靜夜談玄

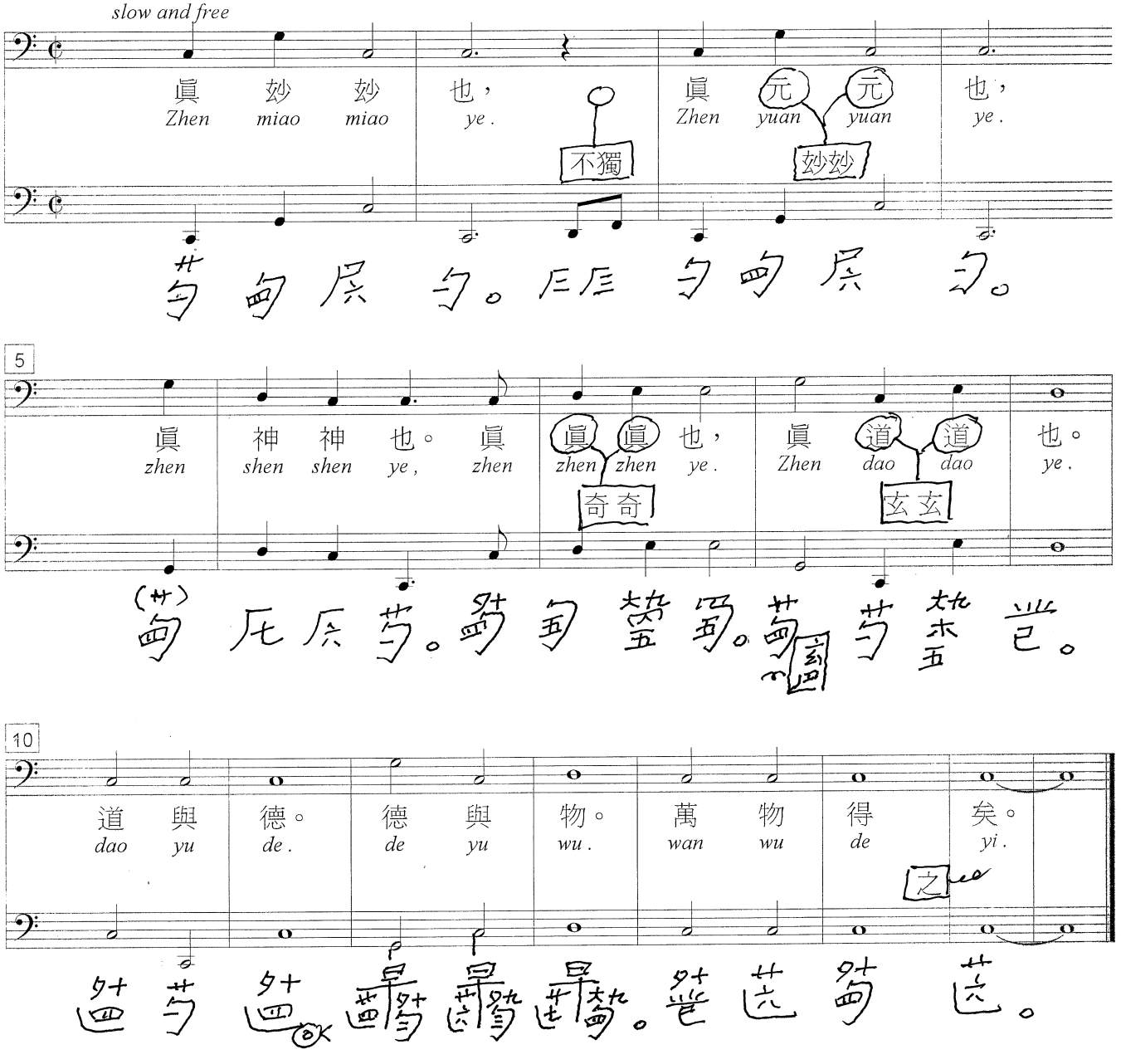
Jingye Tan Xuan

24. Quiet Evening Talk on Metaphysics

商調 *Shang* (*re*=2) mode: 1 2 4 **5** **6** 1 2 ;
main tonal center on 1, secondarily 5 and 2;
phrases ending 2 often lead to endings on 1;
here 1 is usually pitched betweem B*b* and B.
Draft reconstruction John Thompson (2013)

Only in 太音希聲 *Taiyin Xisheng* (1625)
Lyrics from 道藏：元始說先天道德經 *Yuanshishuo Xiantian Dao De Jing* in the Daoist Canon, but with many words missing or changed (mostly indicated here by circles).

I. (Canon I/1)



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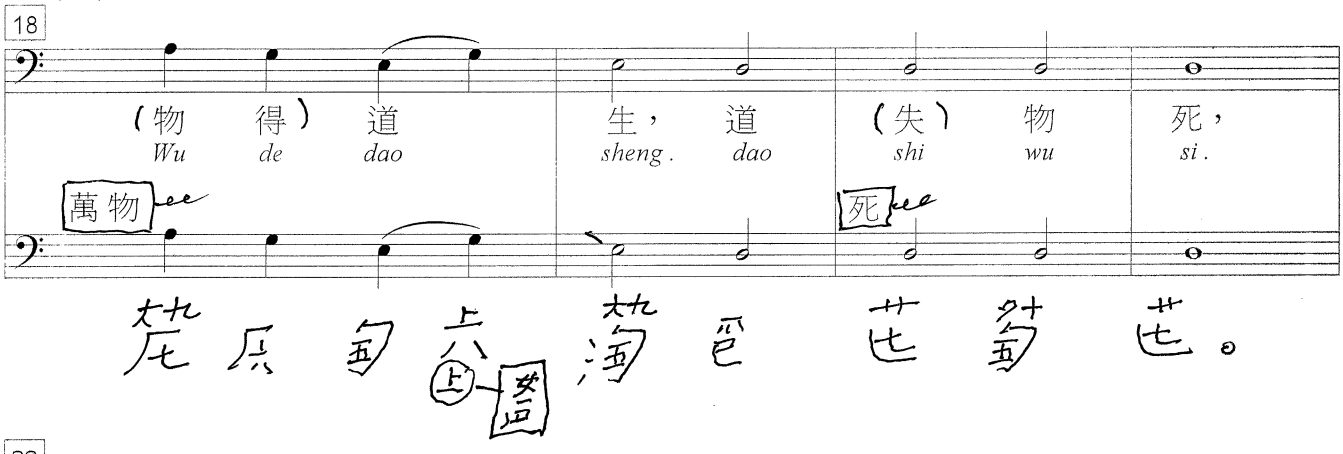
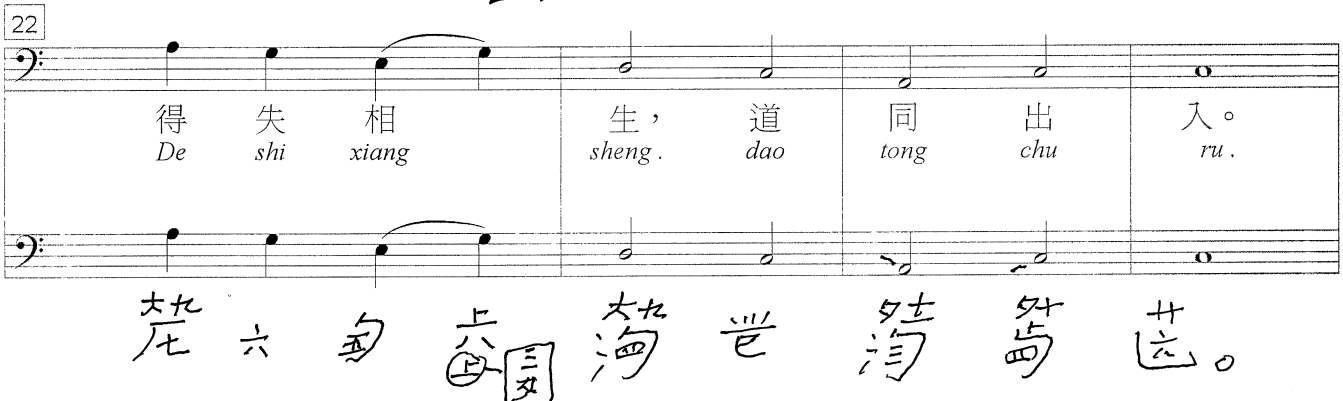
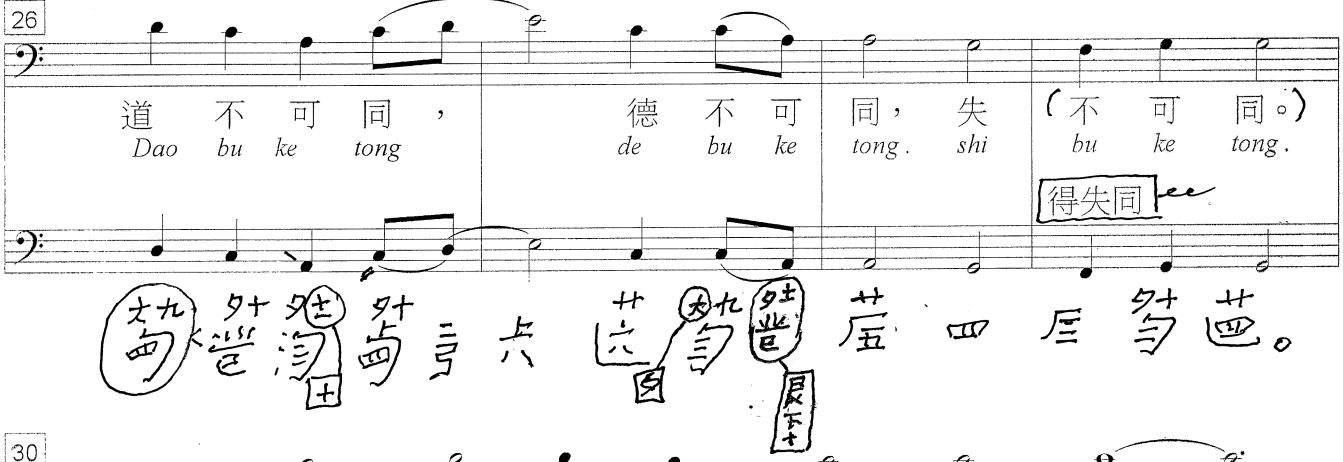
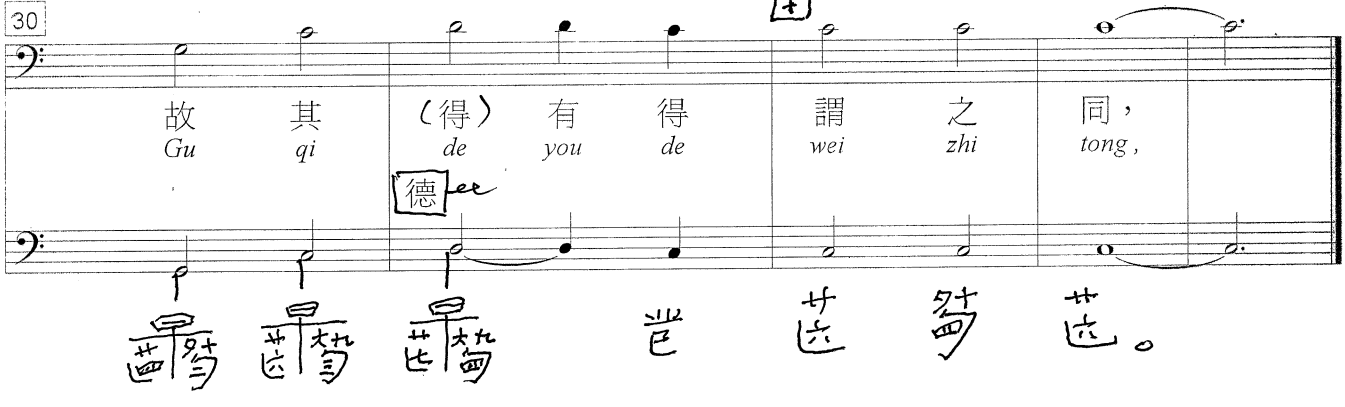
2. (I/2)


