, and its issue numbers continued from where the “Talent” numbers stopped. On October 25, the 1st graduation ceremony for Talent Education violin students was held at Kyōritsu Auditorium in Kanda, Tokyo. 196 students graduated, the youngest of them aged 5 years 8 months. Moreover, Dr. Suzuki decided



that graduation eligibility would be determined entirely based on practical ability rather than age. Dr. Suzuki advocated the use of tape recorders, a newly available technology, as part of the graduation certification process. Students were to send recordings of themselves to the Head Office whenever they completed a required piece, and Dr. Suzuki himself listened to all of the recordings. This graduation system is still in practice as a method for motivating children. In the same year, 19-year-old Kōji Toyoda entered the Paris Conservatory and later began private lessons with Georges Enesco.

### 1953 (Shōwa 28), age 54-55

In January, the Head Office issued “Talent/Sainō” (A5-sized magazine format; issued yearly) as a theoretical research journal, but the publication was terminated after its first issue. The bimonthly “Talent Education Bulletin” (inaugurated in 1952) was renamed “Talent Education” from the 35th issue onward and became a quarterly. In August, the third Summer School was held. The location was shifted from the Kirigamine highlands to the Matsumoto city limits. On October 25, the second Graduation Ceremony was held. From this year onward, the graduates were divided by levels: 253 students graduated from the Lower Level in 1953, 93 from the Upper Level, and 17 from the Research Level.

### 1954 (Shōwa 29), age 55-56

In January, Dr. Suzuki published *The Destiny of Children* through TERI. Starting in September, “Talent Education” became a monthly publication in an A5-sized, magazine format. Dr. Suzuki launched the cello method with Yoshio Satō, who had studied with Pablo Casals.

### 1955 (Shōwa 30), age 56-57

On March 27, the 3rd Graduation Ceremony was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium followed by the 1st Talent Education Grand National Concert (known today as the Grand Concert). Members of the Imperial family attended, as did members of diplomatic legations from numerous countries. The mass violin performances were enthusiastically received, including those of approximately 1,200 children playing the Vivaldi Concerto in A minor. 613 students graduated.

### 1956 (Shōwa 31), age 57-58

On March 30, the 4th Graduation Ceremony and 2nd Talent Education Grand National Concert were held at Kanayama Gymnasium in Nagoya. In July, Dr. Suzuki published *Childrearing Sense* with Risō Co. In October, the 1st Talent Education Instructors’ Research Convention

was held at the Asama hot springs with 43 instructors participating. Dr. Suzuki completed the tenth and final volume of his violin-teaching materials around this time.

### 1957 (Shōwa 32), age 58-59

In July, a Talent Education Early Childhood Education Seminar was held at the Matsushō Academy Lecture Hall in Matsumoto. In the same month, the Tokyo Office took over the responsibility for issuing “Talent Education.”



*Children’s eyes always sparkled in response to lessons with Dr. Suzuki. He retained his sense of humor with comments like, “Very good, except for one bad point.”*



*In the early years, summer school was held in the Kirigamine highlands. In addition to three hours of violin practice in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, time was scheduled for other activities such as art and writing.*

## Dr. Suzuki's Sixties: Making an Impact Domestically and Overseas

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### 1958 (Shōwa 33), age 59-60

In March, Dr. Suzuki published *Man and Talent* with Dai Tokyo Co. In the same month, the 4th Talent Education Grand National Concert and 6th Graduation Ceremony were held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. Cello students were included for the first time among the graduates. In September, the inaugural issue of "Talent Education Newsletter" (in a quarterly tabloid format) was released by TERI (Matsumoto), and it continues to be published today. In this year, the Ohio State String Teachers Association Conference was held at Oberlin College in the state of Ohio. At the conference, Oberlin College professor Clifford Cook introduced a documentary film of the first Grand National Concert. Audience members exclaimed in astonishment at the sight of 800 children performing the Bach Double Concerto in unison. This moment heralded the future development of the Suzuki Method overseas.

### 1959 (Shōwa 34), age 60-61

In February, "Talent Education" was renamed "Talent and Education" (A5-sized, monthly) from the publication of issue 115. In May, issue 118 became the final issue. In June, Professor of Music John Kendall of Muskingum University, who had seen the film of the 1st Grand National Concert, arrived in Japan as the first foreigner to study the Suzuki Method. In this year, Dr. Suzuki finalized his "Method Books for the Violin" for publication (a total of ten volumes printed by Zen-On Music Co.).

