

## Taoism—The Soul of Music——A New Interpretation of Music Aesthetics in the Book of Lao-tzu

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Taoism is the core of the philosophy of Lao-tzu.It' s impossible to comment the music aesthetics in the book of Lao-tzu without the core. There are only four utterances related to music in the book,but they show that the Taoism is the soul of music and music is the representation of sound."No sound means optimal music" is the supreme level of music aesthetics;"Music is supposed to be harmonious sounds" is the aesthetic standard evaluated by Lao-tzu;"Noisy music makes people hearing malfunction" is a principle of music criticism;"Music,like delicious food,can stop the passers-by" is Lao-tzu' s aesthetic chase for ideal music.The four mentioned utterances imply that Taoism is the soul of music,which is the essence of Lao-tzu' s music philosophy.

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Alan Watts "Tao the Watercourse Way" is all you need (in addition to Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu) to get started. It changed my life, and is by far the best introduction out there; much more than just an introduction. Also listen to his many, excellent videos explaining Daoism on youtube. If you like his speaking, you will like his writing. Excellent translators and/or expositors of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu are DC Lau, Victor Mair, Burton Watson, AC Graham, and Roger Ames. [permalink](#). [embed](#). My old Tai Chi master once observed that 'a lot of books get written about Taoism, but not many are written by Tai Chi masters'. It's always good to have a practice that embodies the teaching - not necessarily Tai Chi, or even martial arts. The Tao can be found in any craft, if you look for it. Taoism (/ˈtɑʊ-/), or Daoism (/ˈdɑːoɪzəm/, /ˈdɑʊ-/), is a philosophical tradition of Chinese origin which emphasizes living in harmony with the Tao (Chinese: 道; pinyin: Dào; lit.: 'the Way', also romanised as Dao). The Tao is a fundamental idea in most Chinese philosophical schools; in Taoism, however, it denotes the principle that is the source, pattern and substance of everything that exists. Taoism differs from Confucianism by not emphasizing rigid rituals and social order, but is similar in the As the result, Taoism is the key to a better understanding of traditional Chinese culture. Today, as a major religion in China, there are more than 1,600 temples and. more than 25,000 Daoist priests of the Quanzhen and the Zhengyi Sect, though the number of ordinary believers is impossible to assess. According to Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, and other authors, Tao has the. following features: 1) Tao created the world and everything in the world. 2) Tao is present in everything and it is the Tao that makes everything the. way it is. In the ideal realm or heaven after death, Taoists have. both their individual souls and bodies, Christians have souls but Hindu- Buddhists have neither. Hindu-Buddhists lose their individual identities to. join the cosmic pool of soul.