18
(物 得) 道 生, 道 (失) 物 死,
Wu de dao sheng. dao shi wu si.
萬物
死


22
得 失 相 生, 道 同 出 入。
De shi xiang sheng. dao tong chu ru.

(I/3)

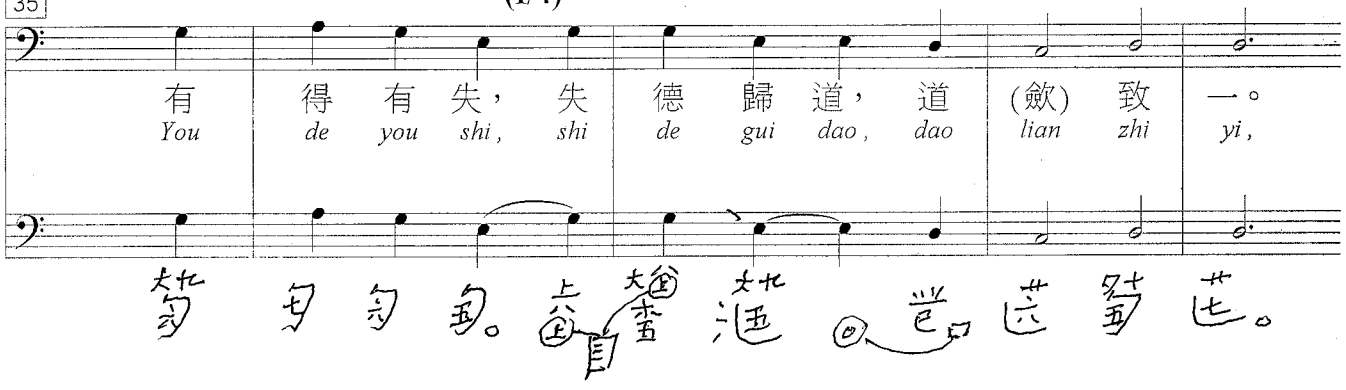

26
道 不 可 同, 德 不 可 同, 失 (不 可 同。)
Dao bu ke tong de bu ke tong. shi bu ke tong.
得失同


30
故 其 (得) 有 得 謂 之 同,
Gu qi de you de wei zhi tong,
德

3. Canon has this 1st phrase at end of previous section

35

(I/4)



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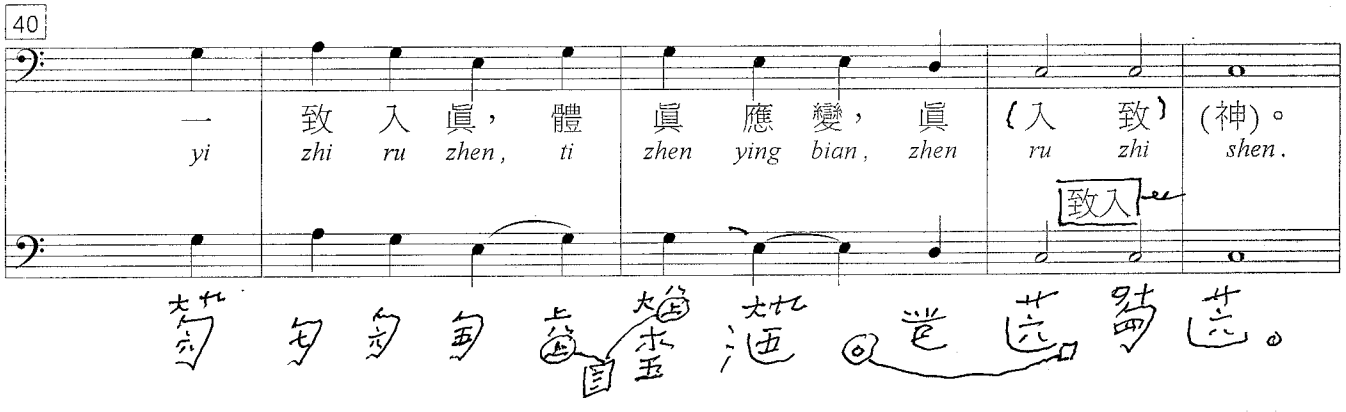

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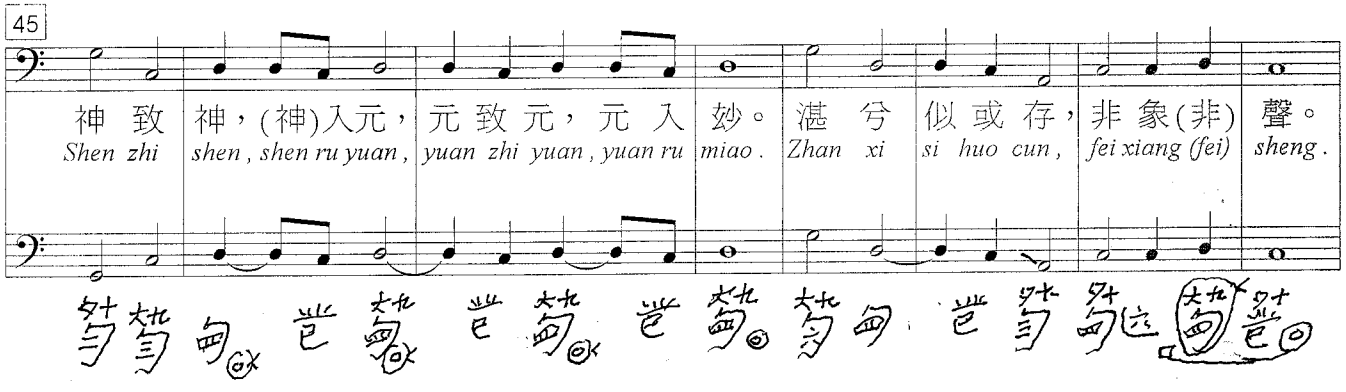
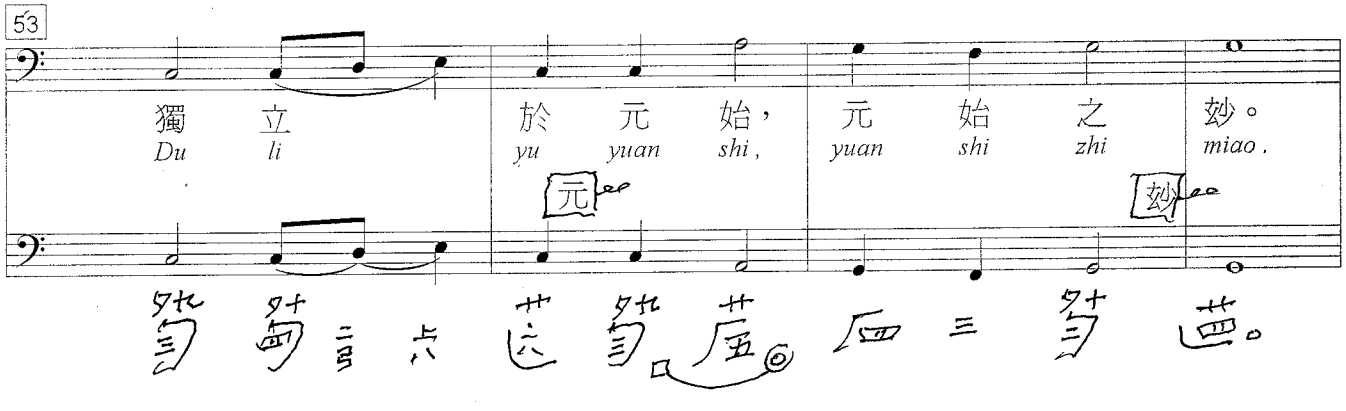


53



(I/5)

57

元 始 (以) 眞 妙 觀， 元 失 (以) 眞 妙 聽。
Yuan shi yi zhen miao guan, yuan shi yi zhen miao ting.

