

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC: WHAT MUSIC CAN DO FOR YOU

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649127245

The philosophy of music: what music can do for you by Harriet Ayer Seymour

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HARRIET AYER SEYMOUR

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What Music Can Do for You

by

HARRIET AYER SEYMOUR



HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK AND LONDON

ML3920
S4.

NO. 1000
ALBANY, N. Y.

WHAT MUSIC CAN DO FOR YOU

Copyright, 1920, by Harper & Brothers
Printed in the United States of America
Published November, 1920

L. A.

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FOREWORD

THE name of this book was formerly *What Music Can Do For You*. It has been renamed *The Philosophy of Music* because of its essentially philosophic nature, for the study of music is no longer presented mechanically, as of old.

Thousands of people who studied music when they were young have given it up when they married, or when they went to work, or became absorbed in some way. They still love it, and go wistfully to concerts, longing to understand, regretting that they gave it up.

Why is this the case? We have talked to and taught a great many people and find two vital causes back of this condition:

1. They have neither time nor desire for endless scales and exercises.

2. They have concluded that since they cannot (after all the lessons they have had) play or sing simple tunes, they simply are

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"not musical" and it is therefore useless to try.

The fallacy of this conclusion has been proven. There is scarcely anyone who is really unmusical. Everyone can hear, understand, and express at least a little. It is the same with color—everyone has *some* sense of color, although he may not be a Titian or a Zuloaga. In the same way everyone has in him at least a little of the musical sense, though he may not be a Beethoven or a Paderewski.

The old way of studying music by practicing interminable scales and exercises has been a failure. The philosophic way is to first awaken music from within, by means of simple drills.

The every-day man and woman knows that *more* music is needed in this Iron Age, and we know that they can have it. They need, as do we all in one way or another, musical re-education—that is, they must change their idea about it and learn a different process. In other words, they must practically use the philosophy that says, "You will find everything within

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yourself." The realm of harmony and beauty is open to all in some degree.

Music is thus being reinstated. In this book is given the way to go about re-educating yourself musically. It is possible for you—whoever you are—wherever you are—to enrich and harmonize your life through music.

H. A. S.

The author wishes to thank Margaret Lee Crofts for her helpfulness in the compilation of this book.