

西琴曲意，八章

Eight Songs for Western Keyboard



**Lyrics by
利瑪竇
Matteo Ricci**

**Music adapted by John Thompson
based largely on the melody
墨子悲歌 *Mozi Bei Ge* in
伯牙心法 *Bo Ya Xin Fa* (1609)**

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With character by character interpretation. Fluent translation at
<http://www.silkqin.com/01mywk/themes/programs/mrxiqinquyi.htm>

商音 *Shang* mode

1 2 4 5 6 1 2

(6 = A = 415 - 440 or more Hz)

Music adapted by John Thompson,

based largely on the melody

墨子悲歌 *Mozi Bei Ge* in

伯牙新法 *Boya Xinfa* (1609)

1. My promises are above 吾願在上，一章

(See 1609 Sec. 1) *slow and free*




誰 識 人 類 之 情 也？
Shei shi ren lei zhi qing ye?
Who can know man - kind 's circumstances ?



5 人 也 者， 乃 反 樹 耳。
Ren ye zhe, nai fan shu er.
People - types (are) just the opposite of trees, that's all.




9 樹 之 根 本 在 地， 而 從 土 受 養，
Shu zhi gen ben zai di, er cong tu shou yang,
A tree 's roots are in the earth, so from the earth it receives nourishment.



14 其 幹 枝 向 天 而 竦。
qi gan zhi xiang tian er song.
Its trunk & branches towards heaven just respectfully incline.



19 人 之 根 本 向 乎 天， 而 自 天 承 育，
Ren zhi gen ben xiang hu tian, er zi tian cheng yu,
People 's roots incline towards heaven, thus from heaven receive nurture.



23 其 幹 枝 垂 下。
qi gan zhi chui xia.
their trunks & branches extend downwards.


1. (cont.)

27




君 子 之 知， 知 上 帝 者，
Jun zi zhi zhi, zhi Shang Di zhe,
 Civilized people 's knowledge is knowing what Above Supreme Ruler does (know).
 (i.e. God)

31



君 子 之 學， 學 上 帝 者，
jun zi zhi xue, xue Shang Di zhe,
 Civilized people 's learning is what can be learned of God's learning.

35




因 以 擇 誨 衆 也。
yin yi ze hui zhong ye.
 thus one uses this in selecting how to instruct the people.

39




上 帝 之 心， 惟 多 憐 恤 蒼 生，
Shang Di zhi xin, wei duo lian xu cang sheng,
 God 's heart only has great sympathy for the common people.

43



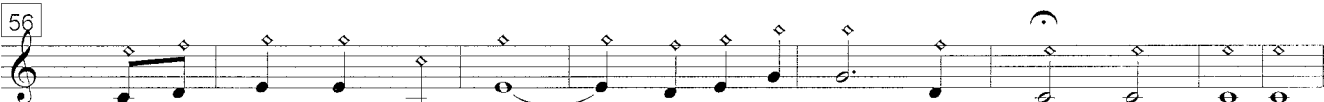
少 許 霹 靂 傷 人，
shao xu pi li shang ren,
 very seldom (lets) rumbling thunder harm people.

49



當 使 日 月 照， 而 照 無 私 方 矣！
dang shi ri yue zhao, er zhao wu si fang yi!
 Since (God) causes the sun and moon to shine down, so it shines not in private places, ah!

56




常 使 雨 雪 降， 而 降 無 私 田 兮！
Chang shi yu xue jiang, er jiang wu si tian xi!
 (God) often causes rain and snow to fall, but it falls not on private fields, ah!

2. A shepherd boy wandering in the hills 牧童遊山，二章


(See 1609 Sec. 2, part 1)

64 *slower but more rhythmic*



牧 童 忽 有 憂， 即 厭 此 山，
 Mu tong hu you you, ji yan ci shan,
 A shepherd boy suddenly had sadness, and so hated this here hill,

68




而 遠 望 彼 山 之 如 美，
 er yuan wang bi shan zhi ru mei,
 but in the distance seeing that there hill's seeming beauty,

71




可 雪 憂 焉。
 ke xue you yan.
 (thought it) could relieve his sorrow, ah.