與 與

4.

61

妙 觀 (見 非 象 之 象。) 妙 聽 聞 無 聲 之 聲。
Miao guan jian fei xiang zhi xiang Miao ting wen wu sheng zhi sheng.

非象 是象象。

This phrase moved from previous section.

65

大 象 無 形， 無 逃 吾 妙 觀。 太 音 希 聲， (無 逃 吾 妙 聽。
da xiang wu xing. Wu tao wu miao guan. tai yin xi sheng, Wu tao wu miao shang.

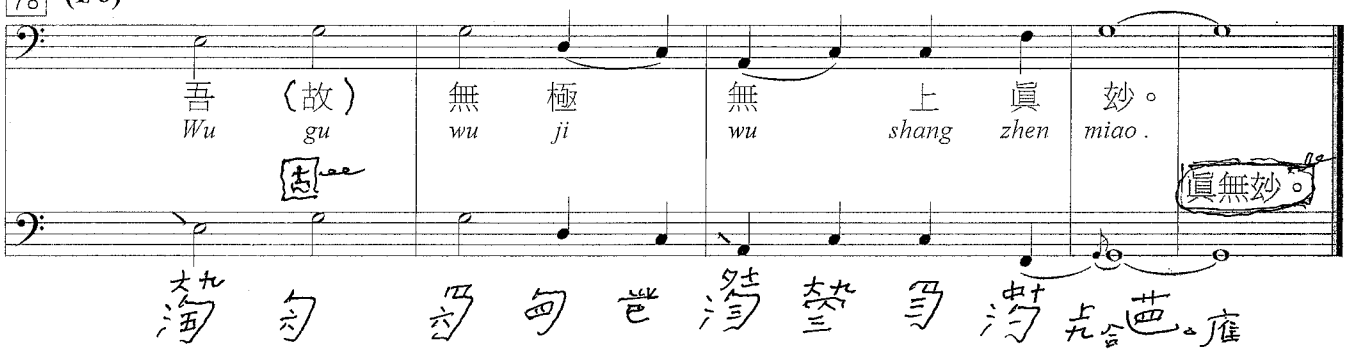
而 無極無上。

73

吾 以 妙 爲 無 極 無 上。)
wu yi miao wei wu ji wu shang.

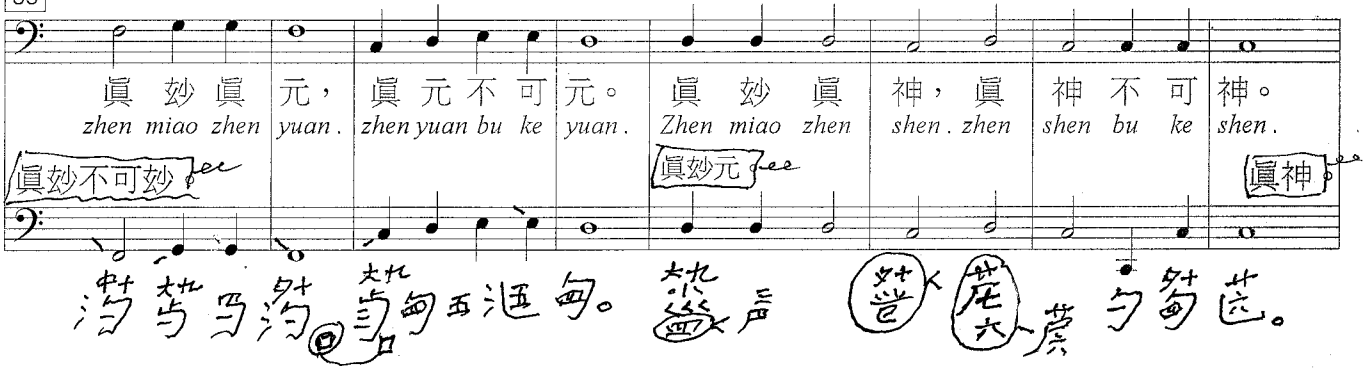
吾故無極無無上。

78 **(1/6)**

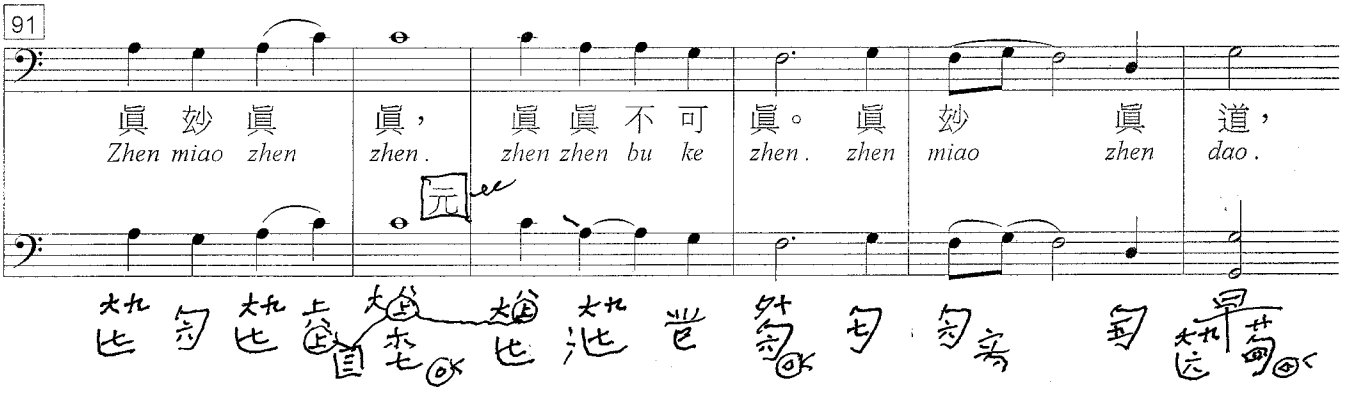


5. The original version of this music is now also adapted for Section 13.

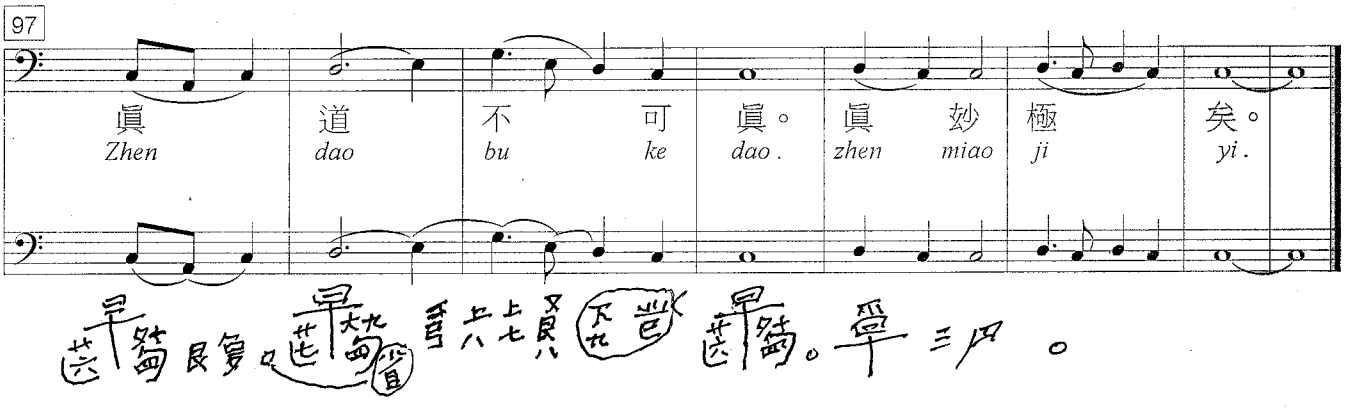
83



91



97

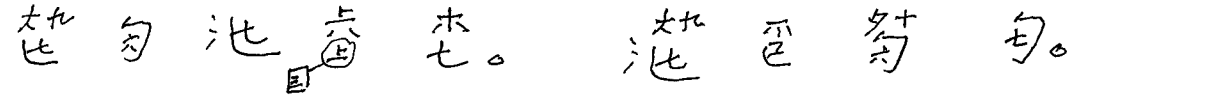


To compensate for the removal of the three phrases of text the qin version had that were not in the Canon text, three musical phrases have been removed (they repeated mm. 91-96),

6. (Canon II/1)

105

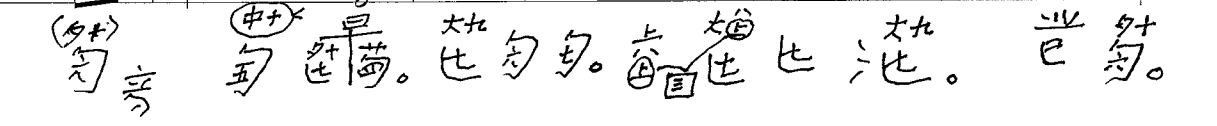
眞 妙 太 上， 太 上 眞 妙。
Zhen miao tai shang, tai shang zhen miao.



