An Introduction to the Study of National Music: Comprising Researches Into Popular Songs, Traditions, and Customs

Reviews

This is actually the finest pdf i have got study right up until now. It can be full of wisdom and knowledge Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

(Reese Morissette II)
In this interesting volume Herr Carl Engel, to whom the public was already indebted for a treatise on the Music of the Most Ancient Nations, has given us some preliminary results of an industrious and intelligent search into the subject of national music. Much curious and significant detail has been gathered together in the volume, of the detailed contents of which it is impossible to give an adequate notion in the compass of a short notice; the conclusions which this detail points to are perhaps even still more interesting. It comes out, for instance, unmistakably, though we cannot say it is brought out clearly (Herr Engel’s power of generalisation being somewhat small), that scales, the bare material of music, are almost infinitely various, and therefore entirely arbitrary. Tonalities of which the degrees proceed by halves of what we call tones, are in common use in many of the less known countries; some savage nations sing in successions of quarter tones; in other countries, again, pitch moves by intervals equal to about one-third of the European whole-tone. The result of Herr Engel’s book is, in fact, to prove the existence of a number of totally differing musical languages, each intelligible and beautiful to those with whom it is indigenous, and each unmeaning, if not repulsive, to those whose ears have been accustomed to a different one. To an Arab musician, a pianoforte tuned to the European musical scale is very much out of tune, and jumps; the Chinese can find no soul in European music, and the European reciprocates the feeling in both cases. An Englishman who, after months of patient practice, has learned to intone what...
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