THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN THE CULTIVATION OF THE HUMAN AND CULTURAL PERSONALITIES

D. Paul Schafer

Music has a unique role to play in the cultivation of people’s personalities and their lives. This has been recognized since ancient times and is being confirmed by a great deal of scientific research today. Not only is there music to suit our every mood, situation, and occasion, but also music affects us in many different ways. It motivates, challenges, soothes, and relaxes us, inspires us, enables us to express our feelings, emotions, love, and compassion, brings an incredible amount of joy, beauty, awe, wonder, and ecstasy into our lives, and causes us to soar to great heights and search for the sublime. It also makes it possible for us to experience much more happiness, contentment, and meaning in life, go deeper and deeper into the soul and the self, learn more about the world around us, and appreciate nature and nature’s elements in all their diverse forms and manifestations far more fully. As our involvement in music intensifies, it can act as a powerful springboard for transforming the human personality into the cultural personality, thereby experiencing more spirituality and fulfillment in life as well as enabling us to live life on a much higher plane of existence and consciousness. While many people have done this in the past and are doing it at present, the life and accomplishments of Albert Schweitzer are especially helpful in this regard because they provide an excellent illustration of how this transformative process can be achieved in fact and realized in the world.

Key words: Music, capabilities, examples, the self, the world, cultivation, the human personality, springboard, the cultural personality, unity, harmony, spirituality, fulfillment, happiness.

I believe music has a unique role to play in the cultivation of the human personality in general and the cultural personality in particular.

Although this belief is personal, I have encountered many people in life who share it. Furthermore, there is mounting evidence to confirm it. There is something about music that broadens, deepens, intensifies, and enriches people’s personality development and their lives, thereby making it of crucial importance to people and countries in all parts of the world regardless of what type of music they listen to or prefer.

This belief can be traced back to ancient times. The great Greek philosopher Plato, for example, was a strong believer in the unique role that music can play in the development of people’s personalities and lives, especially at an early age. Not only did he say, "I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy, but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning," but also he believed that "musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten." In his book The Republic, Plato also said, "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." This book is filled with references to the pivotal role that music can play in the cultivation of people’s personalities and lives as well as the development of societies and the ideal state.

This recognition of the vital importance of music is not limited to Plato or to ancient times. Over the course of history, many individuals and institutions have recognized the quintessential importance of music. In the nineteenth century, for instance, the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, said, "music is the universal language of mankind" and the Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen, said, "where words fail, music speaks." In both cases, it was felt that music occupies a special place in people’s personality development and their lives because it possesses certain qualities that make it even more important than language in many ways, one of the most important art forms of all but seldom recognized as such because it is so commonplace.

Contemporary research is beginning to reveal exactly why it is that music plays such a unique role in the development of people’s personalities and their lives. Scientists involved in Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (FMRI) have discovered through a great deal of empirical research that music provides "a total workout for the brain," whereas most other activities provide only "a partial workout for the brain." Music performs this role by stimulating not just the brain and blood flow, but also the mind, body, senses, and all the other human faculties. It also reduces anxiety, blood pressure, and pain, improves sleep, and enhances moods, motivation, mental alertness, memory, and so forth. As a result, it is an ideal activity for seniors and people suffering from many difficult illnesses and diseases and not just children, teenagers, and adults.

Findings like this have been confirmed by the International Arts + Mind Lab at the Brain Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Medicine, as well as by Isabelle Peretz at the University of Montreal and Robert Zatorre at McGill University who created the International Laboratory for Brain, Music, and Sound Research (BRAMS) to "study music as a portal into the most complex aspects of human brain functions."
And this is not all. Dr. Jonathan Burdette, a neuroradiologist at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center has conducted numerous studies on the effects of music on the brain. He concluded that, "It doesn’t matter if it’s Bach, the Beatles, Brad Paisley, or Bruno Mars. Your favorite music likely triggers a similar type of activity in your brain as other people’s favorites do in theirs. Music in primal. It affects all of us, but in very personal, unique ways. Your interaction with music is different than mine, but it’s still powerful.”

We have all been so touched and moved by music at times that we feel we have transcended the world and entered a special place. This is because music brings an enormous amount of pleasure and satisfaction into our lives and moves us in profound ways that reach right into our hearts, souls, and being. Musicians are fully aware of this, which is why they create sounds, rhythms, melodies, and compositions that produce musical experiences that resonate strongly with our feelings, emotions, hopes, dreams, fears, and aspirations, often in far-reaching, engaging, and mystical ways.

