

A stylized illustration of a mountain range with birds flying in the sky. The mountains are rendered in shades of blue, grey, and white, with birds scattered across the sky. The style is minimalist and artistic.

2. The Beginning of Ritual and Music Civilization

——Chinese Music of pre-Qin Dynasty

What is the role of music for the ancient Chinese feudal system ?

禮

樂



Music of Rites

乃奏黄钟，歌大吕，舞《云门》，以祀天神。乃奏大簇，歌应钟，舞《咸池》，以祭地示。乃奏姑洗，歌南吕，舞《大磬》，以祀四望。乃奏蕤宾，歌函钟，舞《大夏》，以祭山川。乃奏夷则，歌小吕，舞《大濩》，以享先妣。乃奏无射，歌夹钟，舞《大武》，以享先祖。

——《周礼·春官宗伯》

Historical records of when the music and dance originated from different period of times were performed and what functions they had during the rituals.



Music of Rites

九月，考仲子之宫，将《万》焉。（鲁隐）公问羽数于众仲，对曰：“**天子**用八，**诸侯**用六，**大夫**四，**士**二。夫舞，所以节八音而行八风，故自八以下。”公从之。于是初献六羽，始用六佾也。

——《左传·隐公五年》

There are also strict rules regarding the number of performers of music and dance that can be enjoyed by people of different social classes.



Music of Rites

“季氏八佾舞于庭，是可忍也，孰不可忍也！”

——《论语·八佾》

When someone broke this rule and Confucius saw it, Confucius rebuked, "If this is tolerable, what is not tolerable!"

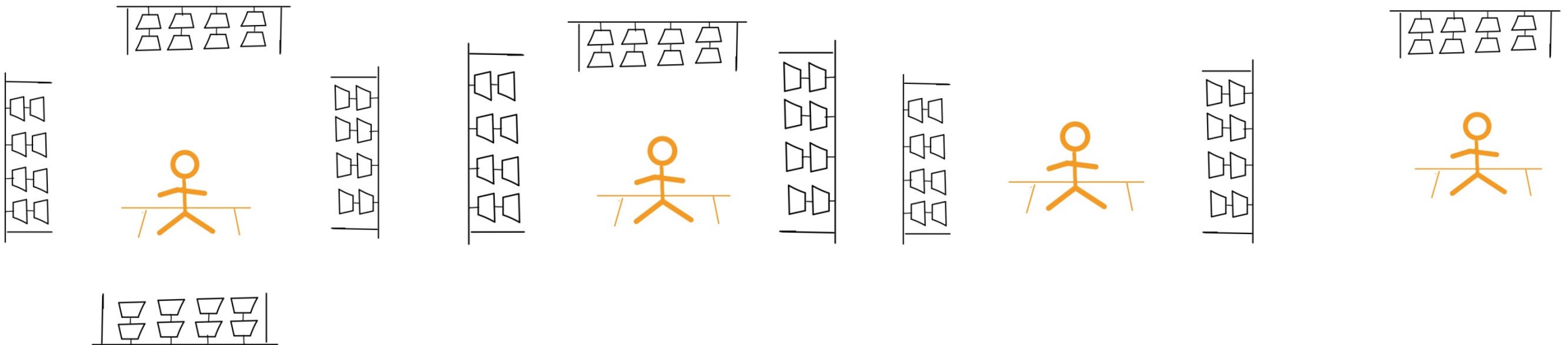


Music of Rites

“正乐县之位，王宫县，诸侯轩县，卿大夫判县，士特县，辨其声。”

——《周礼·春官宗伯》

According to the status of the owner, the number of musical instruments used, the placement, are also strict rules.





Music of Rites

“呦呦鹿鸣，食野之苹。我有嘉宾，鼓瑟吹笙。
吹笙鼓簧，承筐是将。人之好我，示我周行。
呦呦鹿鸣，食野之蒿。我有嘉宾，德音孔昭。
视民不怵，君子是则是效。我有旨酒，嘉宾式燕以敖。
呦呦鹿鸣，食野之芩。我有嘉宾，鼓瑟鼓琴。
鼓瑟鼓琴，和乐且湛。我有旨酒，以燕乐嘉宾之心。”

——《诗经·小雅·鹿鸣》

According to the Book of songs, during the Spring and Autumn Period, people regarded music as a gift to serve the gentleman. People with high moral standards and Harmonious music complement each other.



Music of Rites

《诗经》 Book of song:

The first collection of poems in China

思无邪，诗三百，风雅颂

古有采诗之官，王者所以观风俗，知得失，自考正也。
——《汉书·艺文志》





Music of Rites

“诗言志，歌永言，声依永，律和声。八音克谐，无相夺伦，神人以和。”

——《尚书·舜典》

Different tunes produced by the eight musical instruments should be blended in a harmonious way to create beautiful melody, epitomizes the pursuit of harmony of ancient Chinese music.



