Vitrine **HORIZONS** 

## **Harmony**

André Simon

The art of music follows nature as harmoniously as day follows night and as light follows darkness. There is a legend about a young musician who lived on his own on an inhabited island and had as his only possession his zither. He survived on this island by nourishing himself with wild berries and herbs. It was on the sandy beach one day, as he was observing the sea, listening to the wind and playing his zither, that flocks of multicoloured birds flew towards him. He listened with great delight to the sweet chirping and reproduced their songs on his zither. It was then that the birds began to accompany him in chorus, with their «tweet-tweets».

The only way to mastery is to pursue the divine rules of nature. After many years, the musician returned as a Master of harmony. The inspiration for his music were the birds' songs, and his music, once started, continued and finished, just as a flower buds, grows and blooms.

## The Master of Harmony (医学)

The ancient Emperor Xi hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps. However, the boy became ill. His heart rate increased and his breathing did not keep in perfect harmony with his pulses. To restore the harmony, the best herbalists tried to cure the boy by administering various plants and herbal remedies. But, all was in vain ...

The Emperor therefore invited The Master of Harmony, who was the best-known player of the zither, and whose music compositions were created on an inhabited island and inspired by the songs of the native birds. His musical mastery was described thus: «During all his performances, it is as though the

Sun that descends from heaven during the playing into the heart of the player, follows his music, and then ascends to the heavens again. Such marvellous music overwhelms both the player and listeners alike with great joy.»

Daily, The Master of the most beautiful sounds played on his zither by the boy's bedside. This heavenly harmonious music firstly reduced The Crown Prince's respiratory rate, and consequently his heart rate, which resulted in a perfect balance of his pulses. Thanks to the music The Crown Prince miraculously fully recovered and many years later, inherited the Throne. During his long reign, the Master of Harmony continued to play his wonderful melodies over many years.

## **Music and Medicine**

Chinese pictogram writing consists of a variety of symbols that represent an idea or a concept. The pictogram of a zither symbolises the whole range of music in a general sense. Masters of the medical arts are themselves like musicians. Observing na-

> ture, they have learned the principles of harmony and as a result they have created their own kind of music. Various healing procedures corresponding to the music, and even medicinal herbs are used. Perhaps for this reason, the Chi-

> > nese pictogram for «medicine» is a composition of the pictogram for music and the pictogram of health-giving herbs. Medicine = music + healthgiving herbs. Like the birds, with their many and variable

> > > songs, medical arts are used to help us to create living energy, wellbeing

and harmony.

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