### 1960 (Shōwa 35), age 61-62

In May, Dr. Suzuki published *A Philosophy of Violin Playing: Thirty Years of Meditating on Tone* with Ongaku-no-Tomo Co. In December came the publication of *The Path I've Traveled*.

### 1961 (Shōwa 36), age 62-63

In April, the great cellist Pablo Casals came to Japan. At the Bunkyo Kōkai Hall in Tokyo, he heard a performance of 400 children playing in unison and was deeply moved. Proclaiming, "I don't think that in any country in the world we could feel such spirit of fraternity or cordiality in its utmost.... How wonderful is to see that



*When Dr. Suzuki approached to express his appreciation, Casals embraced him and wept from emotion.*

the grown-up people think of the smallest like these, as to teach them to begin with the noble feelings, with the noble deeds.... And one of these is music.... Perhaps it is music that will save the world!" he drew Dr. Suzuki to him in a firm embrace. In November, Dr. Suzuki was awarded the Shinano Mainichi Culture Award.

### 1962 (Shōwa 37), age 63-64

In March, Professor John Kendall visited Japan again, this time to participate in the 8th Grand National Concert. Details were laid out for a concert tour of the U.S. by young Suzuki-trained students.



*Prof. Kendall (left) at the Grand National Concert. During an interview years later, he stated that the Suzuki Method's success resulted from the happy combination of a person, idea, time, and place: "Fantastic things happen when the right person has a good idea at the right time and in the right place."*

### 1963 (Shōwa 38), age 64-65

In March, Professor Clifford Cook of Oberlin College made his first trip to Japan. He confirmed with Dr. Suzuki an invitation to visit the U.S. on a performance tour. In the same month, the 9th Grand National Concert and 11th Graduation Ceremony were held at the Yokohama Cultural Gymnasium. Piano students were included for the first time among the graduates.



A shot of the departure from Japan of the 10 children in the first overseas Tour Group. This was a historic trip, its purpose being to convey the essence of the Suzuki Method by giving live concerts around the world

### 1964 (Shōwa 39), age 65-66

March 5 was the departure date for the first U.S. performance tour. Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki, Executive Director Masaaki Honda, and two instructors accompanied 10 children, ages 6-14 (including violinists Yasuko Ōtani and future TERI Chairman Ryūgo Hayano)—a total of 19 travelers. They visited a number of cities throughout the U.S., including performing at the U.N.'s Dag Hammerskjold Hall in New York and the Music Educators National Association conference in Philadelphia. The trip was an overwhelming success, with the media as well as educators and musicians praising the “Suzuki Effect.” Frank di Polo, a Venezuelan student studying the violin abroad at the Eastman Music School, was among those who witnessed a performance by the Ten Children. With the growing reputation overseas of the Suzuki Method, Dr. Suzuki was bestowed with numerous awards, including an Order of Merit in Japan and the Grand Cross First Class from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, not to mention honorary doctorates from European and American universities.

### 1965 (Shōwa 40), age 66-67

In June, Dr. Suzuki himself taught his method, in person, to American instructors. His first overseas workshops were held in the cities of Oberlin, Baltimore, Edwardsville, and Seattle.

### 1966 (Shōwa 41), age 67-68

On March 27, the 12th Grand National Concert and 14th Graduation Ceremony were held. Due to the sudden increase in participants, the venue was switched from this year onward to the Nippon Budōkan in Kudanshita, Tokyo (except in 1970 and '71). In June, Dr. Suzuki was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Music from

New England Conservatory in Boston. In August, he published *Nurtured by Love*, a book that continues to be widely read, with Kōdansha. In October, the second U.S. performance tour took place, and it was from around this time that countless Suzuki Method studios sprang up throughout America.

### 1967 (Shōwa 42), age 68-69

On March 26, the 13th Grand National Concert was held. Two professors from the American String Teachers Association, Drs. Howard Van Sickle and Carl Schultz, attended. In May, the quarterly “Talent Education Newsletter” (tabloid format) became a monthly publication, continuing to the present day. In the same month, the Head Office inaugurated an A5-sized quarterly magazine format called “Talent Education,” which currently remains the existing format. In June, Dr. Suzuki received an honorary Doctorate of Music from Louisville University in America. In August, the Talent Education Hall was inaugurated in Fukashi, Matsumoto. In the same month, 68 members of the American String Teachers Association participated in the 18th Summer School. In October, the third performance tour to the U.S. took place.



