

LISTENING TO RESONANT SEEDS

By Daniel Levy



To listen is to be attuned. When one listens to the resonances, to the harmony of heaven and earth and we ourselves are attuned, as in listening to music, we actually experience the vibrations and the harmonies of all that sounds in the universe.

The vital spirits of men, tuned to the tone of Heaven and Earth, express all the tremors of Heaven and Earth, just as several cithars all tuned on 'kung' (tonic), all vibrate when the note kung resounds.

The fact of Harmony between Heaven and Earth and Humanity does not come from a physical union, from a direct action, it comes from a tuning on the same note producing vibrations in unison... In the universe there is no hazard, there is no spontaneity, all is influence and harmony, accord answering accord.

Tang Tshing-chu, 2nd century BC

Ancient Chinese civilisation saw a significant harmonic balance between Heaven and Earth, with Rites and Music as the instruments of this harmony. This ancient concept is equally important in exploring the role of music in a new culture. The understanding of the laws of music was a natural factor in ancient societies, where cosmology and daily life played together in a fascinating flux of energies. The correspondence between sounds and colours, forms, planets, vital flows, sacred stones, animals and seasons show us that music does not only represent an aesthetic emotion conditioned by its form or melodic beauty, but also an essential significance or 'ethos'. The cathartic power of music, its healing aspects and its inherent educative capacity is evident even today.

Sounds can evoke emotions, or the images of beings or landscapes in us. This is because the different aspects of the manifested world correspond to each other, and music is one way of bringing out these correspondences. The most inspired compositions are evocations of a state of consciousness. Through a process of attunement the 'composer' perceives an archetype, which has a profound meditative impact. This intuition is then translated into musical sounds. During the initial moment of inspiration, a sense of time and space disappears and a new 'space' takes form, with a quality ruled by our audio-mental perception, similar to language and its grammar.

Time and space perception expresses a particular consciousness of the world and the universe. In music, a manifestation within time, we have a most impressive way to transcend these limits. Each sound offers both a limit and a bridge, a barrier and a golden door in which life is manifested like one of the rays of the sun. This bridge, beyond time and space, is a channel both from Earth to Heaven and from Heaven to Earth. Ancient doctrines (and actually our Western culture as well) recognised and used this bridge in many ways, from devotional attitudes to mentalised concepts of existence and from the search for balance between opposites to the conception of Earth as an object without life. Misunderstanding and disconnection have created a crystallisation of the role of music and its effective possibilities, because mere limitation to acoustic laws or to a formal aesthetic leads to imbalance, the same imbalance that we can bring into our lives.

Life acts in a marvellous and musical way. In each experience, atom or sound, there is the seed of future expansion: harmonics of the tonic. A whole universe exists in one sound, and the richness of any one sound is perceived because within it are vibrating the harmonics or future possibilities of its uniting with other sounds. It is a law of life. The same happens with rhythm. The principle of ritual in the universe is rhythm. We comprehend the significance of rhythm because we see the relationship between two events, or two musical beats. When rhythm accelerates, we experience the loss of our perception of the space between the elements, and so attain a new consciousness of a different and higher wave that is both a synthesis of the past rhythms and something more.

The steps to attain patterns of a new civilisation are the same as those for the expansion of consciousness. When this expansion of consciousness occurs the whole past gradually and rhythmically diminishes to become part of a new whole. The centre changes and each of our atoms is infused with a different sort of energy. Our point of view assumes a growing perspective and our vision expands from seeing parts of the whole to an awareness of the reality of the greater whole.

Music in a more mature culture will have a broader significance. The harmonics that are imperceptible to us today will vibrate powerfully, resonating with the higher qualities of life streams. Human beings are natural musical chords, and everything in nature and the cosmos is sounding the song of the universe. Our inner strings and their physical counterparts will be prepared to attune to necessities. This process of mutation doesn't mean that we project our present consciousness into some illusory future, but rather that we become at one with life as it unfolds. We must harmonise our rhythms to those of life.

As we comprehend these laws we will be able to enlarge our ideas about music and its function in the world. We will come to see how music permeates each act, from the vital development of the cell to the opening of the heart and the interflow of the brain waves. Music will let us discover the real patterns of the universe, the significance of galaxies, stars and 'who' planet Earth is as a whole.

Sound and vibration will form the basis for a new scientific approach to the life of nature. The emission of sounds by the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms will be keys to understanding their essential origin. The pitch of the human voice will reveal the most important aspects of personality for development of soul qualities, and psychology will truly be considered the Sound of Soul (Psyche-Logos). We will more thoroughly understand the connection between politics and music, a connection Confucius and Plato found both normal and natural.

Art is deeply linked with civilisation, announcing the patterns of change. The role of the artist is to prepare the way to new insights, without limitation or prejudice. I believe that at this point of transition it will be the artist – in the highest sense of the word – who will be one of the principal guides to the next step.

The goal of the coming decades is to enlarge the vision of music through global education and experience, with new ways of participation and application of knowledge. The first step is to help musicians to experience the significance of what they are doing; how radiation of consciousness is necessary when we sing or play an instrument, how everything is connected with life. Some of the forms of the role of music are music therapy, catharsis, communication, harmonic relationship, creative contact and healing of the Earth. But its *essential* role is to express carefully, joyously and scientifically, with a new Sound, the Love that permeates the Universe.

Then, as a consequence, only **effective and conscious listening** can capture the resonance and let the seeds germinate, with all its potentiality for daily life and mutual understanding. The seeds evolve in the right context to become trees, flowers and fruit. They include all the resonance in its harmonics within themselves. If we only hear without listening deeper, these seeds will dry, losing energy and becoming like words and sounds without significance. Just hearing is the physiological base, and in it there is an absence of feeling and understanding.

Listening is the ear of the conscience. And the need of contemporary man is to develop and learn the **Art and Science of Listening**, if he wishes to implement an urgently needed real communication with humanity and the universe.

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