109 **(II/2)**

妙 生 元， 元 生 神， 神 生 眞， 眞 生 道，
Miao sheng yuan. yuan sheng shen. shen sheng zhen. zhen sheng dao.

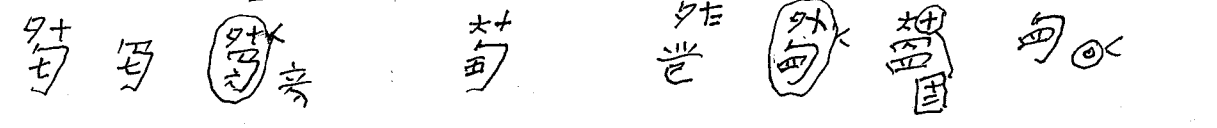
貞



114

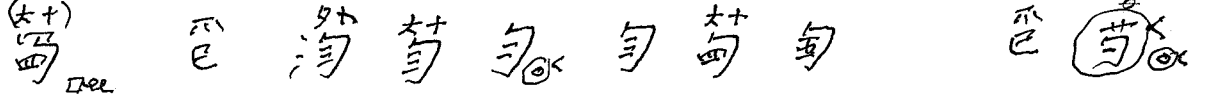
道 生 德， 德 生 微， 微 生 妙，
Dao sheng de. de sheng jiao. jiao sheng miao.

竅 *qiao*



118

妙 生 無， 無 生 有， 有 則 有， 無 則 無，
miao sheng wu. wu sheng you. You ze you. wu ze wu.



6. (cont,)

122

有 無 相 生， 陰 陽 相 推， 太 化 變 易。
you wu xiang sheng. yin yang xiang tui. Tai hua bian yi.

(II/3)

126

妙 無 體 也。 有 有 無 無， 無 無 有 有， 吾 居 (微 妙 之 常。)
miao wu ti ye. You you wu wu. wu wu you you. wu ju wei miao zhi chang.

妙常也

7. (II/4)

138

(微)妙(之)常曰 道。 道(之)常曰 眞。 眞(之)常曰 神。神(之) 常 曰 元。
Wei miao zhi chang yue dao. dao zhi chang yue zhen. zhen zhi chang yue shen. shen zhi chang yue yuan.

妙常 貞

(II/5)

146

元(之)常曰 妙。 妙(之)常 曰 吾。 居 無 極 矣。 不可視，不 可 聽，
Yuan zhi chang yue miao. miao zhi chang yue wu. ju wu ji yi. bu ke shi. bu ke ting.

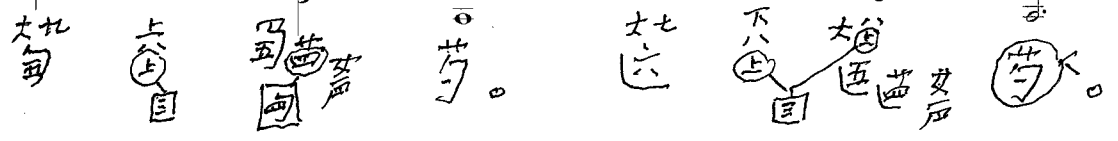
吾極 矣

8.

158

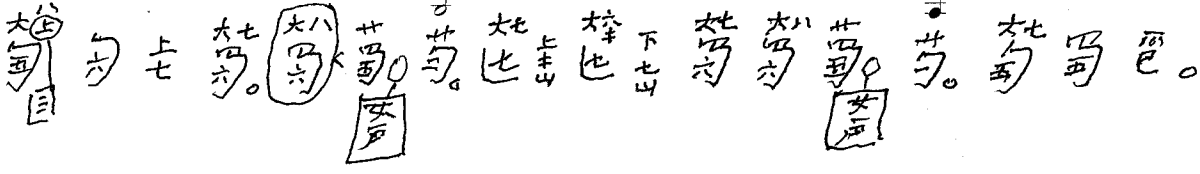
不 可 摶， 不 可 有，
Bu ke tuan bu ke you

矣 矣



162

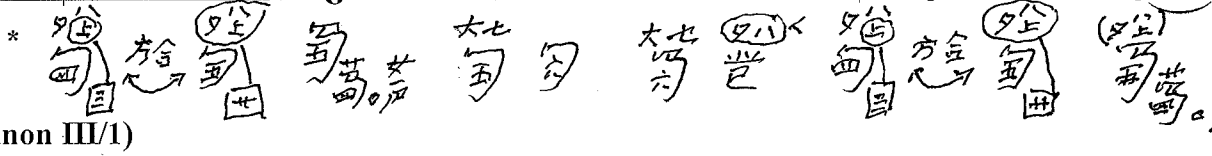
不 可 無， 不 可 元， 不 可 神， 不 可 眞， 不 可 道，
Bu ke wu. bu ke yuan. bu ke shen. bu ke zhen. bu ke dao.



169

入 乎 無 上， (同) 乎 無 極， 是 謂 眞 妙 矣。
Ru hu wu shang. tong hu wu ji. shi wei zhen miao yi.

居



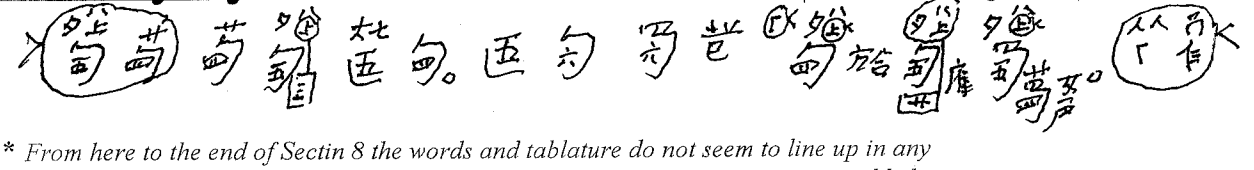
*

(Canon III/1)

176

眞 妙 (非 聲) 非 象， 實 非 聲 象， 其 上 不 (皦)， 其 下 不 昧。
Zhen miao fei sheng fei xiang. shi fei sheng xiang. qi shang bu jiao. qi xia bu mei.

皎



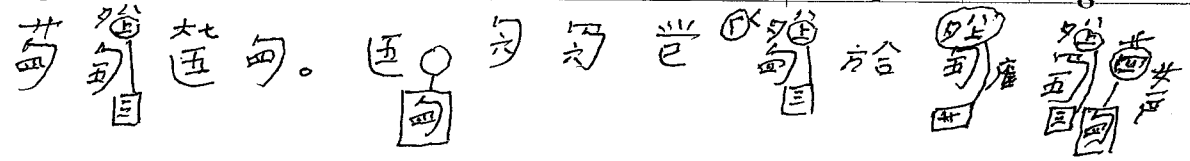
* *From here to the end of Sectin 8 the words and tablature do not seem to line up in any way. To fix this the tablature punctuation was largely ignored, two notes were added (m.176), and two phrases were repeated (mm. 180-1 and 187-8). See also m.198.*

8. (cont. [III/2])

183

恍 (兮) 惚 兮， 杳 杳 冥 冥， 眞 妙 妙 眞，
Huang xi hu xi. miao miao ming ming. zhen miao miao zhen.

恍惚矣



187

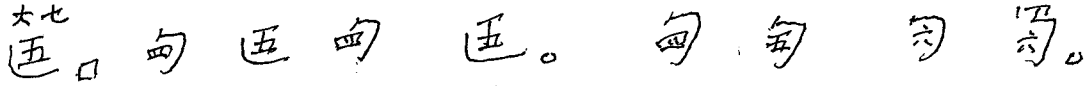
視 不 見， 聽 不 聞。
Shi bu jian. ting bu wen.

III/3

191

(元 始 於 太 妙，) 寂 兮 寥 兮，
Yuan shi yu tai miao. ji xi liao xi.

吾元始之 妙



196

繩 繩 兮， * 湛 然 不 可 名。
Sheng sheng xi, zhan ran bu ke ming.

凡可以冥，（皆屬名 數，）是二非一。 凡不可名， 道爲一矣。

** These last five notes were moved from the beginning of Section 9, where they had been paired to words that belonged elsewhere. The text below this (凡可以冥...), is from the Canon commentary; it has been removed and its tablature moved to the new Section 14. Also see comment at bottom of previous page.*

9. (III/4)

202

* 元 妙， 神 妙， 眞 妙， 道 妙，
Yuan miao, shen miao. zhen miao, dao miao.