Dr. Suzuki's book *Nurtured by Love* (Kōdansha Co., Modern New Books series) is still considered, to this day, as essential reading for understanding the Suzuki Method. The book has been published in multiple editions, now with an updated cover in Japanese and numerous translations into other languages.



### 1968 (Shōwa 43), age 69-70

In April, the "Early Childhood Development Association" was established in Tokyo as a sister organization of TERI. A year later, it was registered as a foundation. The chairman was then-Sony president Masaru Ibuka. In July, University of Tennessee professor William Starr, who later became the inaugural chairman of the American Suzuki Association, arrived in Japan with his wife and eight children. For a year and two months, he observed and documented the Suzuki Method under Dr. Suzuki's guidance. His subsequent work was the impetus for the tremendous growth thereafter of the Suzuki Method in the U.S.

### 1969 (Shōwa 44), age 70-71

In March, Dr. Suzuki published *Talent Education for Early Childhood* through Meiji Books. In November, he was granted the Ysaÿe Prize by the Eugene Ysaÿe Foundation. In December, he published *Ability Development from Age Zero* with Shufu-no-Tomo. After listening to Toshio Takahashi's recital in Japan, Dr. Suzuki asked him to compile a pedagogical sequence of flute pieces for the Suzuki Method.

### 1970 (Shōwa 45), age 71-72

On March 2, Dr. Suzuki presided over a performance by 30 Talent Education students at the official residence of the Prime Minister. He also spoke with Prime Minister Eisaku Satō regarding government policies on childrearing. The Piano Division held its 1st Graduation Ceremony the same month at the Shufu-no-Tomo Hall in Tokyo, having produced 139 graduates. On April 13, 1,000 children performed in unison to great acclaim at the Festival Grounds of the Osaka World Expo on United Nations Day. They had been invited by the U.N.'s Secretary General U Thant, who was among the representatives of 126 nations in attendance at the performance. Dr. Suzuki also published *Ability Development in Children Using the Suzuki Method* with Sanseidō in the same month. In November, he was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Third Class. That same month, he received an honorary doctorate from the Eastman School of Music. In December, he published *My Theory of Early Childhood Development* (co-authored with Masaru Ibuka and Seiji Kaya) through Kōdansha.

### 1971 (Shōwa 46), age 72-73

In July, the 22nd Summer School was held in Matsumoto. For the first time, there were more than 1,000 participants (1,100 in all) and so it was decided to divide the students into Sessions I and II. In August, Dr. Suzuki published *The Reality of Ability Development with Shufu-no-Tomo*. In 1971, after much hard work, the collection of instructional pieces for the flute school was completed. This was the birth of the Suzuki Flute School. The American violin teacher Professor William Starr took a film clip to Venezuela of Dr. Suzuki teaching lessons in 1970. In the same year, Prof. Starr and a group of children studying the Suzuki Method at the University of Tennessee traveled to Caracas and performed with the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra. Prof. Starr engaged in similar exchanges in 1973 and was responsible for contributing towards the birth of El Sistema.

### 1972 (Shōwa 47), age 73-74

In February, Dr. Suzuki was conferred an honorary Doctorate of Music by the University of Rochester in America. He was the second recipient, after composer Igor Stravinsky. In March, the flute division produced its first graduates.



### 1973 (Shōwa 48), age 74-75

In May, Dr. Suzuki received a Spectrum Award from the Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential at the World Forum for the Achievement

*In 1973, maestro Marcel Moyse was invited to Japan and gave master classes throughout Japan. This photograph of him was taken at TERI.*



*In the U.S., both in larger metropolitan areas and smaller cities like Pendleton, Oregon, Dr. Suzuki was welcomed enthusiastically and reciprocated with dynamic teaching.*



*Prof. Starr and his family in a family recital at the 1969 Summer School. From left: Judy, Michael, Prof. Starr, Tim, and Connie.*

of Human Potential held in Philadelphia. In October, Pablo Casals died. A memorial concert was held at the Talent Education Hall in Matsumoto. In the same month, the great flutist Marcel Moyse made his first trip ever to Japan at TERI's invitation. By giving a combination of individual and master class lessons and performing throughout the country, he contributed enormously to the Japanese flute community. When he was invited again in 1977, flutists gathered en masse in Matsumoto, ranging from the most influential performers and teachers to the new generations entrusted with the future of the Japanese flute world.

