

Music in the Home

Don't Be Discouraged.

We must not be discouraged by the fact that with all the advertising and the unwholesome boasting of personal attractiveness to induce audiences to come and hear good music so few respond, comparatively. This is not new. Other times and countries have had similar experience. Handel had to suffer such himself. It is said that at one concert there were so few people in the hall that he consoled himself by saying, "Ah, well, and it is a fact that after the first appearance of the magnificent St. Matthew's Passion music of Bach in the St. Thomas Church at Leipzig, the work was laid aside and not again performed for one hundred years, until discovered and produced again by Mendelssohn.

But there is not much excuse nowadays for failing to keep the lamp burning. Music is cheap and plentiful; the people themselves acquire musical knowledge and culture instead of depending on clerical and professional services and dominance. We have all kinds of music in abundance, and conditions favor its practice as never before, and all will be well if we can only lead the public mind and taste into wholesome musical ways.

Use of Tempo Rubato in Chopin Music.

A well known and particularly gifted pianist, who is acknowledged to be one of the finest interpreters of the music of Chopin recently appended a note to the programme of a Chopin recital which she was giving, arousing considerable interest and discussion amongst musical people. In this note she points out that "tempo rubato" i.e., irregular time, with the beats hastened or slackened for the sake of expression, is the life and soul of the

playing of Chopin's music. It is said that Chopin himself made free use of it and a contemporary critic, after hearing the composer play wrote of him that "he leans about within his bars more than any player we recollect, but still subject to a presiding measure such as habituates the ear to the liberties taken."

Faderewski tells us that Chopin was in the habit of telling his pupils to play freely with the right hand but to keep the left one act as conductor or key time. This pianist, however, points out that in many of Chopin's compositions this rule of the hands must be reversed, and the left one conducts. That she has made a deep study of the subject is evident in her rendering of Chopin's Nocturnes, in which they have pronounced upon her playing as being of a beautifully free character.

Craze for Surface Expression.

If you're doing any betting on popular songs, place your money on the fellow who can dig up a big idea and express it in the fewest possible words. That is the advice handed out by one who is in a position to know what catches on with the public. From that it would seem that a song to become an instant success must be built around some idea that requires no microscope to unearth it. Nowadays, especially in wartime surface expression is far more important than fundamental idea.

Therefore the key to popular song writing is brevity. Songs with long choruses sometimes succeed, but upon analyzing them it will be seen that a short, snappy meter runs all through, which really means the principle of brevity is carried out. It has been shown frequently that good lyrics of high poetic value, expressed in choice English prose failures when set to music. In fact some accept it as an axiom that good lyrics make poor songs and inferior lyrics often make good songs. Vaudeville singers want songs with easily grasped ideas because they are the only kind their audiences will accept. This is the reason for the frequent success of a theme using some old saying changed to conform to modern parlance or around some historic event known to everyone. There are instances that could be recalled of song writers who began to lose their hold on the public as soon as they endeavored to launch out into broadened vocabularies in

their writings. If the singers prefer brief songs in normal times when there are a great variety of themes to build upon, how much more is brevity demanded when there seems only one basic theme, and that the war. Incidentally the great bulk of the patriotic song efforts are literally buried in the shuffle, or lost in the flood, is perhaps expressing it more adequately.

Whether or not this picture of the popular taste is any credit to us is another question. But it only refers to the purely popular songs the typical drawing-room song is another matter.

A Message from Jerusalem.

A soldier writing from Jerusalem to a musical paper describes an organ recital given by himself in the Augustinian chapel which is part of a building known as the Kaiser's palace. He says the palace is situated on a hill and is a very fine piece of modern architecture, with some very good mosaic work, but it is spoiled by the fact of large portraits of the Kaiser and Kaiserin of Germany being painted on the ceiling side by side with those of Christ and the apostles. The acoustics of the place were bad, he says, like those of all buildings in the country, as no provision is made for preventing a big echo. The organ was built by a German firm, and the blowing arrangement is interesting, the bellows being worked by two large pedals on which the blower stands, alternately pressing them down, and holding to a hand rail to preserve his balance.

Just Gossip.

The best way to listen to music is to have heard it before. Kings may know very little music, but working men to-day can hum parts of a score of operas. Truly, music is democratic.