206

天 地 虛 妙， 陰 陽 同 妙， (先 後 妙。)
Tian di xu miao. yin yang tong miao. xian hou miao.
(text not in Canon)

10.

210

日 月 合 妙， 五 行 含 妙， (八 卦 雜 妙，) 萬 物 盡 妙。
Ri yue he miao. wu xing he miao. Ba gua za miao. wan wu jin miao.
合妙兮 寂寥

(III/5)

219

至 虛 至 靜， 吾 曰 虛 靜。
Zhi xu zhi jing. wu yue xu jing.

5.6

* *m. 202ff: The tablature that originally was the first phrase in this section is now the last phrase in the previous section, while its text has been moved to mm.228-231 so that its position accords with its position in the Canon text.*

10. (cont.)

224

(妙 始 非 妙，) 不 可 得 矣。 (妙 體 吾 元 始。)
Miao shi fei miao. bu ke de yi. miao ti wu yuan shi.

元始之妙

5.6

this phrase restored from m.202 (q.v.; new music)

(Canon IV/1)

232

孰 以 元 元， 孰 以 神 神，
Zhi yi yuan yuan. zhi yi shen shen.

236

孰 以 眞 眞， 孰 以 道 道， 孰 以 名 名。
zhi yi zhen zhen. Zhi yi dao dao. zhi yi ming ming.

貞

241

吾 強 曰： 妙 入 吾 妙 矣。
Wu qiang yue: Miao ru wu miao yi.

5.6

11. (IV/2)

247

然 後 合 爲 元， 散 爲 神，
Ran hou he wei yuan. san wei shen.

而

This first phrase (text and music) moved here from the end of Sec. 10

6.2 6.4 7.0

252

至 一 爲 眞， 萬 變 爲 道。
Zhi yi wei zhen. wan bian wei dao.

一致

物

7.6 7.9

256

升 清 降 濁， 布 列 精 魂， * (變 化 之 道，
Sheng qing jiang zhuo. bu lie jing hun. bian hua zhi dao.

降清

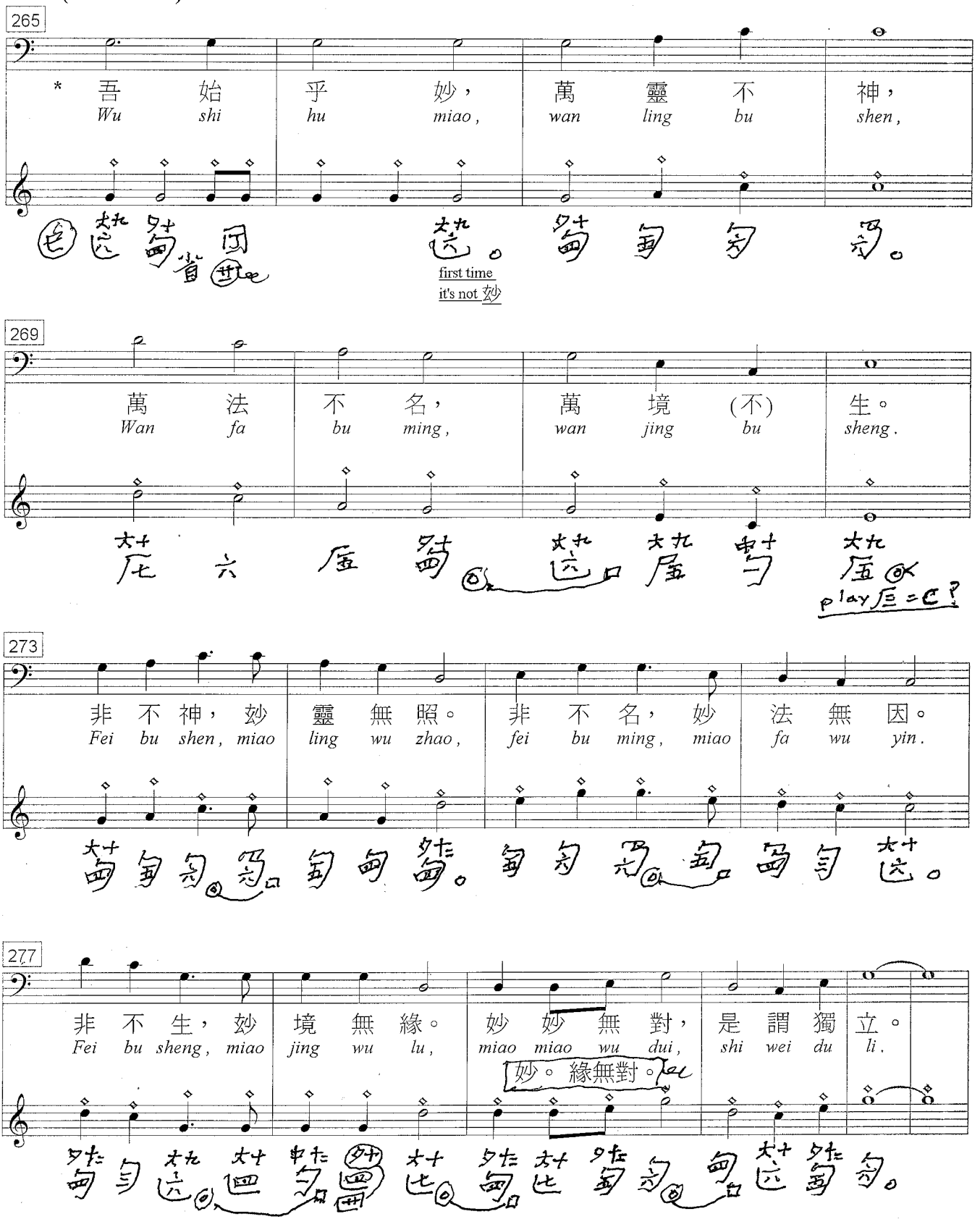
260

窮 象 極 形， 復 歸 乎 妙。)
Qiong xiang ji xing. fu gui hu miao.

矣

* Here this section, spreading out the words, ended "吾始乎妙". Then Section 12 began with "變化之道. . . . 復歸乎妙。" Switching these accords with the Canon text. From here the *guqin* text becomes very different from the Canon version.

12. (Canon V/1)



* *See comment at end of previous section. On this page the music is much like the original but with phrasings changed to fit the lyrics, which had to be re-aligned.*

12. (cont. [V/2])

283

* 不 子 不 孫， 同 乎 無 獨。 (出 入 綿 綿， 同 乎 無 門。
Bu zi bu sun, tong hu wu du, chu ru mianmian. Tong hu wu men,
生

287

萬 物 歸 無， 不 見 其 元 宰。
wan wu gui wu, bu jian qi yuan zai.

(V/3)

291

吾 始 於 妙， 寂 兮 寥 兮， 繩 繩 兮， 湛 然 兮。 廓 然 兮，
Wu shi yu miao, ji xi liao xi, sheng sheng xi, zhan ran xi, kuo ran xi.

295

吾 不 知 其 生。 故 曰 長 生 之 道。)
Wu bu zhi qi sheng, gu yue chang sheng zhi dao.

* *From mm. 285-299 lyrics from the Canon text have mostly replaced the qin version lyrics, which did not seem to form a coherent part of the Canon text; the original tablature was then re-phrased to fit (with a few notes changed). The last five musical phrases of the original Section 13 are now in the Coda.*

13. (Canon VI/1)

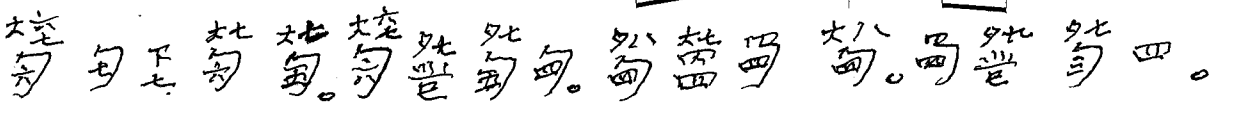
300 *don't rush*

* 自 然 非 妙， 妙 非 自 然， 吾 元 始 於 妙。
Zi ran fei miao, miao fei zi ran, wu yuan shi yu miao.

mm.300-313: new music

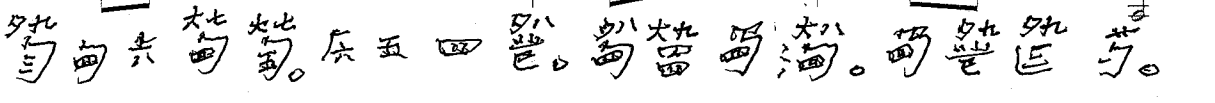
304

其 上 不皦，恍 兮 惚 兮，其 下 不 昧， 惚 兮 恍 (兮)。
Qi shang bu jiao, huang xi hu xi, qi xia bu mei, hu xi huang xi.



309

恍 惚 混 蒙，上 下 同 妙， 妙 恍 妙 惚， 非 象 非 物。
Huang hu hun meng, shang xia tong miao, miao huang miao hu, fei xiang fei wu.