Just as Elizabeth Browning asked the question, "How do I love thee, let me count the ways?" so a similar question can be asked about music. And the answer is the same: music affects our personalities and lives in countless ways. There is music that satisfies our every mood, moment, and situation. It invigorates, stimulates, and motivates us, activates, agitates, and challenges us, soothes and relaxes us, inspires us, enables us to soar to great heights, is incredibly beautiful, gives us a sense of awe, wonder, and ecstasy, is nostalgic, helps us to express our feelings, emotions, love, affection, and compassion, connects us with other people and enables us to share knowledge and experiences, depicts specific places, acts as a gateway to cultures, enhances our awareness and appreciation of nature, and a great deal else. This can be demonstrated in each of these cases through specific examples drawn from my own experiences in the western musical tradition as well as those of others. I suspect this is true for people from other musical traditions and parts of the world and their experiences as well.

Take music that stimulates, motivates, and invigorates us. There is an incredible amount of music that does this, largely by getting us up and getting us going. This happens to me whenever I hear trumpet voluntaries, especially those by John Stanley, Henry Purcell, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Jeremiah Clarke, and Johann Friedrich Fasch. It also happens when I listen to Charles-Marie Widor’s Tocatta from his Symphony No. 5, Jean Sibelius’ Finlandia, Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, and the last movement of Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata, which is totally different than the first movement. Anytime I hear any one of these pieces, and others I might mention, I feel energized and want to tackle things that I have left undone for weeks, months, and possibly years.

Then there is music that activates, agitates, and challenges us. This music is often concerned with social issues and political concerns. Some of the best-known examples of this are the activist activities and musical works of American folk singers such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, the Weavers, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul, and Mary, Johnny Cash, and Bruce Springsteen. Each of these musicians, and others, were involved in social and political causes that were designed to bring about change, especially during the Dirty Thirties, the Great Depression, the Vietnam war, the Civil Rights movement, and so forth. In the process, they created many popular songs, including Where Have All the Flowers Gone, This Land Is Your Land, Blowin’ in The Wind, If I Had a Hammer, We Shall Overcome, Born in the U.S.A., and others.

What makes the activist activities of musicians so important is the fact that they challenge existing ways of doing things, foster new relationships and possibilities, bring about transformation and change, and are provocative, much like Igor Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring did when it was first performed in Paris in 1913 and for some time thereafter. Initiatives like this are needed more than ever in view of all the racial, social, and human injustices and inequalities in the world.

While many pieces of music stimulate, invigorate, motivate, activate, agitate, and challenge us, others have a very different effect. They soothe and relax us, especially when we are feeling distraught, uptight, or experiencing anxiety and apprehension. Whenever this occurs to me, I usually listen to Rameau’s Second Piano Concerto – as apparently many people do! – and especially those remarkable chords at the very beginning of the first movement that set the stage for the entire composition. I am also soothed whenever I listen to Emile von Sauer’s Cavatina from his Piano Concerto No. 1, the second movements of Beethoven’s Fifth Piano Concerto and Violin Concerto, Cécile Chaminade’s Concertino for Flute and Orchestra, and Dinner from Morricone’s Lady Caliph Suite. These pieces always calm me down rather than charge me up.

There is also music that inspires us. Music like this tends to be highly subjective in nature, since what may inspire one person may not inspire another. Nevertheless, music that inspires us is extremely important because it causes us to reach above and beyond ourselves in the search for the sublime. Personally, I am inspired whenever I hear the last movement of Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony (Symphony No. 3), Wagner’s Overture to Tannhäuser, and Ravel’s orchestral version of Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition. This is apparently true for many other people too. Here are a few comments posted on YouTube about this monumental work: "This was my introduction to classical music seventy years ago. It helped change the life of a Chicago slum kid to one of culture and success;" "Finishing my homework to the Great Gate of Kiev. I feel as if I have
accomplished something important;" and "He based music on paintings. Very clever and very inspirational."

Music like this enables us to "soar to great heights" and "fly with the eagles" as they say. This is not confined to classical music. A great deal of popular music does this too and does it very well, such as You Raise Me Up and Wind Beneath My Wings – especially when sung by Josh Groban and Bette Midler respectively – as well as Flying Free by Don Besig, to cite only a few examples selected from many.

