

It seems I could wrest my ideas from nature herself with my own hands, as I go walking in the woods. They come to me in the silence of the night or in the early morning, stirred into being by moods which the poet would translate into words, but which I put into sounds -- and these go through my head swinging and singing and storming until at last I have them before me as notes.

Beethoven

For those who do not love
music drives away hate.
Music gives peace to the restless,
and comforts the sorrowful.
They who no longer
know where to turn
find new ways,
and those who have despaired
gain new confidence and love.

Pablo Casals

Music is the meditation
between the intellectual and the sensuous life.

Beethoven

We are the music makers,
we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
and sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers,
on whom the pale moon gleams;
We are the movers and shakers
of the world forever, it seems.

Arthur William Edgar O'Shaughnessy

Music is the answer to the mystery of life;
it is the most profound of all the arts;
it expresses the deepest thoughts of life and being
in simple language which nonetheless cannot be translated.

Arthur Schopenhauer

We should not think of music as tone and rhythm, or even as a portrayal of simple emotions, like happiness or sorrow. We find affirmation and rejection, unity and diversity, growth and decline in all of life . . . The composer says implicitly: "Here is how the experiences of life sound. I cannot explain them to you, but I can make them sound. After you have heard how they sound, you will understand them better and have for all of life a sympathy which you did not have before and which you cannot get in any other way."

Carl Halter