73 *rit.*




至 彼 山， 近 彼 山， 近 不 若 遠 矣。
 Zhi bi shan, jin bi shan, jin bu ruo yuan yi.
 He went to that hill, (but) drawing near that hill, from near it was not like it seemed from afar.

78 (See 1609 Sec. 5, part 2?)




牧 童， 牧 童， 易 居 者 寧 易 己 乎？
 Mu tong, mu tong, yi ju zhe ning yi ji hu?
 Shepherd boy, shepherd boy, change living place / possible changing oneself eh?
 makes

82



汝 何 往 而 能 離 己 乎？
 Ru ke wang er neng li ji hu?
 You in this way leave and thus able to leave behind yourself eh?

85



憂 樂 由 心 萌，
 You le you xin meng,
 Sorrow (and) joy from the heart sprout up,

2. (cont.)

(See 1609 Sec. 2, part 2)

87

心 平 隨 處 樂， 心 幻 隨 處 憂，
 xin ping sui chu le, xin huan sui chu you,
 Heart peaceful then anywhere happy, heart troubled then anywhere sad.

90

微 埃 入 目， 人 速 痴 之，
 wei ai ru mu, ren su chi zhi,
 A speck of dust enters the eye (and) a person quickly is annoyed by it,

93

slow by about half and free *a tempo*

而 爾 寬 於 串 心 之 錐 乎？
 er er kuan yu huan xin zhi zhui hu?
 but you are tolerant with a piercing the heart 's sharp awl, eh?

95

已 外 尊 己 固 不 及 自 得 矣。
 yi wai zun ji, gu bu ji zi de yi.
 Having / outside looked when yearning for / yourself, certainly / not come to / you / attain, ah.

98

奚 不 治 本 心， 而 永 安 於 故 山 也？
 xi bu zhi ben xin, er yong an yu gu shan ye?
 Why not control your own heart, thus / peace on (your) original hill, eh?

102

古 今 論 皆 指 一 耳： 遊 外 無 益，
 gu jin lun jie zhi yi, er: er: you wai wu yi,
 Old and new writings all point out one thing, ah: traveling away has no advantage,

105

居 內 有 利 矣！
 ju nei you li yi!
 living within has the profit, ah!

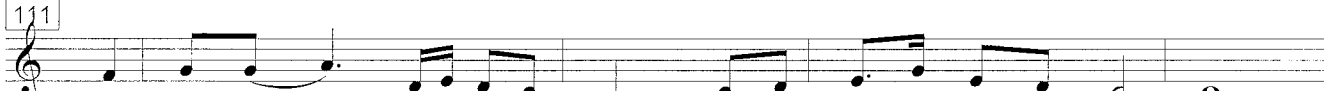
3. The proper way to calculate longevity 善計壽修，三章

107 (See 1609 Sec. 3)




善 知 計 壽 修 含？ 不 徒 數 年 月 多 寡，
 Shan zhi ji shou xiu han Bu tu shu nian yue duo gua,
 Well know calculating longevity or not? Not merely count years & months more & less;

111



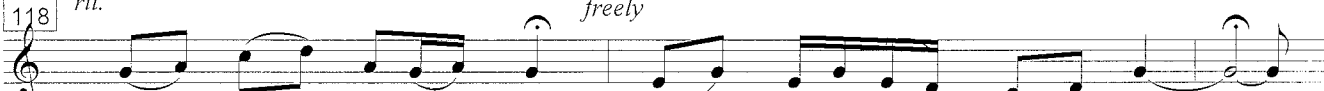
惟 以 德 行 之 積， 盛 量 己 之 長 也。
 wei yi de xing zhi ji, sheng liang ji zhi chang ye.
 instead use virtuous action 's accumulation (as the) best measure its own 's length

116




不 肖 百 紀， ()
 Bu xiao bai ji, ()
 Not (having) even 100 years,

118 *rit.* *freely*



執 及 賢 者 一 日 之 長 哉！
 zhi ji xian zhe yi ri zhi chang zai!
 grasped by worthy ones (is) each day 's length, ah!

