

Music as a Developer.

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"When Music, heavenly maid, was young;  
While yet in early Greece she sung;"  
She, divine daughter of joy, was yet gar-  
mented in mystery - a being superna-  
tural - regarded with superstition and  
fear.

In many ways, this mystery of the  
past adds charm to the music of the  
present. More intensely interesting be-  
comes the study of its history, and  
more forcibly do we realize it as that  
factor in our development which is so  
rapidly assuming such an important  
place in curriculum of life. Out of the  
darkness of the past, has come this  
ray of sunshine - the most effectual  
factor in bringing forth the highest  
and noblest powers of mind and  
soul.

The history of music presents the  
parallel advance of musical training  
and civilization.

Hand in hand they've come together,  
Down the avenue of time,  
Blessing every step they've taken,  
With a growth we call divine.

Among the dead nations of the past, those without music lack much, if not all, of the true nobility of thought. Its influence in the past has ever been to arouse and stimulate the spirit of mankind,

God's gentle, noble inspiration,  
Inspiring men to grander things,  
Thus inspired, the development of the artistic senses has been accompanied with the desire and the ability to live nobler lives, and to leave a higher and purer plane of thinking and living for the generations yet to be.

Upon the condition of the body depends much of the happiness of the individual. Agents relieving the physical depressions are medicinal. Music is here fully efficient; producing a pleasing nervous sensation, quickening the pulse, and arousing the whole system into activity.

Health and music are by nature closely associated. A noted singer passed down the corridor of an American hospital. On either side, she saw wasted and pale forms, suffering

innumerable pains and as she was about to pass out she turned and poured forth her soul in song. Hope lit the faces of the suffering ones - a new joy had come to them to be their comforter for many weary days. King Phillip of Spain had passed beyond the hope of recovery, Unconsciousness had come. The end of a life was thought close at hand, when Marinelli, with his singers, came, and with their songs sang the dying ruler back to consciousness and health. "Give us a song our lonely hearts to cheer" comes alike from gilded palace and hovel home. The soldier murmurs it when lying on his cot of pain; the prisoner repeats it with his last breath; and from the asylum home it comes a "wailing cry." It was this that touched the soul of Howard Payne, sick, destitute, and shelterless and prompted this immortal thought,

"Be it every so humble  
There's no place like home,"

Would we have a sweet-pleasing voice  
Then we must school our vocal organs

to the rigid rules of musical training. If we would enjoy to the greatest extent this life of ours we must learn to assimilate music as the tree does its nourishment. Then we will have healthful thoughts and fewer cares; we will feel better, do better, act better, and be better. We will appreciate the statement that music is "a pleasure without vice" a medicine without a patent; the best gift of God, and the one common to heaven and earth.

Upon the feeling of man depend his individual desires, for good or bad. Influence the feelings of the individual, and you influence his will, his thoughts and ideas of life and living. "Music is a moral law," said Plato, "it gives a soul to the universe, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety to everything. It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate, and eternal form." Being such a potent factor in life, it may serve

two purposes in influencing the individual. First; its influence for bad emanating from a desire to be mean, revengeful, contemptible, deceptive, or immoral. It takes the form of the music of the beer garden, the gambling house, the play house, the saloon, and the dive. The influence for good comes from the music of the home, the theater, and the Church. Just before going upon the stage for the last time, that grand old musician Remenyi said, "I shall endeavor if necessary, to educate and elevate my auditors to the highest standard of musical art which it has ever been my ambition to attain, and I trust that I have not lost any of the power I have formerly possessed to accomplish that praiseworthy result. Thackeray recognized that nothing places one so completely in sympathy with truth as singing. He felt that to listen to the choir of charity children at St. Paul's was to be lifted as near to heaven as mortals ever attain in life. A deep, friendly fel-

ing is created between those whose hearts and voices are united in a joyful song. That which elevates the morals and refines the manners will do much toward bringing about that state of brotherly love which alone can insure a high state of civilization. Observation has established the fact that where there is an increase of musical societies and musical advantages, there is a decrease in crime. This has lead to the establishment in many of the large cities of club rooms for the benefit of the poorer classes, good music being one of the special features of amusement, and musical instruction being given to those who desire it.

