

## **Inner Call Podcast #126 Being Musical June 5 2021**

Hazrat Inayat Khan has spoken in various lectures about the need for religion, although as he himself admitted, belief in God is being eclipsed these days by materialism. In a talk posted on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Hazrat Inayat said that the need for religion is greater now than it ever has been, and to help us, he has offered the ceremony of the Universal Worship, respecting the truth and dignity of all traditions. But in the lecture posted on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, Hazrat Inayat gives another view, telling us that ‘music and its philosophy will become the religion of the world.’

Since virtually everyone listens to music, and we choose music carefully to mark important moments in our lives, and because many people are passionate devotees of some musical form or other, this seems like an appealing prospect – but what does it mean? If music became the ‘religion of the world,’ what would life be like?

First, let us consider the distinction between what Hazrat Inayat calls real or soul-made and man-made music. The first type comes from the divine source, from the harmony of the soul, whereas the second is made for human purposes, such as to stir patriotic feelings or to entertain or even for marketing. This is not to discredit man-made music; according to our evolution each must be free to follow one form or another, as one chooses, but the more real the music, the more uplifting it will be. The beauty of real music is like that of nature, appealing to everyone, regardless of their culture or belief.

Music coming from the harmony of the soul can bring harmony to the world, but just as importantly, the study of music can make individuals musical. Music is based on certain fundamentals such as rhythm, tone, timbre and harmony. The more we assimilate these principles, the more we find they are also applicable to the art of personality – we observe them, or fail to do so, with every thought, word and deed. For example, a note must harmonize with the other notes in a composition; a wrong note will disturb us, even if we are ignorant of the musical scale, and in the same way, a word or an act must harmonize with the being of the person as well as with their surroundings. When we begin to recognize this, we can see that we often neglect the principles of harmony. Or consider the laws of rhythm: a musical note must come at the proper rhythmical moment, and in the art of personality, if we say a word, even a correct one with the correct tone, at the wrong moment, the rhythm will be spoiled.

Imagine, then, a world in which it was felt to be a sacred duty to observe harmony and the rules of tone and rhythm not only in our actions and words, but even in our thoughts and feelings. Perhaps we could say that each person would feel at home in that world; consideration would be the norm; we would breathe the air of kindness; and our hearts would be washed with beauty.