To this must be added music that is beautiful. This is one of music’s most powerful assets and cherished qualities. Like beauty in many other areas of life, music that is beautiful is in the eyes – or should I say the ears, minds, hearts, and souls – of the beholders. While some pieces of music are very beautiful throughout, others are only beautiful in certain parts. This is because it is very difficult to sustain beauty in music for a long time. This is why pieces that do this are usually quite short, such as Chopin’s Etude in A flat, Op. 25, No. 1 (Aeolian Harp), Bach’s Prelude No. 1, Mascagni’s Intermezzo from his opera Cavalleria Rusticana, Handel’s Minuet from Berenice, and Morricone’s Gabriel’s Oboe.

In the western musical tradition, Chopin, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Dvorak had a special gift for creating beautiful pieces of music, as well as beautiful melodies and sections in music. This is especially true for Chopin, who had a flair for creating remarkable melodies, which are often buried in the middle of pieces such as the exquisite melodies in his Fantaise-impromptus in C sharp minor, Opus 66, Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor, Opus 31, and Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Opus 23. One has to wait for some time to hear the captivating melodies in these pieces, which is also true for the second moments of his first and second piano concertos.

Music that is exceedingly beautiful often gives rise to a sense of awe, wonder, and ecstasy, thereby occupying a powerful place in the development of our personali­ties. Choral and sacred music do this for many people and do it very well, such as the choral and sacred music of the Renaissance and composers such as Hildegarde von Bingen, Corelli, Gabrieli, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Striggio, and Tallis. Some of Wagner’s preludes and overtures do this too, such as the ones to Parsifal and Lohengrin. Added to this would be Barber’s Agnus Dei, Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus, Dvorak’s Song to the Moon, Fauré’s Cantique de Jean Racine, Franck’s Panis Angelicus, Mendelssohn’s Verleih Unser Frieden (Grant Us Thy Peace), Bach’s Air on a G String, and Mahler’s Adagietto from his Fifth Symphony.

There is also music that is nostalgic. This is one of the most fascinating but frustrating things in music. This is because nostalgia – which comes in many diverse forms and is encountered in many different ways – is almost always
Within your heart love's tender words I'll hide
I'll walk beside you through the ev'ntide
I'll walk beside you through the passing years
Through days of cloud and sunshine, joy and tears
And when the great call comes the sunset gleams
I'll walk beside you to the land of dreams.

This is a perfect introduction to music that connects us with other people and enables us to share knowledge and experiences. I am thinking of such well-known pieces as Charlie Chaplin’s *Smile*, with memorable words by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons that are epitomized in the first two lines – "smile, though your heart is aching, smile, even though it’s breaking" – as well as *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Then there is Louis Armstrong’s rendition of *What a Wonderful World*, Handel’s “Where’re You Walk”, Jussi Björling and Robert Merrill’s famous duet *Au Fond du Temple Saint* from Bizet’s opera *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (*The Pearlfishers*), and many others.

To this point, we have been considering types and pieces of music that shape and affect our personality development and our lives primarily in an internal sense. But there are also many types and pieces of music that do this in an external sense. Whereas the first type of music is concerned with "the self," the second is concerned with "the other." This enables us to get out of our own skin and into the world at large. Music that does this is often very revealing, since many composers have a knack for depicting people, events, experiences, stories, places, cultures, nature, and nature’s diverse elements in very descriptive and highly compelling ways.

There are many examples of this. Take people, for instance. Included here in real and imagined terms would be Aaron Copland’s *Billy the Kid* and *Lincoln Portrait*, Richard Strauss’ *Don Juan*, Macbeth, and Till Eulenspiegel’s *Merry Pranks*, Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy*, Rodrigo’s *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, and many others.

Telemann’s *Don Quixote Suite* also does this. This work is intriguing, not only because the music is so evocative and alluring, but also because Telemann depicts the hidalgo Alonso Quijano, his squire and peasant servant Sancho Panza, his worn-out horse Rosinante, and the love of his life Princess Dulcinea del Toboso in a very masterful way. You can almost see Quijano on his steed in full armor carrying his trusted lance and tilting at windmills, attempting to revive chivalry in the world, undertaking heroic deeds to impress his lady love, and trying to overcome the many injustices in the world as the music unfolds and the depictions enable us to conjure up scenes and images like this. The same descriptive ability is evident in some of Telemann’s other music, such as

*Tafelmusik* (Music for the Table), and *La Bourse* (Stock Exchange) Suite. It is easy when listening to these pieces to see people sitting around a dinner table enjoying good food and drink, as well as officials scurrying around the stock exchange floor buying and selling stocks and bonds. This same descriptive ability is evident in Wagner’s *Overture to the Flying Dutchman*. It is easy to feel tossed around at sea in the middle of a treacherous storm when listening to this piece, as well as sick at our stomachs to a certain extent.

