THE NATURAL METHOD OF WRITING MUSIC

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649335282

The Natural Method of Writing Music by Levi Orser

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WITH SOME FAMILIAR PIECES WRITTEN IN THE NATURAL NOTATION

BY

LEVI ORSER

BOSTON
EASTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY
1893

PRESS OF
Rockwell and Churchill
BOSTON, U.S.A.

PREFACE.

MUSICAL NOTATION is the method of indicating the variations of musical sounds by means of written characters.

THE NATURAL MUSICAL NOTATION SYSTEM has been devised for the purpose of providing a simple, effective method of writing music which should avoid the purely artificial difficulties and complications inherent in the notation now in common use, which are an almost insurmountable barrier between the student and the art, and which are, in a great measure, answerable for the musical illiteracy of the time; but few of those who are endowed with the natural gift or faculty of music are able to read or perform by note.

THE OBJECT OF THIS LIBRETTO is to convey to its readers a good understanding of the natural method of writing music, whether they are familiar with the old notation or not, but is not intended as an instruction book in any *special* branch of the art.

THE RAPID PROGRESS which students can make with the impediments of the old notation removed has been well exemplified by the tonic-sol-fa notation introduced by the late John Curwen, of England.

In the natural notation system the impediments of the old notation are removed, while retaining the staff, which is not only a continuous picture of the relative pitch and duration of the notes, but of their key relationship as well, — thus accomplishing in a direct legitimate way what has hitherto been accomplished more or less imperfectly by purely artificial means.

Vocal students can learn to read music as rapidly by this as by any possible method, while at the same time they will learn a notation in which all music whatsoever can best be written.

The notation system now in common use (which for convenience we will call the old notation) has served the world in good stead, and though worn and patched it still drags along its weary way like an antiquated old stage-coach up to its hubs in the mire.

The beautiful art of music moves all too slowly and tortuously in this old vehicle. If she would keep in sight of the modern procession, she must needs provide herself with a more modern conveyance.

The introduction of new methods and improvements always involve large expenditures and troublesome adjustments; yet this never prevents their adoption, because the expense and trouble is merely temporary, while the advantages and benefits are permanent.

The natural notation is based upon the physical relationship of the musical intervals, which are immutable and can never change.

THE DEGREES OF THE STAFF represent the tones in the natural order of their pitch. This is comparatively a slight change from the old notation, yet it brings order and simplicity out of the confusion and complication of the old method, and solves for all time the problem of providing a true legitimate method of writing music for all purposes.

Its adoption throughout the world, wherever music is written, must be a question only of time.

Levi Orses

GALVESTON, TEXAS, December, 1889.

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