### 1974 (Shōwa 49), age 75-76

In September, the 10th concert tour to the U.S. and Canada took place. When the initial performance in Los Angeles was televised, an audience of 10 million viewers tuned in from all over the States. In the same month, Mrs. Suzuki responded to an invitation from Dr. Glenn Doman, chairman of the Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential in Philadelphia, by visiting the U.S. as Dr. Suzuki's representative. Over the course of 27 days, she engaged in discussions with Talent Education researchers and instructors in multiple communities.

### 1975 (Shōwa 50), age 76-77

In May, the 1st Grand National Cello Concert was held at the Aichi Prefectural Culture Hall. The 1st World Convention was held in Hawaii from June 26th until July 5th; 872 participants attended from Japan, the U.S., Australia, and other countries. In Venezuela, Dr. Jose Antonio Abreu, an economist-cum-musician, and Frank Di Polo, a violist with the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra, founded El Sistema as a "social movement through music."

### 1976 (Shōwa 51), age 77-78

On April 14, the Shinichi Suzuki 77th Birthday Celebration Concert was held at the Yūbin Chokin Hall in Tokyo. Large numbers of Dr. Suzuki's disciples, including Toshiya Etō, Kōji Toyoda, Takeshi and Kenji Kobayashi, and Takaya Urakawa performed in celebration. In August, Dr. Suzuki was invited to teach at summer workshops throughout the U.S. Over the course of about 40 days, he taught in San Francisco, Stevens Point (in the state of Wisconsin), Rochester, and Seattle, and was eagerly received by the attendees. Approximately 3,000 people took part in the summer sessions at the American Suzuki Institute held in Stevens Point. In September, Yoshichika Tokugawa, the Honorary Chairman of TERI, passed away at age 90. In October, Dr. Suzuki received the 6th Mobile Music Award.

### 1977 (Shōwa 52), age 78-79

On June 17, Dr. Suzuki taught by invitation at a Canadian summer workshop in Edmonton, which had been engaged for 10 years with the Suzuki movement. On his way back to Japan, he attended the 2nd World Convention in Hawaii (June 26-July 5). There were 621 participants from Japan, the U.S., and Australia.



*In 1976, Toshiya Etō, Kōji Toyoda, Takeshi Kobayashi, Kenji Kobayashi, and Takaya Urakawa performed at a birthday concert in honor of Dr. Suzuki's 77th birthday.*



*In 1978, 200 Japanese and American children took part in a goodwill concert. Here, Dr. Suzuki shakes hands with President Jimmy Carter. This moment was televised throughout the U.S. via 135 broadcasting stations.*

## Dr. Suzuki's Eighties: Still Engaging Robustly in Youthful Activity

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### 1978 (Shōwa 53), age 79-80

On April 9, Dr. Suzuki led a goodwill concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., with 100 children each from Japan and the United States. President Carter, who was in the audience, offered words of encouragement after the performance to Dr. Suzuki and the children. Similar concerts were held at Carnegie Hall in New York City on April 1 and in Atlanta, Georgia, on the 16th. Dr. Suzuki was named an honorary citizen of Atlanta, the third historical figure to be given the keys to the city. On April 28, the Suzuki Method Research Center was inaugurated in Matsumoto. In August, the 3rd World Convention was held in San Francisco, with approximately 1,000 instructors participating from Japan, the U.S., Canada, Australia, the U.K., France, West Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland. On October 23, a welcome reception was held at the prime minister's official residence to mark a visit to Japan by the paramount leader of China, Deng Xiaoping. 30 Suzuki children performed at the reception. Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and all his cabinet ministers attended, as did the head of the opposition party.

### 1979 (Shōwa 54), age 80-81

In April, accompanied by 30 students from Japan, Dr. Suzuki visited Salt Lake City, Utah, at the invitation of the American city. An audience of 6,000 filled Tabernacle Hall for their concert, responding with great warmth to the performance. In June, the 4th World Convention was held in Munich. 668 participants, representing 14 nations from around the world, attended the event. During the convention, Dr. Suzuki announced the founding of the "International Suzuki Association" (ISA). In October, he took part in a 45-day performance tour of Peru, the U.S., and Mexico. On November 1, he was named an honorary citizen of Matsumoto.