121 *slow and free*




mm. 163 & 272 有 為 者， 其 身 雖 未 久 經 世，
 You wei zhe, qi shen sui wei jiu jing shi,
 There are productive ones, their bodies although not long time spent in society,

124



而 足 稱 者 耄 矣。
 er zu cheng zhe mao yi ah,
 but it is sufficient to equal / 60-s (or) 70s, (those living into their)


128 (See 1609 Sec. 4) somewhat faster and more rhythmic



上 帝 加 我 一 日，
 Shang Di jia wo yi ri,
 (If) Above Supreme Ruler adds for me one (extra) day,


(3. cont)

131



以 我 改 前 日 之 非，
yi wo gai qian ri zhi fei,
 (it is) so I can change yester - day 's errors,

133



而 進 於 德 域 一 步。
er jin yu de yu zhi bu.
 and thus go forward into a virtuous domain one (more) step.

136


m.253



設 令 我 空 費 寸 尺 之 寶，
She ling wo kong fei cun chi zhi bao,
 If it causes me empty to waste a small amount of precious (time).

139

m.256



因 歲 之 集， 集 己 之 咎，
yin sui zhi ji, ji ji zhi jiu,
 and thus the years ' accumulation, is an accumulation itself of the faults.

142



夫 誠 負 上 主 之 慈 旨 矣。
Fu cheng fu Shang Zhu zhi ci zhi yi.
 Now this certainly goes against Above Lord 's compassionate purpose ah.
 (i.e., God)

146


freel



嗚呼！ 恐 再 復 禱 壽。
Wu hu! Kong zai fu dao shou.
 A - las! I fear again (and) again praying for a long life.

壽 不 可 得 之，
Shou bu ke de zhi,
 Long life is not : can take it,

153




非 我 福 也。
fei wo fu ye.
 (that) is not my / good fortune, ah.
 (i.e. our)

4. The valiant art of virtue 德之勇巧，四章


(See 1609 Sec. 5, part 1; part 2 is in Song 2)

157



琴 瑟 之 音 雖 雅，
Qin se zhi yin sui ya,
 Qin-zither and se-zither 's sound although elegant

159



止 能 盈 廣 寓，
zhi neng ying guang yu,
 only can fill a grand hall,

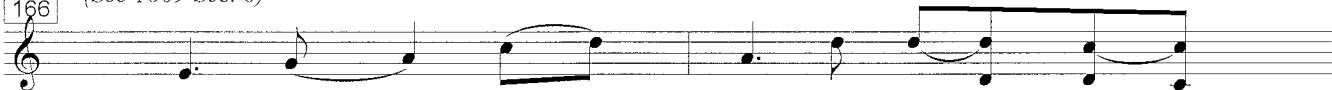
161



和 友 朋， 徑 迄 牆 壁 之 外， 而 樂 及 鄰 人。
he you peng, jing qi qiang bi zhi wai, er le ji lin ren.
 harmonize friends, extend until wall - wall 's outside, thus pleasure extends to neighboring people.

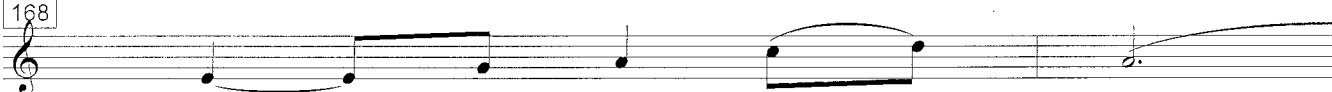
(See 1609 Sec. 6)

166



不 如 德 行 之 聲 之 洋 洋，
Bu ru de xing zhi sheng zhi yang yang,
 (This is) not equal to virtuous action 's sound 's vast - vast,
 (i.e., grandeur)

168



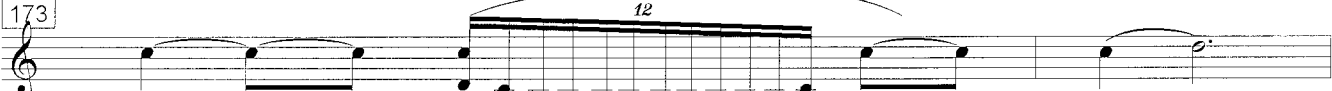
其 以 四 海 爲 界 乎？
qi yi si hai wei jie hu?
 which use four seas as boundary, eh?
 (i.e., the whole world)

170



寰 宇 莫 載， 則 猶 通 天 之 九 重。
Huan yu mo zai, ze you tong tian zhi jiu chong.
 Whole - world cannot contain (it), so (it) even penetrates heaven 's nine layers.