Paul Dukas’ *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* should definitely be added to this list, especially as the brooms multiply and the apprentice tries frantically to mop up the water on the floor with the rapidly multiplying brooms in order to break the spell, as depicted most effectively in Walt Disney’s animated film *Fantasia* produced in 1940 with Mickey Mouse as the sorcerer’s apprentice. Then there is Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s memorable composition *Scheherazade*. It is based on a story from the Arabian Nights about the daughter of a vizier who tells Sultan Shahryer a different story every night for a thousand and one nights in order to stave off execution by the Sultan since she stops telling each story in the middle of the night. The Sultan is so anxious to hear the end of every story that he saves Scheherazade’s life night after night. By the time she has exhausted all her stories, the Sultan is so deeply in love with her that he makes her his queen rather than executing her.

What is true for people, events, stories, and experiences is also true for places. A long list could be drawn up here, such as George Gershwin’s *An American in Paris*, Ferde Grofé’s *Grand Canyon Suite*, Rodrigo’s *Concierto Aranjuez* and *Concierto Andaluz*, and such songs as *New York*, *New York*, *Scarborough Fair*, *I Love Paris*, and many others. One composer who had a real penchant for depicting places in music was Albert Ketèlbey. Many of his compositions, such as *In a Monastery Garden*, *In a Persian Market*, *In a Chinese Temple Garden*, *In the Mystic Land of Egypt*, and *Bells Across the Meadows*, are excellent illustrations of this.

There are also many pieces of music that are symbolic of cultures or act as gateways to cultures. I am thinking here of Joseph Canteloube’s *Songs of the Auvergne* that are representative of the culture of the Auvergne region of France, Borodin’s *Polovtsian Dances* from *Prince Igor* that are symbolic of the cultures of the Kipchaks and Cumans, a nomadic Turkish people, Max Bruch’s *Scottish Fantasy*, and Fritz Kreisler’s *Tambourin Chinois*. While these pieces do not depict entire cultures, they do depict some of the most salient aspects and revealing characteristics of these cultures, thereby making it possible to piece together an image of what these cultures might be like in the holistic sense.

Nowhere is the capacity that music possesses for depicting many different things in the world more apparent than with respect to nature and nature’s diverse
elements. Not only is music of this type capable of broadening and deepening our knowledge, understanding, and awareness of nature and all things in nature very substantially, but also there is an incredible amount to be learned from music of this type about the natural environment and how important it is to preserve, protect, and revere it. It is amazing how many composers have been concerned with nature over the centuries, thereby creating a vast cornucopia of works that are concerned with the natural world in all its grandeur, diversity, complexity, and vastness.

There are myriad musical works that are concerned with nature and its elements in the Western musical tradition alone, most notably the sun, moon, stars, sky, planets, landscapes, seascapes, morning, afternoon, evening, spring, summer, fall, winter, lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, flowers, animals, and so much more.

Think, for example, of the Sunrise Prelude in Richard Strauss’s Also Sprach Zarathustra, Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer’s Moon River, Holst’s The Planets, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral Symphony), Arnold Schoenberg’s Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Benjamin Britten’s Four Sea Interludes, Debussy’s Prélude à l’Après-midi d’un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun), Edward Grieg’s Morning Mood from his Peer Gynt Suite, No. 1, Opus 46, Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake, Wagner’s Forest Murmurs, Alan Hovansès’s Symphony No. 2 (Mysterious Mountain), Léo Delibes Flower Duet from Lakmé, Johann Strauss II’s Roses from the South Waltz, Rogers and Hammerstein’s Edelweiss, and many others.

The seasons figure prominently in music of this type. Many composers have written music about spring, summer, fall, and winter, such as Haydn and Glazanov, especially after Vivaldi set the stage for this with his remarkable The Four Seasons. This piece conveys the sense of excitement and anticipation that exists at the beginning of spring, the torrid heat and scorching sun of summer, the beauty and melancholy of the fall with its exquisite colours, pungent aromas, and falling leaves, and the harshness of winter with ice, snow, and bone-chilling cold.