### 1980 (Shōwa 55), age 81-82

In August, Dr. Suzuki attended the 1st European Suzuki Teachers Conference, held in Cambridge in the U.K. 700 Suzuki teachers, students, and family members participated from nine countries: England, Denmark, Belgium, France, Holland, West Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Ireland. Media outlets from the BBC and other major stations gave liberal coverage to the event. During the trip, Dr. Suzuki met with the great cellist, Mstislav Rostropovich, for an engaging dialogue. In October, he visited Australia for the first time and attended the graduation concert in Sydney which was held in the Sydney Opera House and the inaugural

graduation concert in Melbourne. That same month, a lavish commemorative event was held in Matsumoto to mark the 30th anniversary of TERI's establishment.



*Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki in Sydney with Yasuki Nakamura's family and Harold and Nada Brissenden. (photo courtesy of Yoshiko Nakamura)*

### 1981 (Shōwa 56), age 82-83

In April, Dr. Suzuki headed to Elsinore, Denmark, via West Germany for the 2nd European Suzuki Teachers Conference. A public "Suzuki School" had been established in Ingolstadt, West Germany, and Dr. Suzuki attended the opening ceremony. At the Teachers' Conference in Denmark, where the Suzuki Method had been taught for 10 years, 100 participants gathered from 10 countries. In July, 1,200 participants from 14 nations attended the 5th World Convention in Amherst, Massachusetts (USA). Participants from Brazil, Finland, and Israel were represented for the first time ever at the World Convention. The decision was made to hold the next World Convention in Japan, where Talent Education had originated.

### 1982 (Shōwa 57), age 83-84

In April, Dr. Suzuki attended the 3rd European Suzuki Conference in Turnhout, Belgium. In May, he received the first Kayoko Sen Award from the Soroptimist Japan Foundation. In June, an exclusively European performance tour was initiated, in addition to the regular overseas tours taking place each fall. Ten children and six instructors toured England, Sweden, Belgium, and Ireland for about a month. In July, Dr. Suzuki was given the French "Palme Académiques" award. In October, he visited Illinois, Pennsylvania, and other states at the invitation of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA). On October 2, he received a welcome letter (dated September 30) in Chicago, Illinois, from President Ronald Reagan. The legislature of Illinois declared October 3 "Suzuki Day" and Dr. Suzuki received a certificate of recognition from the governor. On October 6, the legislature of Pennsylvania also issued a statement recognizing Dr. Suzuki's achievements; he was similarly declared to be an honorary citizen by the mayor of Monroe County.



### 1983 (Shōwa 58), age 84-85

In March, 22 Suzuki children from Japan and the U.S. toured China for the first time. They presented concerts and workshops in Shanghai, Xi'an, and Beijing to great acclaim. In April, Dr. Suzuki attended the 4th European Suzuki Conference in Wall Hall, Hertfordshire (U.K.), and taught 250 attendees representing various European countries. In July, the 6th World Convention was held in Matsumoto. Honorary Chairman Masaru Ibuka welcomed participants with the words, "Talent Education was born in Matsumoto. After growing to maturity overseas, it has now returned to its hometown." 1,500 attendees from 22 countries participated. Inaugurated in Tokyo with an opening reception on the 14th and a welcome concert on the 15th at NHK Hall, the convention's remaining events were carried out on a grand scale throughout Matsumoto until the 21st. Immediately afterward, 400 participants from multiple countries attended the 34th Summer School. In September, at the invitation of the German Democratic Republic's Ministry of Culture, a string ensemble of 81 Suzuki children took part in a 12-day inaugural performance tour of East Germany. In October, Dr. Suzuki was awarded the Japan Foundation Award.



*In 1983, the World Convention was held for the first time in Matsumoto, where the Suzuki Method originated. Dr. Suzuki's joy, not to mention the astonishment of Matsumoto residents, was considerable.*

### 1984 (Shōwa 59), age 85-86

In March, the 32nd Graduation Ceremony and 30th Grand National Concert were held, followed by the Piano Division Graduation Ceremony in four regions: Kōshin'etsu (14th time), Kantō (14th time), Tōkai (8th time), and Kansai (13th time). Evelyn Hermann's book *Shinichi Suzuki: The Man and His Philosophy* became available in Japanese (published by Shufu-no-Tomo as *Talent is Fostered by Love: Shinichi Suzuki, the Man and His Philosophy*). In April, Dr. Suzuki participated in the German Suzuki Association's teacher training workshop (Landau, West Germany) and the 5th European Suzuki Conference held in La Saulsaie, France. In May, he