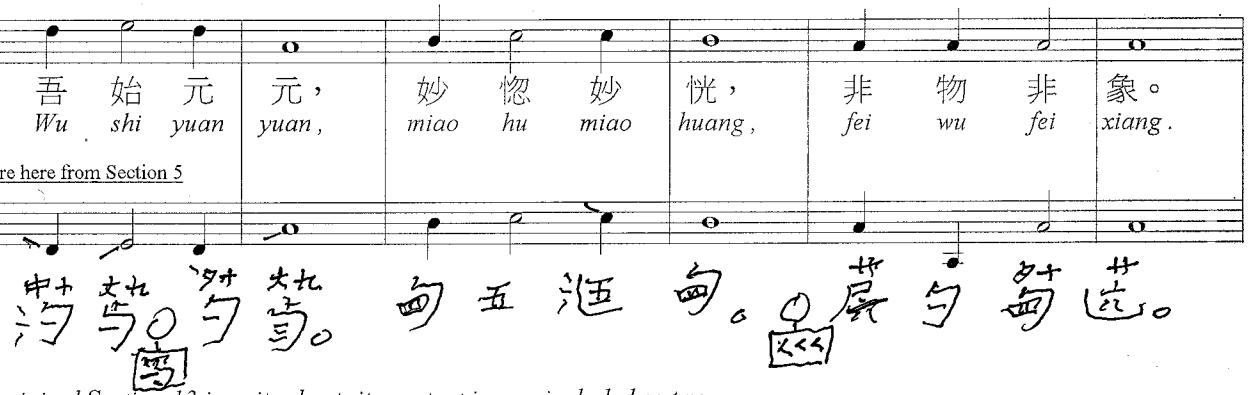


(VI/2)

314

吾 始 元 元， 妙 惚 妙 恍， 非 物 非 象。
Wu shi yuan yuan, miao hu miao huang, fei wu fei xiang.

Tablature here from Section 5



* *The original Section 13 is quite short; its content is now included as two parts of the new Section 14. The present Section 13, as indicated, mixes new material with passages from Sections 5 and the original Section 14.*

13. (cont.)

320

吾 始 神 | 神， | 杳 杳 冥 | 冥， | 非 | 杳 | 非 | 形。
Wu shi shen | *shen,* | *miao miao ming* | *ming,* | *fei* | *miao* | *fei* | *xing.*

326

吾 始 眞 | 眞， | 冥 冥 杳 | 杳， | 非 | 形 | 非 | 妙。
Wu shi zhen | *zhen,* | *ming ming miao* | *miao,* | *fei* | *xing* | *fei* | *miao,*

332

吾 始 道 | 道， | 精 中 有 | 眞， | 自 然 之 | 道。
Wu shi dao | *dao,* | *jing zhong you* | *zhen,* | *zi ran zhi* | *dao.*

Tablature for this line repeats mm314-9

(VI/3)

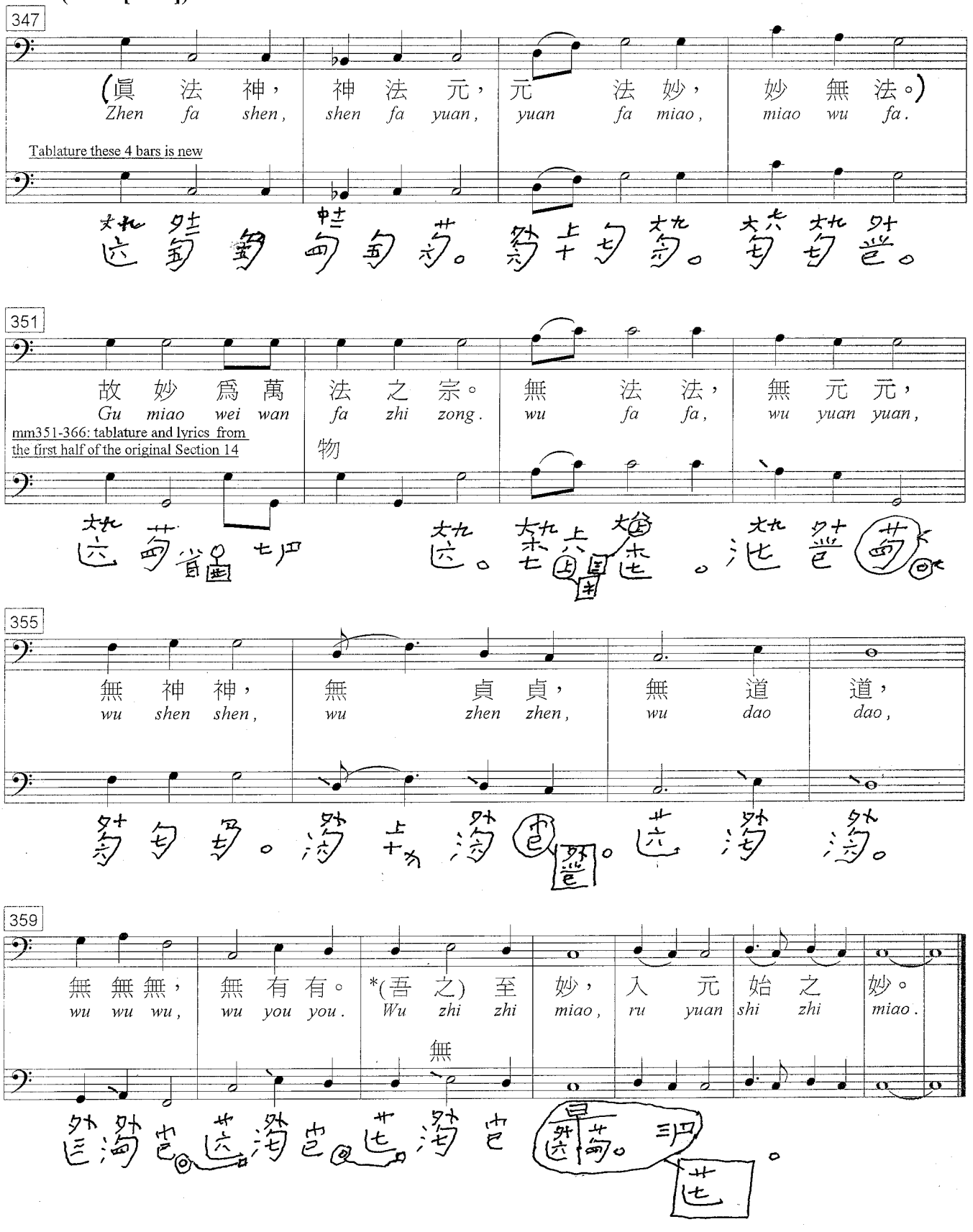
338

道法自然，| 自 然眞(道， | 眞 者 | 自 然 之 | 號，| 吾 不 | 知 其自 | 然。)
Dao fa zi ran, | *zi ran zhen dao,* | *zhen zhe* | *zi ran zhi* | *hao,* | *wu bu* | *zhi qi zi* | *ran.*

Tablature for these two bars is new

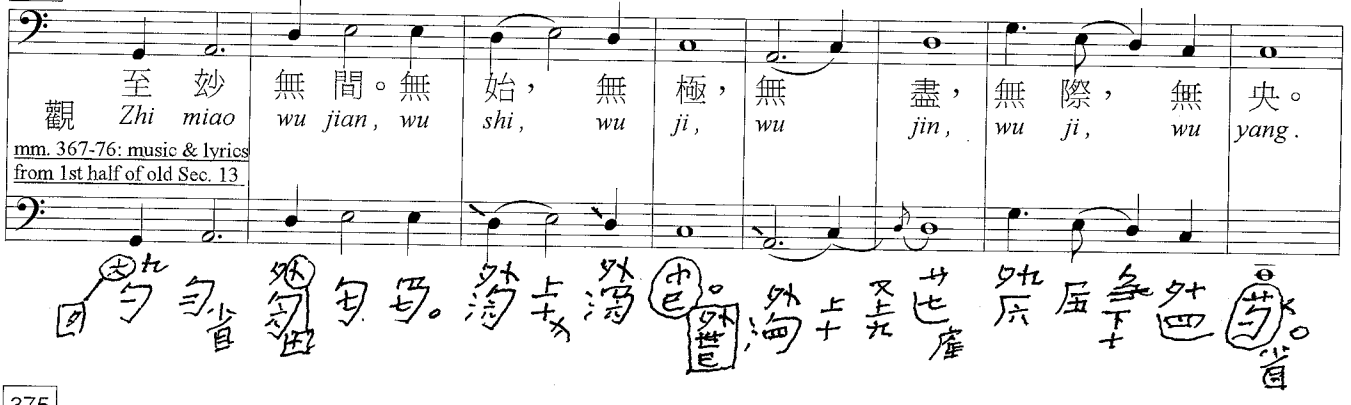
Tablature is from the end of Section 5, adapted to these lyrics and extended at end

13. (cont. [VI/4])

