“Adolescence and Solitude are respectively the fourth and fifth in the series of nine Tetragrams, each Tetragram being composed of four short sections needing no subtitles. The sixth Tetragram, Emergence, completes this second group of three which has an individual character of its own—just as the first group of three formed a definite sequence indicated by the titles: The Quest, Crucifixion, Rebirth.

“Adolescence should evoke the kind of feeling, no longer often related to adolescence in our American society, which might be associated with the Pre-Raphaelite painters and writers of the late nineteenth century—a pure, spontaneous longing for the ideal and mysterious dream-beloved, a longing mixed with insecurity and fear; yet (in the fourth movement) bursting out eagerly, as a flower in early spring.

“Solitude follows: the dark emptiness after the futile attempt at materializing the ideal—the long, empty hours filled with strange dreams. Yet the yearning remains, the insatiable aspiration.

“These Tetragrams were composed in Hollywood, California, in 1924 and 1927.

“Transmutation: A tone ritual in seven movements was composed in Palo Alto, California, during the early summer of 1976, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. It is meant to evoke some of the main phases of a process of inner, psychic, and, emotional transformation. This process inevitably has a dramatic character, as it involves the overcoming of the ego and of the ghosts of the personal past. It almost never begins except out of some kind of tragic realization of what it is that blocks the way to self-sublimation, and of the decision to overcome the past (first section). The decision made, life presents mirages and tries to charm the seeker away from the process ahead. The third section tells of dramatic encounters, of the attempt to cut away the still much cherished attachment. In the fourth section, the aspirant (or ‘disciple’) sees his inner life stirred by deeper longings, charmed by dreams, and poignantly hurt by their illusory nature. In the fifth section, he or she faces the impersonal, unyielding forces of karma and the devastating power of that which his or her will to overcome has aroused. Once the ego has been battered, peace can come—the sixth section. Compassionate love speaks within. The light descends, touching the very depth of the psyche. The seventh movement resonates with the welcome into the realm of gentle power and peace. A deep melody intones words of acceptance, and the light rises within. Then all is peace, peace profound.”