173



浮 日 月 星 辰 之 上，
Fu ri yue xing chen zhi shang,
 Floating / sun - moon - stars celestial bodies ' above,

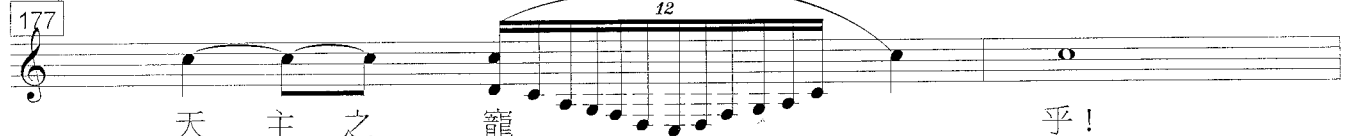
(4. cont)

175



悅 天 神 而 致
yue tian shen er zhi
 pleasing heavenly spirits and gains

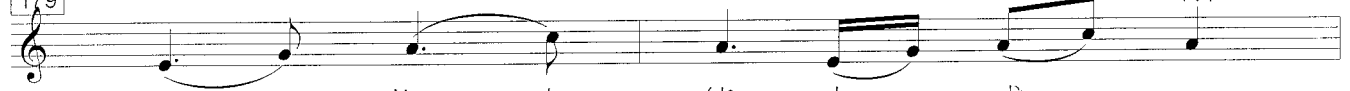
177



天 主 之 寵 乎！
Tian Zhu zhi chong hu!
 the Heavenly Lord 's esteem, ah!

(i.e. God)

179




勇 哉， 大 德 之 成，
Yong zai, da de zhi cheng,
 Valiant, oh, great virtue 's being achieved,

181



能 攻 蒼 天 之 金 鋼 石 城，
neng gong kang tian zhi jin gang shi cheng,
 it can influence the azure heaven 's (gold - hard - rock city,
 (i.e. diamond))

185



而 息 至 威 之 怒 矣。
er xi zhi wei zhi nu yi.
 and thus appease the Most Majestic 's wrath, ah.


(i.e. God)

188 (interlude)



巧 哉， 德 之 大 成， 有 聞 於 天，
Qiao zai, de zhi da cheng, you wen yu tian,
 Artful, ah! virtue 's great achievement; having been heard in heaven,

192




能 感 無 形 之 神 明 矣！
neng gan wu xing zhi shen ming yi!
 it can move without - form 's spiritually bright ones, ah!

(i.e. the formless) (i.e. heavenly hosts)

5. Regret old age without virtue 悔老無德，五章

197 (See 1609 Sec. 7)



余 春 年 漸 退， 有 往 無 復。
 Yu chun nian jian tui, you wang wu fu.
 My spring - years gradually have receded : there is going forward (but) no repeating.
 (i.e., youth)


201



蹙 老 暗 侵， 莫 我 怒 也。
 Cu lao an qin, mo wo nu ye.
 Approaching old age as darkness invades, no one with me shares feelings ah.

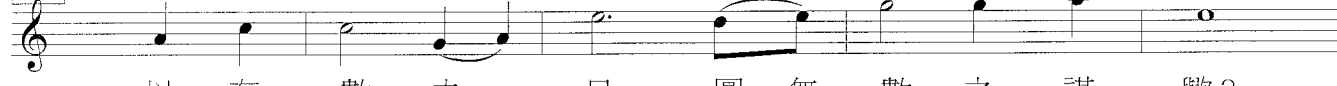
205

half speed from 1609



何 爲 乎 窄 地 而 營 廣 廈，
 He wei hu ze di er ying guang xia,
 How to do it, eh : narrow land but / glorious grand mansion.
 have a

209



以 有 數 之 日， 圖 無 數 之 謀 歟？
 yi you shu zhi ri, tu wu shu zhi mou you?
 /use having a / number of days, plan no / number of schemes, hah?
 (Or) countable limit to the

214

rit. slow and free, but end half speed




幸 獲 今 日 一 日， 即 亟 用 之 勿 失。
 Xing huo jin ri yi ri, ji qi yong zhi wu shi.
 Enjoy having this day by day, and so eagerly use them without fail.