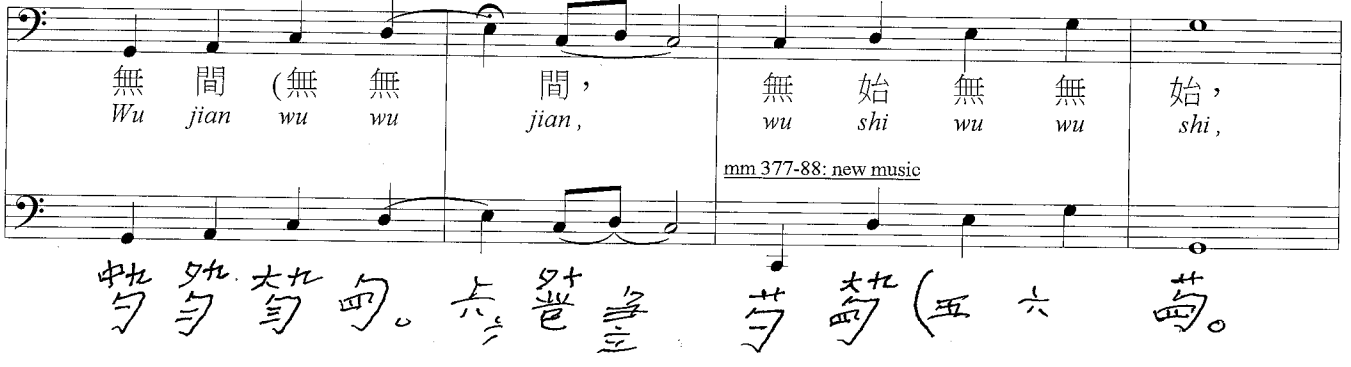

347
(眞 法 神，神 法 元，元 法 妙，妙 無 法。)
Zhen fa shen, shen fa yuan, yuan fa miao, miao wu fa.
Tablature these 4 bars is new
351
故 妙 爲 萬 法 之 宗。無 法 法，無 元 元，
Gu miao wei wan fa zhi zong. wu fa fa, wu yuan yuan,
mm351-366: tablature and lyrics from the first half of the original Section 14
物
355
無 神 神，無 貞 貞，無 道 道，
wu shen shen, wu zhen zhen, wu dao dao,
359
無 無 無，無 有 有。*(吾 之) 至 妙，入 元 始 之 妙。
wu wu wu, wu you you. Wu zhi zhi miao, ru yuan shi zhi miao.
無

14. (new section[Canon VII]/1)

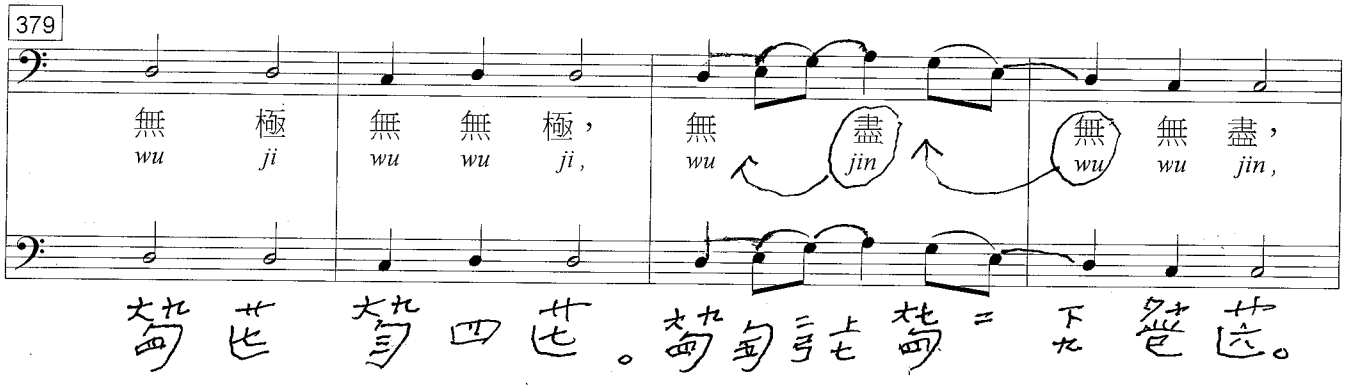
367 *(120 words divided 44+32+44)*



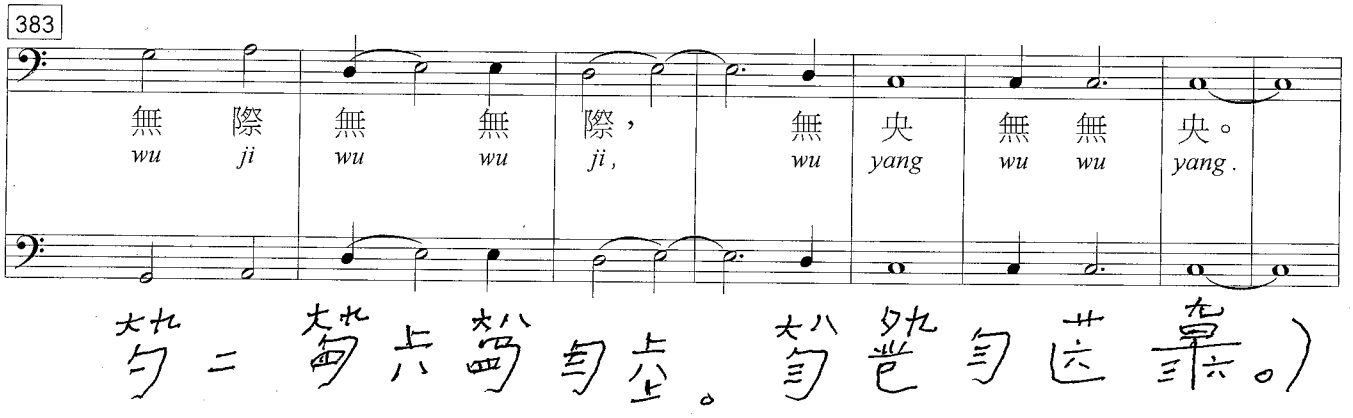
375



379

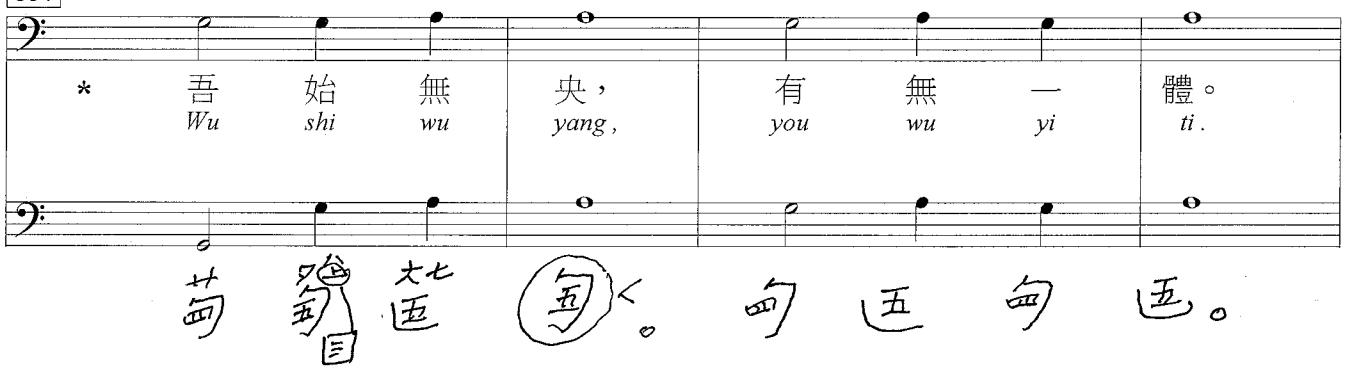


383

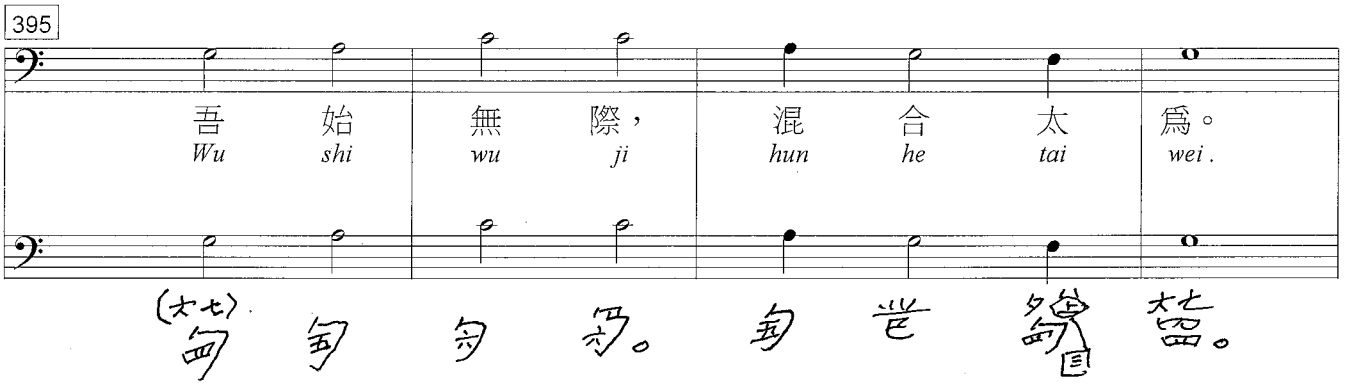


(VII/2)