Like the seasons, water and rivers are also a favourite subject of composers. This is probably because water is one of the world’s most precious assets and there would be no life on the planet without it; and rivers involve flow and movement that are key ingredients in personality development and the life process. Some of the most obvious examples of this are Handel’s Water Music, Smetana’s The Moldau, and Johann Strauss II’s The Blue Danube. But many other musical works have been written about rivers, including the Yellow river in China, the Seine and Loire rivers in France, the Rhine and Moselle rivers in Germany, the Nile in Egypt, the Ganges in India, the Amazon in Brazil, and the mighty Mississippi in the United States.

Animals are also a very important element in the works of many composers. A lengthy list could be assembled here, such as Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals, Ralph Vaughan Williams’ The Lark Ascending, Stravinsky’s Firebird, Bach’s Sheep May Safely Graze; Schubert’s Trout Quintet, Prokoviev’s Peter and the Wolf, Ravel’s Mother Goose Suite, Rimsky-Korsakov The Flight of the Bumble Bee, and many more. Numerous composers have also had a fascination with birds, largely because birds, like composers, create music when they sing and chirp. As a result, many composers have used birds and bird calls in their music, most notably Janequin and Le Chant des Oiseaux (Bird Calls), Handel’s The Cuckoo and the Nightingale, Respighi and Gli Ucceli (The Birds), Olivier Messiaen and Oiseaux Exotiques (Exotic Birds), Germaine Tailleferre and Le Marchand d’oiseaux (Trader of Birds), and Mozart’s music and funeral poem about his pet starling.

I could go on and on about this but the point has been made. Not only is there a great deal of music to suit our every mood, situation, and occasion, but also there is an incredible amount of music that enables us to go deeper and deeper into the self as well as learn more and more about the world around us and at large. Indeed, there is very little in the world that is not connected to music or cannot be explained or exposed through music in one form or another.

Even if we went no further than this, it is apparent that music plays a powerful role in the lives of people and the development of their personalities. In the process of perpetually expanding our involvement in music – all types and genres of music and not just classical and popular music – it is possible to reap myriad benefits and rewards as lovers of music and hopefully participants in music, regardless of whether this means listening to music, playing a musical instrument, singing in a choir, or engaging in some other form of musical activity and music-making.

But this is by no means the end of the story. Far from it! Music can also act as a springboard for transforming the human personality into the cultural personality, thereby enabling us to cultivate our personalities and live life on a much higher and more fulfilling plane of existence. Not only can music commence the process that is necessary to make us “whole people” – people who have achieved oneness and unity among all the faculties that comprise the human personality and human nature – but also it can help us to live in harmony with other people, other cultures, other religions, other species, nature, the natural environment, and a great deal else. In doing so, it can make us holistic and centered as well as altruistic, compassionate, sensitive, and humane. This enables us to experience more meaning, purpose, spirituality, security, and fulfillment in life, as well as enjoy all the qualities and capabilities that constitute the cultural personality. (D. Paul Schafer, 1991; Д. Пол Шафер, 2017)
Just as providing specific examples is helpful in understanding how music can broaden, deepen, intensify, and enrich the cultivation of the human personality, so providing specific illustrations of people who epitomize the cultural personality are helpful in exposing and learning about the cultivation of this specific personality type. While I can think of many people who do this, the one person who stands out in my mind as a person who did it more effectively than anyone else by using music as the springboard – and therefore provides an excellent illustration of the unique role that music can play in the cultivation of the cultural personality and not just the human personality – is Albert Schweitzer.

Schweitzer was first and foremost a student of music, musician, and organist who went on to become a theologian, philosopher, author, humanitarian, and physician as well. Born in France in 1875, he initially studied music and took organ lessons in Mulhouse from 1885 to 1893 as well as taking piano lessons. He was especially knowledgeable about the life and musical works of Johann Sebastian Bach and even wrote a two-volume book about Bach and his musical accomplishments as well as influencing the Organ Reform Movement. Despite largely later in life, he also studied theology, philosophy, and medicine and obtained degrees in theology and medicine from the University of Strasbourg.