We should go to concerts more to hear the music rendered and not so much to so greatly exaggerate the personal element.

It has been said the Marseillaise is worth a million troops to France any day.

At the outset the musical drama was wholly dependent upon the extravagance of wealthy individuals and was strictly private. With the establishment of opera houses it became a public amusement and a source of musical education.

The origin of the cello was the 'rebab' used by the Arabs. The instrument as we now know it, however, was first made in Italy by Amati. It was said of a renowned celloist that in his hands the instrument seems almost to plead for the gift of speech.

"Unfortunately the American band is patterned on German lines, making principally for noise," says Arthur Clappe; "We have not the refined reeds of the Belgian and French bands nor the brass for which the English are famous. In a word the American band is only in its infancy. We have some magnificent organizations, of course, but these are all too few."

Would you call this cynicism or just plain frankness? A party said: "I sat through a song recital by an ambitious young lady the other evening. Her voice was artificial and metallic. Not a single blessed one of us enjoyed a note of it. Yet we all clapped politely after each of her ten songs, and she was absolutely radiant with triumphal achievement. Afterwards we all went up and shook hands with her voice—ticking the hand that thrashed us, a bunch of sorry weak hypocrites encouraging an otherwise innocent damsel to a career of tyranny and cruelty."

THE RESULTS HAVE ASTONISHED HIM

McKenna Has Rheumatism So Bad Muscles Felt Like They Were Tied in Knots.

The results I had gotten from Tanlac have really astonished me," said Frank J. McKenna, a well known employee of the Verral Storage Company, living at 524 Dupont street, Toronto, recently.

"It has relieved me entirely," he continued, "of rheumatism and kidney derangements which I had suffered from for several years and which caused me untold misery. The rheumatism would often catch me in the left hip and extend on down, and when these attacks struck me my leg was simply useless to me and I could hardly stand the pain. After the pain left my muscles would feel sore like they had been tied in knots. My kidneys bothered me a great deal. I always had a pain across the small of my back which was so severe at times I couldn't straighten up or get out of my chair when sitting down. When I stooped over to lift anything my back felt like it would break and when I worked it hurt me so bad I thought I would be compelled to give up and go home. Many a night I couldn't turn over in bed or get a wink of sleep and no body, except those who have suffered the same way, know what I had to go through with. I was getting all run-down and all my strength and energy seemed to be leaving me.

"My wife, who had taken Tanlac, insisted on my trying it and so I bought a bottle to please her, and that I expected much good from it. I have been using it about three weeks now and, as I said, the results have been astonishing. My kidneys seem to be in fine shape and the pain has disappeared from my back entirely. The rheumatism has also left me and if you could see me helping to lift bales of wool weighing around four hundred pounds all day you wouldn't think I ever had anything the matter with me. I never thought I would give a testimonial for a medicine, but Tanlac has done me so much good that I feel it my duty to tell others about it.

Tanlac is sold in Kingston by A. P. Chown, in Plevna by Gilbert Ouellet, in Battersea by C. S. Clark, in Fernleigh by Eric Martin, in Ardoch by M. J. Scullion, in Sharbot Lake by W. Y. Cannon.

MINTO CUP GAMES ONLY.

Ottawa Won't Play Any Exhibition Games With Vancouver Team. A wire was received by President Booth, of the Ottawa Lacrosse Club, from Con. Jones, asking for an exhibition game in the capital. It is not likely that the Ottawa club will consider this offer. If Ottawa wins the championship of the N.L.C., which they likely will, they will play Vancouver for the Minto cup or not at all. The Ottawa squad are in bad shape after their game with Irish Canadians on Saturday.

Mrs. Era Latham died on Saturday at Brockville. The deceased previous to her marriage was a Miss Lozo, daughter of Joseph Lozo, Spring Valley. She was about twenty-four years of age and had been married for two years.

Fire in the Smirle building on Dundas street, London, caused \$150,000 damage, principally to the stocks.

Riots have occurred in Kyoto against the high price of rice. The troops had to be called out to restore order.

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This photograph was specially posed by them at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of the silver wedding of Their Majesties. It shows Princess Mary, Prince Albert, Prince Henry and Prince George.

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