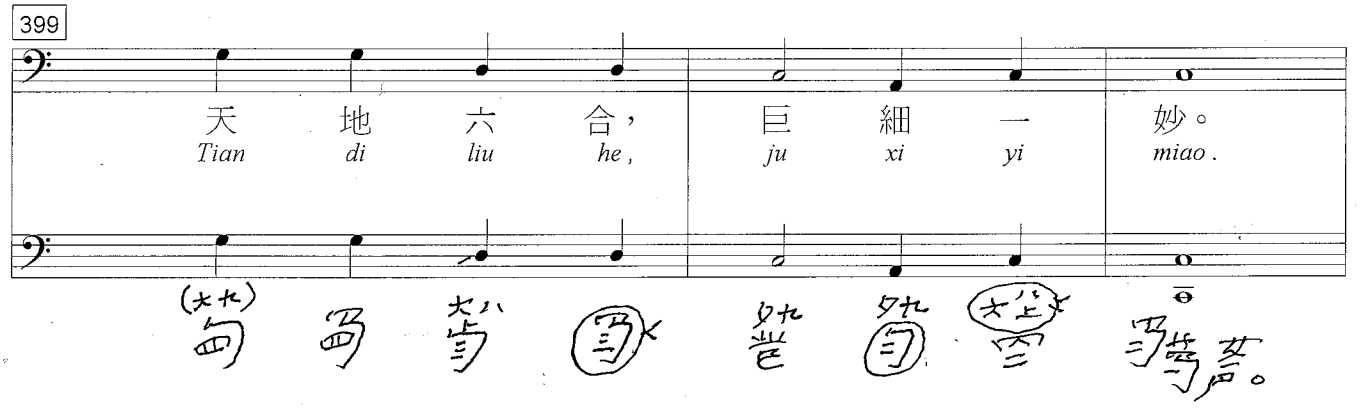
391 *32 words (8x4)*



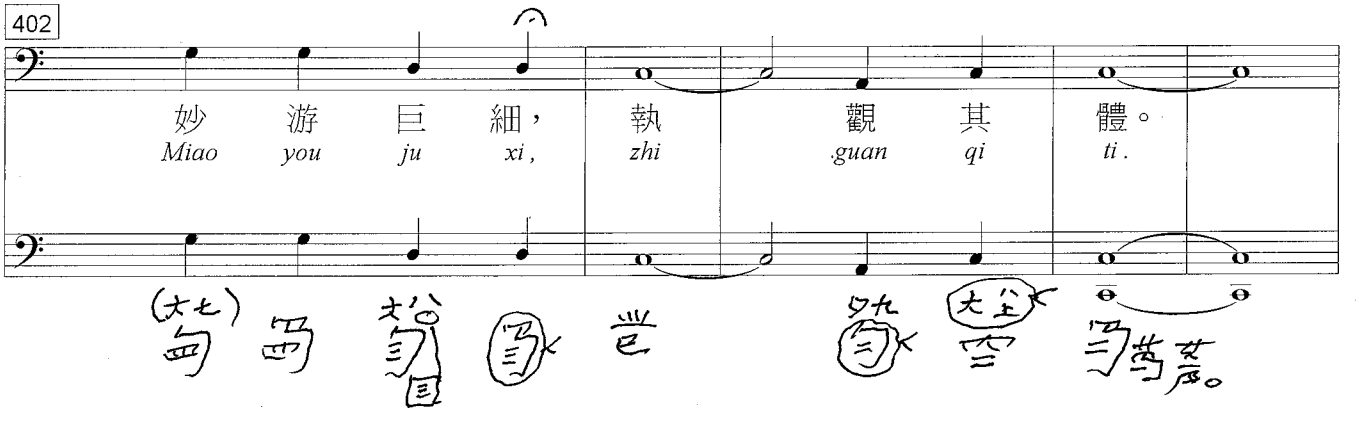
395



399



402



* *mm.391-406: the music here is from the end of the original Section 8; mm399-406 was paired to Canon commentary*

(VII/3)

407 *(44 words)*

吾 曰 無 形， 無 聲， 無 名。
Wu yue wu xing, wu sheng wu ming.

mm.407-419: new music

411

無 始 妙， 中 妙， 三 無 之 妙。
Wu shi miao, zhong miao, san wu zhi miao.

416

吾 元 始 至 道， 是 謂 極 樂。
Wu yuan shi zhi dao, shi wei ji le.

420

妙 遊 含 容 之 器，與 天 地 萬 無 爲 終。然 極 而 不 盡。
Miao you han rong zhi qi, yu tian di wan wu wei zhong, ran ji er bu jin.

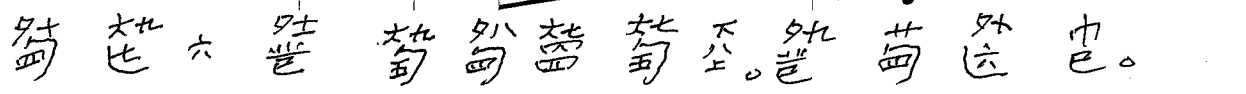
mm. 420-28: music from the second half of old Section 13

15. (new section[Canon VIII])

429 *(44 words)*

妙 與 天 地 | 萬 物 爲 終， | 盡 吾 無 終。
Miao yu tian di | *wan wu wei zhong,* | *jin wu wu zhong.*

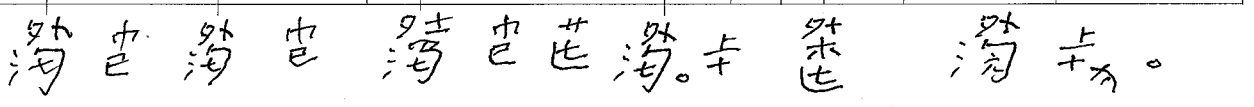
mm. 429-32 : new music



433

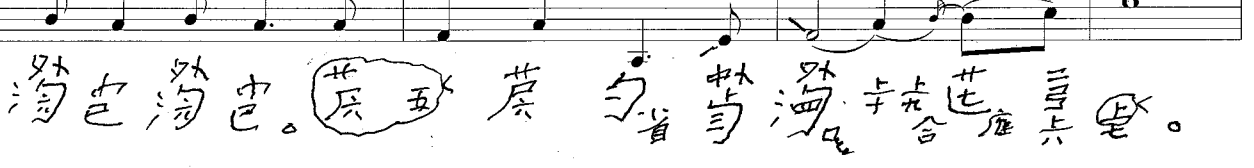
妙 與 天 地 | 萬 物 爲 元， | 始 吾 無 始。
Miao yu tian di | *wan wu wei yuan,* | *shi wu wu shi.*

(mm 433-45 : music from second half of the old Sec.14; but its lyrics moved to the coda)



437

德 遊 其 中，天 地 萬 物 不 可 觀 焉，
De you qi zhong, tian di wan wu bu ke guan yan,



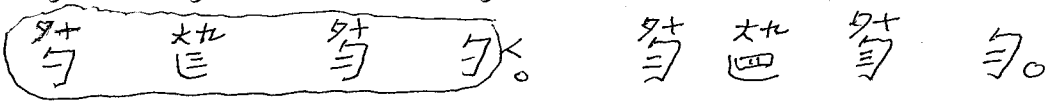
441

德 遊 至 妙， 與 物 還 矣。
de you zhi miao, yu wu huan yi.

尾聲 Coda (Canon IX)

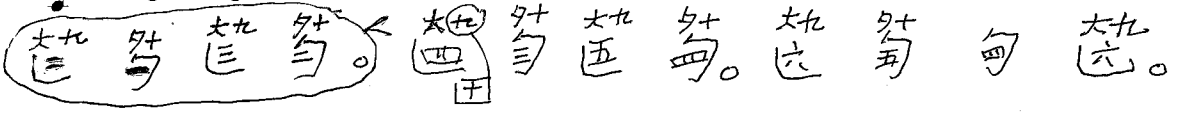
446

* 妙 遊 無 礙， 元 遊 無 知，
Miao you wu ai, yuan you wu zhi,



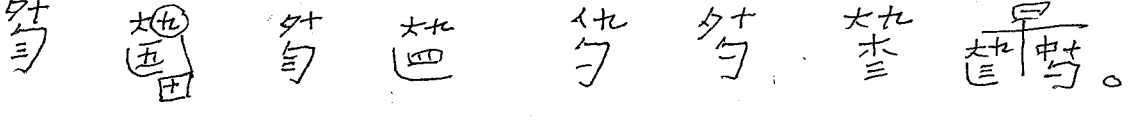
450

神 遊 無 方， 眞 遊 無 變， 道 遊 無 體。
Shen you wu fang, zhen you wu bian, dao you wu ti.



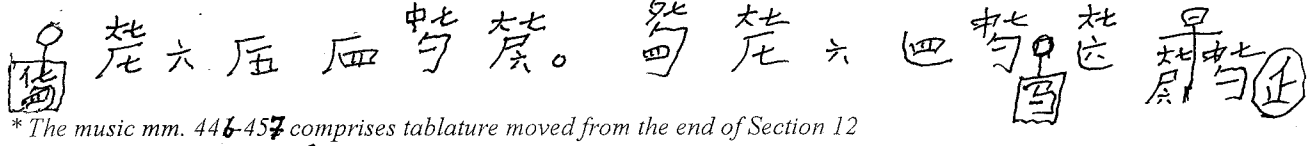
454

德 遊 無 名， 無 遊 無 間。
De you wu ming, wu you wu jian.



458

是 謂 與 物 同 遊。 出 生 入 死 之 道 盡。
Shi wei yu wu tong you, chu sheng ru si zhi dao jin.



** The music mm. 446-457 comprises tablature moved from the end of Section 12 (except mm. 446-7 and 450, which are new). The lyrics were originally paired to the music at the end of Section 14 but mm. 458-end is the original closing.*