

Neighborhoods of Note

for 2 or 3 Suzuki pianists

for ann, eleanor, jack, and julia wilson

Larry Polansky
1997

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One pianist plays the song "Hot Cross Buns," repeating it slowly and steadily. The second pianist inserts a new note during each repeat, anywhere in the song. Any note is fine, high or low, loud or soft, anywhere on the piano.

For each repeat, add another note, trying hard to play the previous additions as precisely as possible while the new notes are added. Do this about 8-10 times, until many notes have been added, and it becomes difficult to repeat exactly what has been played. After that, keep repeating the two part tune until it becomes familiar.

The pianist playing the first tune must be very steady and focussed.

Variation 1: Each time through, add one more note, but don't always keep the old ones the same. It is easier to add many more notes this way, but be careful to keep track of how many are added.

Variation 2: Start with 8-10 notes and subtract one each time, keeping the notes the same. *Variation 2a:* Start with 8-10 notes (or more) and subtract one each time, but the notes can be different every time (the reverse of *Variation 1*).

Variation 3: Same as *Variation 1* or *2*, but try to add the new notes as close as possible (in pitch or time, or both) to the melody. *Variation 3b:* ...as far as possible...

Variation 4: Instead of playing the notes (or the melody) on the piano, either part can be sung (or played on some other instrument). Do this in the manner of any of the variations.

Variation 5: A third pianist joins in, playing one of the variations above (which may or may not be the same as the second pianist).

Variation 6: Make your own variations.

Larry Polansky
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1st time

Piano I

Piano II

2nd time

ff

p

ff

3rd time

4th time

5th time

p

ff

p

ff

mf

tr

pp

p

ff

mf

mp

pp

(and so on...)

Example: 5 times through