220 (Variant of 1609 Sec. 7)



吁！ 毋 許 明 日， 明 日 難 保；
 Xu! Wu xu ming ri, ming ri nan bao;
 Alas! (One can) not depend on tomorrow, tomorrow is hard to guarantee;

224



來 日 之 望， 止 欺 愚 乎？
 lai ri zhi wang, zhi qi yu hu?
 Future day's hopes, (they) just cheat the foolish, right?


(5. cont)

228



愚 者 罄 日 立 於 江 涯， 俟 其 固，
 Yu zhe qing ri li yu jiang ya, si qi gu,
 Foolish ones throughout the day stand by the river bank, waiting for it to dry up,

232




而 江 水 汲 汲 流 於 海， 終 弗 竭 也。
 er jiang shui ji ji liu yu hai, zhong fu jie ye.
 But river waters tirelessly flow to the sea, ending not in exhaustion, yeah.

237




年 也 者， 具 有 翰 翼， 莫 怪 其 急 飛 也。
 Nian ye zhe, ju you you yi, mo guai qi ji fei ye.
 Years ah hah: they all have light wings, do not wonder at their speedy flight, ah.

241



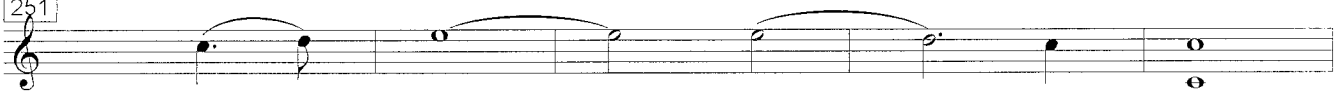
吾 不 怪 年 之 急 飛 也。
 Wu bu guai nian zhi ji fei ye.
 I do not wonder at the years' speedy flight, ah.

246



而 惟 悔 吾 之 懈 進。
 Er wei hui wu zhi xie jin.
 just only regret my own procrastination.

251



已 夫！ 老 將 臻
 Yi fu! Lao jiang zhen
 A - las! / old age reaches its extreme

256



而 德 未 成 矣。
 er de wei cheng yi.
 then virtues no longer can be perfected, ah.

6. Spiritual equilibrium 胸中庸平，六章


(See 1609 Sec. 8) slower but steadily

260



胸 中 有 備 者， 常 衡 乎 靖 隱，
Xiong zhong you bei zhe, chang heng hu jing yin,
 Breast -within - having- completeness people, are often at ease with quiet solitude.

264



不 以 榮 自 揚 揚， 不 以 窮 自 抑 抑 矣。
bu yi rong zi yang yang, bu yi qiong zi yi yi yi.
 not using prosperity /self flattery, not using poverty /self limitation, ah.
 for for

269



榮 時 則 含 懼， 而 窮 際 有 所 望。
Rong shi ze han ju, er qiong ji you suo wang.
 Prosperous times result in having fears, while poverty circumstances have their hopes,

273



乃 知 世 之 勢 無 常 耶！ 安 心 受 命 者 改 命 爲 義 也。
nai zhi shi zhi shi wu chang ye! An xin shou ming zhe gai ming wei yi ye.
 So / know / world 's condition / no constancy, ah! Calm-heart-endure-fate people change / fate for virtue, ah.
 we that the has can their

281

min. 64 & 272



海 嶽 巍 巍， 樹 於 海 角， 猛 風 鼓 之， 波 浪 伐 之， 不 動 也。
Hai yue wei wei, shu yu hai jiao, meng feng gu zhi bo lang fa zhi, bu dong ye.
 / sea cliffs so lofty, trees by sea headlands fierce winds batter them waves chop at them, / not move, ah.
 As for but they do

290



異 於 我 浮 梗 蕩 漾， 無 竟 內 主，
Yi yu wo fu geng dang yang, wu jing nei zhu,
 / different from my floating on a log in vast waves, having no really inner balance,
 How

294



第 外 之 飄 流， 時 從 耳。
di wai zhi piao liu, shi cong er.
 and so in the external's drifting currents, spend the time following along, that's all.