In 1913, Schweitzer decided to leave Europe and go to Africa to create and sustain the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, now in Gabon in west central Africa, for the remainder of his life. He spent many years there on a full-time basis treating thousands of patients with different types of illnesses and diseases. When he was no longer able to do this due to his age and health he alternated between Africa and Europe for the rest of his life. Interestingly, he had a piano built for him while he was there that was made specifically for the tropics which he played every day after lunch as well as on Sundays.

As a result of his intensive theological and philosophical studies and accomplishments, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 for his personal and professional contributions and commitment to “reverence for life” and “the necessity of ethics and ethical behavior in society.” While he was criticized for being paternalistic towards Africans and the lack of proper sanitation in his hospital, he labored intensively for more than fifty years as a medical doctor and humanitarian dealing with sick people under extremely difficult conditions. When he was no longer able to do this, he fought against nuclear tests, testing, and weapons that he believed were antithetical to his belief that all life is precious and that everything that advances life is good and everything that degrades life is bad.

By expanding and enriching life in virtually all directions and in every conceivable way, Schweitzer provides a useful illustration of how the human personality can be transformed – is "morphed" is a better word? – into the cultural personality by using music as a springboard. This is confirmed in the following statement about what life and living should and can be all about when it is viewed from a cultural perspective and the standpoint of the cultural personality:

The ripeness that our development must aim at is one which makes us simpler, more truthful, purer, more peace loving, meeker, kinder, more sympathetic… That is the process in which the soft iron of youthful idealism hardens into the steel of a full grown idealism which can never be lost. (Albert Schweitzer, 1947)

Schweitzer is not the only person to use music as a springboard for transforming the human personality into the cultural personality. There are many others. Moreover, it is possible to use other art forms and activities to achieve this purpose. To do so is to reap the full advantages and benefits of life in all its diverse forms and manifestations, as well as live life on a more satisfying plane of existence and level of consciousness. This may be needed more than ever in the world of the future, especially if we are to experience more spirituality, safety, security, happiness, and fulfillment in life.

Notes

It is possible to become familiar with some of the pieces of music mentioned in the article through the following link https://wherewordsfailblog.com/2018/06/15/the-role-of-music-in-the-development-of-our-personalities-and-lives/

References

Література
1. З більш детальною інформацією про культурну особистість можна ознайомитися в монографії Schafer D. Paul The Cultural Personality Маркем : Проєкт «Весіння культура», 1991 або в її перекладі на російську мову, який був підготовлений творчим колективом Науково-дослідного Інституту духовного розвитку людини, кафедри ЮНЕСКО «Духовно-культурні цінності
РОЛЬ МУЗИКИ У РОЗВИТКУ ЛЮДСЬКОЇ І КУЛЬТУРНОЇ ОСОБИСТОСТЕЙ

Д. Пол Шафер

Музика грає унікальну роль у розвитку особистості людини і в її житті. Це було визнано з давніх часів і підтверджено сьогодення багатьма науковими дослідженнями. Музикою може бути виражено певне настроє, ситуація або випадок. При цьому вона також здатна по-різному впливати на нас. Вона мотивує, викликає жодя, її зміцнює або захоплює. При цьому вона також здатна змінювати наше життя і змушує нас змінити на великих висотах на піднесеному. Вона також дозволяє нам відчути в житті більшість цікавостей, здатність до творчої самовираження, все глибше і глибше поглиблюватись в своє «Я», а також отримувати нові знання про навколишній світ і формувати нові картини уявлень про природу і її елементи у всіх їх різноманітних формах і проявах. По мірі того, як наша уповільнена музика, вона здатна стати «плацдармом» для трансформації людської особистості в культурну особистість, і тим самим приносити більше проявів духовності в життя і дозволяє нам поділитись в ньому на більш високий рівень сутіння. Хоча багато людей робили це в минулому і роблять це в даний час, життя і досягнення Алберта Швейцера особливо видатні в цьому відношенні, тому що вони є чудовою ілюстрацією того, як цей процес трансформації може бути досягнути фактично і реалізований в кінці кінців.

Ключові слова: музика, здібності, приклади, своє «Я», світ, розвиток, людська особистість, плацдарм, культурна особистість, єдність, гармонія, духовність, почуття задоволення, щастя.

Schafer D. Paul – Director of the World Culture Project (Markham, Canada).
E-mail: dpaulschafer@sympatico.ca

Шафер Д. Пол – керівник проєкту Світова культура (м. Маркхем, Канада).
E-mail: dpaulschafer@sympatico.ca