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The Polarities in Music – Major and Minor

We all know the earth we live on is governed by the law of polarities. There are day and night, light and darkness, warm and cold, good and evil...All things in the world operate, develop, transform and move under such a bipolar law, resulting in time and life. When opposites collide, there will be confusion, strife and commotion, and there is always a desire for balance, order and harmony. Music naturally meets the internal needs of human beings because music itself possesses the bipolar qualities. The ups and downs of the melody, the slow or fast of speed, the long or short tones, the forte or piano, as well as the major and minor that show joy and sadness. The combination and transformation of music between these poles creates rich melody and harmony, just like complex organic and harmonious nature created under bipolar laws.

Chinese ancestors believe it's Taiyi, a kind of mysterious power in ancient China, which dominating everything in the world, produces heaven and earth, yin and yang, "The movement of yin and yang, one is up one is down, combined and harmonized into orders.....according to these ancestors made the law of music." Music, as the art without "images" in the material world, it is the projection of the spiritual world in the material world, itself embodies the order of the universe. This is why after torn by the chaos and disorder in real life, we feel great peace and comfort in good music, as it brings us the harmony and order from the spiritual world.

My research topic is about one pair of the polarities in music, which has the most intimate relationship to human being's heart and soul, major and minor. My study is a journey from reason to sensibility. First I find the definition of major and minor in music theory, and try to find its position in the evolution of human consciousness. Then I find the anthroposophical understanding of major and minor for human being. After that, I turn to the human soul realm and try to find out the nuance of major and minor, and make it clear the major's outward flow and minor's inward flow qualities. I studied the indications from Steiner of the relationship with the vowels, the gestures and the figures. And more, combined with my personal experience, I recognize the existence of the major and minor in all aspects of life, even within myself, and realize the interdependence and transformation characteristics of the major and minor.