(6. cont)

298




造物者造我乎宇內，爲萬物尊，
Zao wu zhe zao wo hu yu nei, wei wan wu zun,
The Create-things-one created me in the world - , all of creatures the most honorable,
(i.e., The Creator) (in)

301 *freely*




而我屈己於林總，爲其僕也。
er wo qu ji yu lin zong, wei qi pu ye.
but I submit myself to the great collection of all, becoming its servant, ah.

309 (See 1609 Sec. 9)




慘兮慘兮，孰有抱德勇智者，
Can xi can xi shu you bao de yong zhi zhe,
Misery, ah! Misery, ah! Who of the embrace-virtue's-strength-and-knowledge people,

313 *rit. freely*




能不待物棄己，而已先棄之，
neng bu dai wu qi ji, er ji xian qi zhi,
can avoid dependence / things, on forgetting themselves, and themselves first forgotten this,
(i.e., having now forgotten about themselves.)

318 *somewhat faster*



斯拔於其上乎？
si ba yu qi shang hu?
then promote others to their top,
(i.e., above themselves) eh?

323 *rit.*



曰：吾赤身且來，赤身且去，
Yue: wu chi shen qie lai, chi shen qie qu,
Say: My naked body not only comes, the naked body also goes,

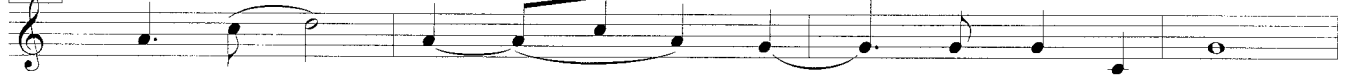
328 *slow and free*



惟德殉我身之後也，他物誰可之共歟！
wei de xun wo shen zhi hou ye, ta wu shei ke zhi gong yu!
/ only virtue / buried / my body 'sremnants, yeah, other things who could / them / together, hey!
It is that can be with with be

7. Shouldering two sacks 肩負雙囊，七章

333 freely (See 1609 Sec. 10)



夫 人 也， 識 己 也 難 乎？ 斯 己 也 易 乎？
 Fu ren ye, shi ji ye nan hu? Si ji ye yi hu?
 (For) whatever person, ah, understanding oneself : difficult, isn't it? Deceiving oneself : easy, isn't it?

337



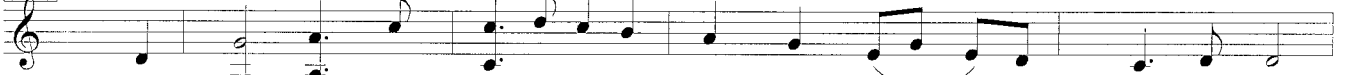
昔 有 言： 凡 人 肩 負 雙 囊，
 Xi you yan: fan ren jian fu shuang nang,
 Formerly there was a saying : whenever people on their shoulders carry a pair of sacks,

341



以 胸 囊 囊 人 非， 以 背 囊 囊 己 慝 兮。
 yi xiong nang nang ren fei, yi bei nang nang ji te xi.
 (they) use the chest's sack to carry other's faults, use the back's sack to carry their own evils, ah.

346



目 俯 下 易 見 他 惡；
 Mu fu xia yi jian ta e;
 With eyes bowed down it is easy to see other's wickedness;

351



回 首， 顧 後 囊，
 hui shou, gu hou nang,
 (but having to) turn the head to look at the back's sack,

354



而 覺 自 醜 者 希 兮。
 er jue zi chou zhe xi xi.
 they thus think their own shameful acts are insignificant, ah.

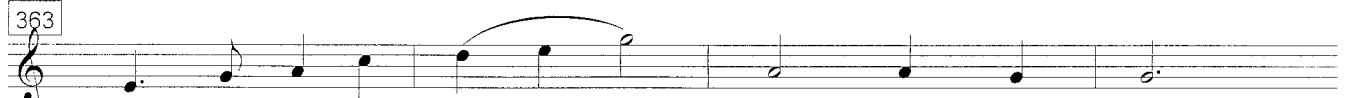
358



觀 他 短 乃 龍 睛， 視 己 失 既 瞽 目 兮。
 Guan ta duan nai long jing, shi ji shi ji gu mu xi.
 Look at another's shortcomings, so use dragon's eyes, see one's own flaws, so have blind eyes, ah.