attended the 1st Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference in Chicago and received an honorary Doctorate in Music from Oberlin College. Back in Japan, he led the 26th National Teacher Training Institute. In May-June, a second European concert tour took place. Violin, cello, and flute students participated in the 35th Summer School from July 25-August 6, while piano students attended the 6th Piano Division Summer School. Dr. Suzuki taught at the American Suzuki Institute summer sessions from August 5-18. In September, the 10th Grand National Cello Concert was held. In October, the 20th overseas performance tour took place. Carnegie Hall sponsored the Ten Suzuki Children concert on October 13th, which was broadcast throughout the U.S. by ABC and NBC, two of the three major American television networks. In December, *The Collected Works of Shinichi Suzuki* (eight volumes) was issued by Sōshisha.

### 1985 (Shōwa 60), age 86-87

In January (3-6), Dr. Suzuki attended the First Pan-Pacific Suzuki Conference in Sydney, Australia. In March, he was awarded the Cross of Merit, First Class, by the Federal Republic of Germany. In April, he attended the 6th European Conference in Cork, Ireland, and travelled on to Italy, where he was granted a special award, the "Omaggio a Venezia" from the Venice Award Association. In August, he attended the 7th World Convention in Edmonton, Canada.



*Italy, 1985: Dr. Suzuki was awarded the Venice Prize by the Venice Award Association.*

### 1986 (Shōwa 61), age 87-88

From March 27 – April 6, Dr. Suzuki attended the 7th European Conference in Kerava and Tuusula, Finland. An 88th birthday celebration concert, "Shinichi Suzuki and the 'Twinklers,'" was held at Suntory Hall in Tokyo.



*In December 1986, an "88th Birthday Celebration Concert" was held at the newly opened Suntory Hall. Yōko Satō, Kenji Kobayashi, Yuka Eguchi, and Aiko Mizushima were among the performers who paid tribute to Dr. Suzuki.*

## Dr. Suzuki's Nineties: Continuing to Live Deep within People's Hearts

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### 1987 (Shōwa 62), age 88-89

Dr. Suzuki travelled to Australia for the 2nd Pan-Pacific Suzuki Conference in Adelaide. In August, he and Mrs. Suzuki attended the 8th World Convention in West Berlin.



*In August 1987, Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki attended the 8th World Convention in West Berlin. It was an emotional time for the couple, bringing back a flood of memories from Dr. Suzuki's foreign studies experience of over half a century earlier.*

### 1988 (Shōwa 63), age 89-90

In August (7-17), Dr. Suzuki attended the 8th European Suzuki Conference in Borlänge, Sweden.

### 1989 (Heisei 1), age 90-91

Dr. Suzuki attended the 3rd Pan-Pacific Suzuki Conference in Melbourne, Australia. In July, the 9th World Convention was held in Matsumoto.

### 1990 (Heisei 2), age 91-92

In May, Dr. Suzuki was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He then took part in the Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference in San Francisco. From August 7-18th, he also attended the 9th World Convention and the European Suzuki Conference, which took place at the same time in St. Andrews, Scotland (U.K.). He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Saint Andrews.

### 1991 (Heisei 3), age 92-93

In January, Dr. Suzuki attended the 4th Pan-Pacific Conference and the 10th World Convention in Adelaide, Australia. He was featured by *The Sunday Times*, a British magazine, as one of its "1000 Makers of the 20th Century." Of the 1000 honorees, 11 were Japanese.

### 1992 (Heisei 4), age 93-94

In May, Dr. Suzuki received an honorary doctorate from Ithaca College in the U.S.

### 1993 (Heisei 5), age 94-95

In January, Mrs. Suzuki attended the Pan-Pacific Suzuki Conference in Melbourne, Australia, on Dr. Suzuki's behalf. In April, Dr. Suzuki received an honorary doctorate from the University of Maryland. In August, he attended the 11th World Convention in Seoul, South Korea. In October, a "95th Birthday Celebration Concert" was held for Dr. Suzuki in Matsumoto.



*Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki in 1994, surrounded by children, listening to the "Twinkle Variations" at his 95th Birthday Gala Concert.*

### 1994 (Heisei 6), age 95-96

In May, a 95th Birthday Gala Concert was held for Dr. Suzuki at Suntory Hall. Performers who had been former Suzuki students gathered from all over the world for the festivities.