Music of Rites

八音分类法：

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

Metal
金

Stone
石

Soil
土

Leather
革

Silk
丝

Wood
木

Shell
匏

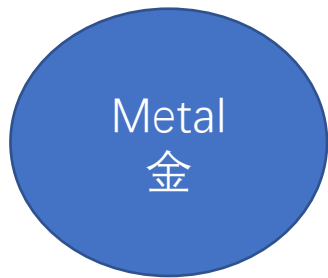
Bamboo
竹



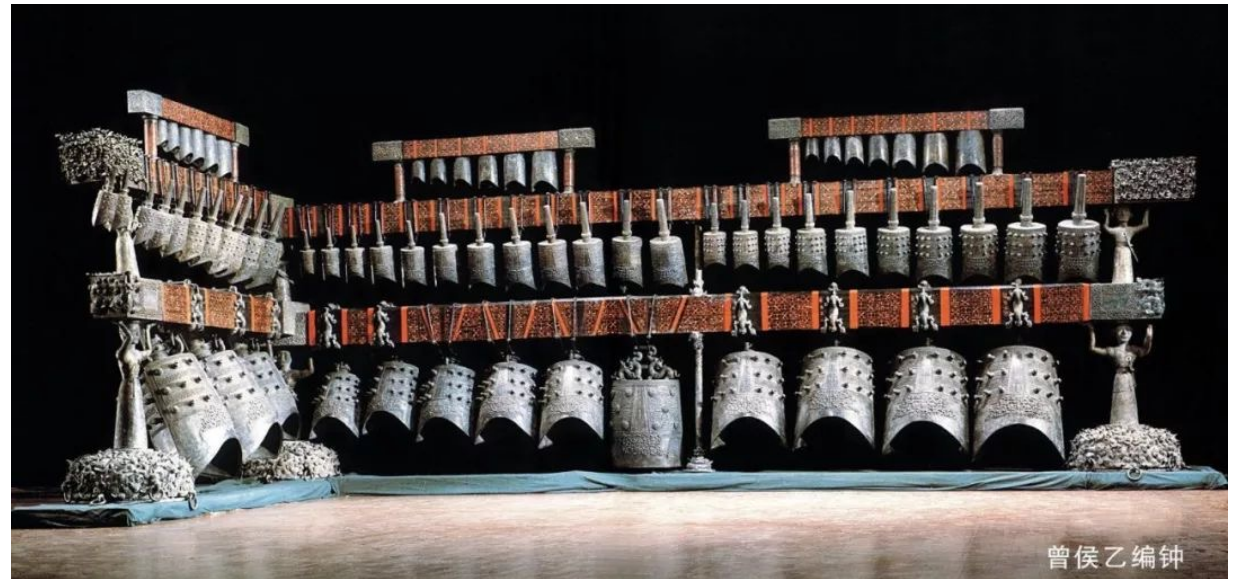
Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：



CHIME BELLS/编钟



曾侯乙编钟

集大成也者，金声而玉振之也。——《孟子·万章下》
Sound of the metal, vibration of the jade.



Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification
八音分类法：

Stone
石



STONE BELLS/磬



Music of Rites

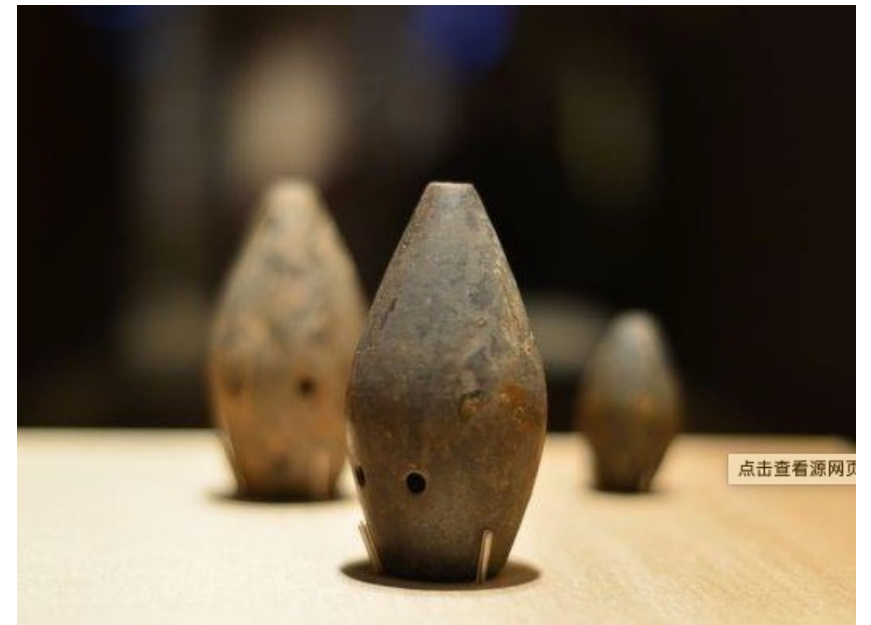
Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：

Soil
土

土

Xun/埙



XUN of YinXu, Henan. 4000BC



Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：

Leather
革



Jian Drum/建鼓



Painting of Zhou Wenju, 10th century



Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：





Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：



“一板一眼”

Play the music very carefully to the set rhythm. → Doing things step by step.



Wooden percussion/拍板



Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：

“合止祝敔” —— 《周礼》

Two instruments that herald the beginning and end of music and ritual:



清 中和韶乐祝
口方69.98cm
故宫博物院藏

清 中和韶乐敔
长69.98cm
故宫博物院藏



Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：

The Gourd Shell



The gourd shell



Sheng/笙, YU/竽, Chao/巢



Music of Rites





Music of Rites



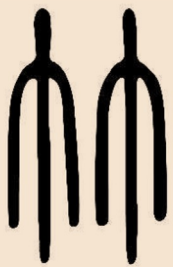


Music of Rites

Eight (kinds of) sound classification

八音分类法：

Bamboo
竹



Di/笛, Xiao/箫



Summary

- Relationship of Music & Ritual;
- Music rules according to the rites rules;
- Eight (kinds of) sound classification