7. cont)

363



默 泥 氏 一 日 濫 刺 毀 人。
 Mo ni shi yi ri lan ci hui ren.
 Parmenides one day /excessively lashing out to revile people.
 (5th c. BCE Greek philosopher) was (or: a person)

367




或 曰：汝 獨 無 咎 乎？ 抑 思 昧 吾 儕 歟？
 Huo yue: Ru du wu jiu hu? Yi si mei wu chai yu?
 Someone said: You alone are without defect, eh? Or thinking of muffling me & others, huh?

372




曰：有 哉？ 或 又 重 兮， 惟 今 吾 且 自 宥 兮！
 Yue: you zai? Huo you zhong xi, wei jin wu qie zi you xi!
 (And) said: There, is it? Perhaps / also important, ah, only now I also myself forgive, ah!
 it is

377




嗟 嗟！待 己 如 是 寬 也， 誠 闇 矣！ 汝 宥 己， 人 則 盍 宥 之？
 Jue jue! Dai ji ru shi kuan ye, cheng an yi! Ru you ji, ren ze he you zhi?
 Alas! Alas! Treating oneself thus so leniently, ah, certainly / ah! / you forgive /, others thus why not forgive you?
 is short-sighted, If yourself

384



余 制 虐 法， 人 亦 以 此 繩 我 矣。
 Yu zhi nyue fa, ren yi yi ci sheng wo yi.
 (If) I determine harsh rules, others also use these to restrain me, ah.

388 入慢方 *becomes slow*



世 寡 無 過 者， 過 者 織 乃 賢 耳。
 Shi gua wu guo zhe, guo zhe xian nai xian er.
 Society rarely has no transgressors, transgressors clever as / goodself, ah.
 your

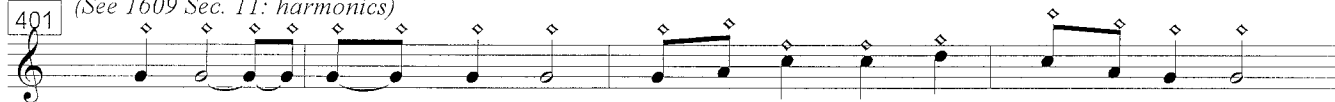
393



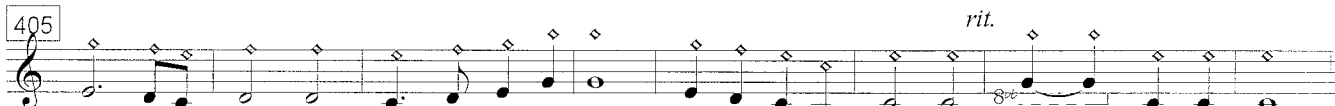
汝 望 人 恕 汝 大 癰， 而 可 不 恕 彼 小 疵 乎？
 Ru wang ren shu ru da yong, er ke bu shu bi xiao ci hu?
 You expect others to forgive your big warts, / can avoid forgiving their small flaws, hey?
 while (you)

8. Death reaches everywhere 定命四達，八章

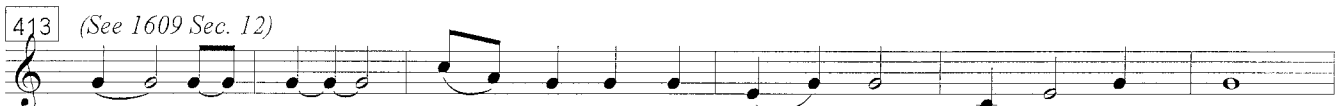
(See 1609 Sec. 11: harmonics)



鳴呼！世之茫茫，流年速逝，逼生人也。
 Ming hu! shi zhi mang mang, liu nian su zhe, bi sheng ren ye.
 A-las! / world 's busy-busy, flowing years quickly end, pressing living people, ah.
 In the



月面日易，月易銀容，春花紅潤，暮不若旦矣。
 Yue mian ri yi, yue yi yin rong, chun hua hong run, mu bu ruo dan yi.
 / moon's surface / changed, / changing / silver appearance, / spring flowers red & moist, / sunset / not resemble / dawn, ah!
 (The) (by the sun is) monthly (its) (while) at do how they looked at



若雖才，而才不免膚皺，弗禁鬢白。
 Ruo sui cai, er cai bu mian fu zhou, fei jin bin bai.
 You may well be talented, yet the talent does not avoid skin wrinkling, nor prevent hair (going) white.