*The number of international tributes acknowledging Dr. Suzuki's decades of achievement have been far higher than those from Japan. Dr. Suzuki received an honorary doctorate in 1990 from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.*

### 1995 (Heisei 7), age 96-97

Mrs. Suzuki attended the 12th Suzuki Method World Convention in Dublin, Ireland, on Dr. Suzuki's behalf.



## 1996 (Heisei 8), age 97-98

The Shinichi Suzuki Memorial Hall was inaugurated.

## 1997 (Heisei 9), age 98-99

The International Academy of the Suzuki Method, a teacher-training institute, was inaugurated. Dr. Suzuki was appointed honorary director of the Academy.

## 1998 (Heisei 10)

Dr. Suzuki died peacefully at home in Matsumoto on January 26, with Mrs. Suzuki by his side. He was 99 years old.

## 1999 (Heisei 11)

In memory of Dr. Suzuki, the 13th World Convention was held in Matsumoto, Japan.



*In January 2008, the Shinichi Suzuki Memorial Concert was held in the Main Hall of the Matsumoto Performing Arts Center to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his death and the 110th year of his birth.*

## 2008 (Heisei 20)

Starting in Matsumoto (January 25) and ending with the 52nd Grand Concert in March 2009, a Shinichi Suzuki Memorial Year was observed throughout Japan to commemorate the 10th year of Dr. Suzuki's death and the 110th year of his birth. In December, The Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, the El Sistema orchestra conducted by Gustavo Dudamel, performed at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Tokyo International Forum Hall, and Hiroshima's Employee Pension Hall. The impact of the performances was deeply felt.



## 2011 (Heisei 23)

On March 11, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck. The 53rd Grand Concert, scheduled to be held March 29 at the Nippon Budōkan, had to be cancelled.

## 2012 (Heisei 24)

In March, El Sistema Japan was established. As a system which uses music to nurture the will to live, El Sistema Japan formed a partnership in May with the city of Sōma, Fukushima. Sōma was one of the cities hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake, and El Sistema activities began immediately.

## 2013 (Heisei 25)

The 16th World Convention was held in Matsumoto from March 27th-31st, with a record attendance of 5,400 participants from 35 countries and territories. It was the largest World Convention ever, featuring four symposiums, instrument-specific teachers' forums, a children's programme and a special one for parents, lectures and a workshop on the haiku of Issa, and many outstanding concerts. It was a wonderful and inspirational end to an event that reflected Dr. Suzuki's desire to work unceasingly "For the Happiness of All Children."



*16th World Convention*

In October, the "Shinichi Suzuki Commemorative 115th Birthday Concert" was sponsored by the Kōshin District Teachers Association.

*In March 2008, the Memorial Concert TOKYO was held at the Bunkyo Civic Hall in Tokyo, likewise to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Dr. Suzuki's death and the 110th year of his birth.*



## 2014 (Heisei 26)

In March, a retrospective event, “50 Years with the Ten Children,” was held at Suntory Hall. The event reflected on the accomplishments of the “Ten Children” tours, which were carried out over the course of 31 years. As precursors to the Cool Japan marketing campaign, the tour groups performed 483 concerts in 384 cities in 20 nations as a contribution towards cultural exchange and civic diplomacy. El Sistema Japan initiated activities in Ōtsuchi, Iwate, to engage with yet another group of children living in a community devastated by the earthquake. Kantō District violin teacher Rika Uesugi and her husband played a central role in arranging the outreach efforts.

## 2018 (Heisei 30)

On April 4, the 54th Grand Concert was held at the Ryōgoku Kokugikan with the Heisei Emperor and Empress, as well as Princess Takamado, in attendance as special guests. Invitations were extended to the El Sistema Japan organizations, Sōma Children’s Orchestra and Ōtsuchi Children’s Orchestra, to perform at the Grand Concert. The two youth orchestras also joined forces with Suzuki-trained children to form a combined orchestra that performed the Fourth movement of Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony all together, for the first time, on the Grand Concert stage.



*On the respective anniversaries of Dr. Suzuki’s birth and death—as well as on other occasions bringing them to Matsumoto, such as Summer School—many students and former students visit the Nakayama Cemetery in the Matsumoto suburbs. It is not unusual for them to play something to Dr. Suzuki.*

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Translated by Lili Selden and edited by Ruth Miura

Note: The English translation has been aided by details corroborated by the ISA Journal, the ESA Journal, the TERI website, Evelyn Hermann’s book *Shinichi Suzuki: The Man and His Philosophy*, and other reputable sources.