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Subject: Re: Struggling with understanding TONALITY in speakers

Posted by [darkmoebius2](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 00:46:50 GMT

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I don't think that quote gets it right - seems to me that the author is really discussing clarity, definition, and accuracy more than tonality. At least, not what I think of when talking about tone. For me tonality is the ability to capture the notes in a realistic sense. Not just the note, itself, but that note with respect to how that particular instrument (and artist) resonates and sounds. For some reason. I always think of cellos when tonality is discussed because of how rich, deep, and textured the tonality is as pitch and emphasis is varied.

Anyway, let's start with Miriam-Webster's Dictionary:

Tone (noun)

1 : vocal or musical sound of a specific quality <spoke in low tones> <masculine tones>; especially : musical sound with respect to timbre and manner of expression

2 a : a sound of definite pitch and vibration

Timbre (noun)

: the quality given to a sound by its overtones: as a : the resonance by which the ear recognizes and identifies a voiced speech sound b : the quality of tone distinctive of a particular singing voice or musical instrument

Overtone (noun)

1 a : one of the higher tones produced simultaneously with the fundamental and that with the fundamental comprise a complex musical tone :

Not saying anyone else should use this metric, it's just what my impression of what tonality means

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