衰老既詣，迅招乎凶，夜來暝目也。
 Shuai lao ji yi, xun zhao hu xiong, ye lai ming mu ye.
 / feeble old age is attained, quickly it beckons to the ominous, / night brings Hades to your eyes, ah.
 (When) (and)



定命四達，不畏王宮，不恤窮舍，貧富愚賢，
 Ding ming si da, bu wei wang gong, bu xu qiong she, pin fu yu xian,
 fixed - fate four / reaches, not fearing princely palaces, not pitying poor hovels, poor & rich, foolish & worthy,
 (This) (directions, i.e., everywhere)



概馳幽道，土中之坎三尺，候我與王子同歿兮！
 gai chi you dao, tu zhong zhi kan san chi, hou wo yu wangzi tong mo xi!
 all / gallop (this) dark road, / earth - within 's hole three feet /, awaits mine and kings' equal death, ah!
 (without exception) (and the) (deep)



何用勞勞，而避夏猛炎？
 He yong lao lao, er bi xia meng yan?
 (So of) what use (is) toiling (&) toiling so as to avoid summer's ferocious heat?

(8. cont)

439



奚 用 動 動， 而 防 秋 風 不 祥 乎？
Xi yong dong dong, er fang qiu feng bu xiang hu?
 Why use going on and on in order to prevent autumn winds' bad luck, eh?

444



不 日 而 須 汝 長 別 妻 女 親 友。
mm. 64 & 163 Bu ri er xu ru chang bie qi nyu qin you.
 (Within) not (many) days then must be your forever - departure / wife (and) daughters, relatives (and) friends.
 (See 1609 Sec. 13)

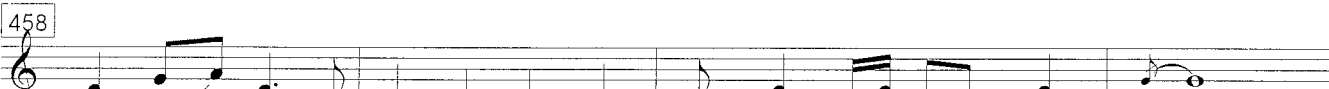
450

slow and free



縱 有 深 室， 青 金 明 朗，
Zong you shen shi, qing jin ming lang,
 Even if (you) have a remote dwelling, (with) new gold bright (and) cheerful,

458



外 客 或 將 居 之。 豈 無 所 愛？
wai ke huo jiang ju zhi. Qi wu suo ai?
 distant guests may in future live in it. What is there not that could be loved?

462


more rhythmic



苑 囿 百 樹， 非 松 即 楸，
Yuan you bai shu, fei song ji qiu.
 (But your) garden yard's hundred trees, except for the pines and catalpas,

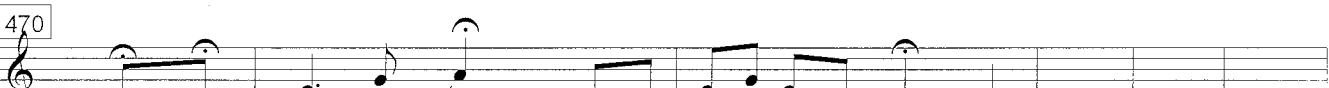
466

more freely



皆 不 殉 主 喪 也。 日 漸 苦， 萃 財 賄，
jie bu xun zhu sang ye. Ri jian ku, cui cai hui,
 all do not survive the master's death, ah. Day after day (you) toil, gathering money & grain.

470



幾 聚 後 人 樂 侈 奢 一 番， 即 散 兮！
ji ju hou ren le chi she yi fan, ji san xi!
 / many possessions later people / enjoy, wasting / extravagantly all at once, / thus scattering /, ah!
 (These) (will) (them) (and) (them)

476

very free and slow



(Can repeat lyrics of last line)

 曲終
 melody
 ends