Might not there be some practical way of placing musical conservatories and musical performances on the same footing as the free libraries and art galleries? Certainly it would result in incommensurable good for the poorer classes, making it possible for them to hear something beside the trashy or

"popular music" of the day.

In England in some of the most densely populated manufacturing districts there are choral societies, for the benefit of the laborers. The employers help to bear the expenses of first class musicians, so that the music may be of the best. There is less tendency among the inhabitants of these districts to frequent beershops and gambling dens, than is evidenced in districts not having these refining agencies. The employers are repaid by more excellent work, and the laborers are improved in intellect character, and manners. Our people are beginning to see the great need of this musical training in our own country, and are making an effort to have the want supplied.

Then life will throb in perfect time,  
In a joyous symphony.

Of richest thoughts and noble deed,  
Blended in perfect sympathy.

Whatever we take up as a study, we must determine its value in developing character and elevating the moral and



religious sentiments. In other words its value in fitting men and women for practical life. Many elements must enter into the life of everyone, and many influences brought to bear on these elements determine the life growth of the individual. Music contributes an element, and contributes potent influences in every life. It would be folly to give it credit for doing all, yet it has done and can do more than it will ever be given credit for having done. Its influence is not always one which may be seen on the surface, but more frequently it is deep and lasting.

Good music brings out the best in man. It makes him feel better. It gives him impulse to express the highest in his nature, by placing him on a plane of thought above and beyond the ordinary.

To be able to recognize what is beautiful and lovely, we must beauty and love in our hearts. In order to understand beauty in art, we must have a know-

ledge to some extent of art. Art, in nature and music the more divine art are inseparable. A knowledge of one will give you to some extent a knowledge of the other. But a knowledge of music is most to be desired of the two. Hence in the pursuit of your education make music a factor, even though it be limited. The result will give an untold pleasure through out the whole of life. We can not all be masters, but we can all fit ourselves to better enjoy the masters and master pieces.

All people can learn to sing. Teach the children while they are young, and they will grow up with a knowledge which will brighten every home into which it is brought.

Hear the happy children singing,  
When at work and when at play,  
All the world is full of gladness  
As they sing their merry lay.

Music must not be considered a mere pastime, but rather one of the greatest influences in our mental development. Its great pleasure-giving power

must not be allowed to over shadow the more potent factor, that of mental discipline. Punctuality, accuracy, and quickness of perception - the trine of a perfect mental state, the most powerful factors in the make up of every great and good man, reach, under its rigid schooling, the highest mark. It is certainly as one author has said, "a mental gymnastic."

No special gift - is required to understand music. It should be placed side by side with reading, spelling and arithmetic. Then the pupil will grow up with a knowledge which, whether he be a lawyer, mechanic or day laborer will enable him to get out of a great symphony or an oratorio more than he who merely listens. Such a man is made a better citizen by his knowledge of music. A good citizen is one who will try to develop his faculties to the highest extent and by so doing raise the moral and intellectual standing of society.

The course of the nineteenth century

has ever been toward higher, nobler, grander things. Alike in every art, science, and vocation has this been demonstrated. The old methods have been exchanged for new, and the result has been most gratifying. Old customs have been abandoned, that the younger might take their places. The age is one of change, affecting each and all. The field of music has left its narrow confines, and has assumed cosmopolitan proportions. Musical instruments are no longer a luxury, but go where you will, scarcely a home will be found which does not afford some source of musical amusement. The effeminate "hits" come and go, but the old tunes and songs are ever played and sung.

To fill the tired heart with joy,  
And drive away dull care.

Music has demonstrated its place in the curriculum of life. As an agency for good, it stands without a peer. It is at once a civilizing and cultivating

force, a thought-sharpener and intellect-moulder. Its wonderful future is foretold in the demand that it be taught in every public school, and by being taught, I mean taught in the most comprehensive manner. The future predicts this a nation of singers, hence a nation above and beyond others in civilization, love of home, and love of country.

The curtain slowly falls. The shadows gather. A century is nearing its close. In the symphony of time, the medley of years, the dirge of the nineteenth century's dying hour, will be mingled in the grandeur and glory of the dying century, with "God's incomprehensible sublimity" of the new. With God's grandest mission to fulfill, music do thou with thy songs of love, soften the heart of man, and on thy gray wings bear him onward and upward to thoughts divine, until he knows and feels himself in harmony with nature and with God.