

PIANO MUSIC AND MUSICAL TASTE (2001)

Various Contributors

People say that what you like in music is a matter of taste. Rather it is a matter of education and personality which includes intelligence, ability and musical development.

Dan is a very strong willed man, very masculine, clever and kind. As an example , he adores the piano concertos of Liszt because they are akin to his personality being strong and yet they are passionate at times, but they do not wallow.

On the other hand , he dislikes intensely the concertos of Chopin because they are lacking in strength, masculinity and have no artistic cleverness or originality. His orchestration is often abysmal.

It has also been discovered that a majority of homosexual men like the piano music of Chopin because it is said to be effeminate. Effeminate music is feminine and untypical of man. It certainly is not strong and masculine . It is shallow music liked by shallow people. Shallow people depend on their emotions and not their personality, as defined above. They make shallow pronouncements such as Music is not music if it does not have tunes ! This absurdity has been likened to beauty products . Such products do not make someone beautiful but creates both a falsehood and a mask.

People like Dan can enjoy quality music because of his personality and development and so he also listens to complex music for its strength and originality.

Music that is predictable is probably not good music as it has no originality and is restricted. A waltz is an example ONE two three, ONE two three ad infinitum. The same may be said about all dance forms.

Composers must be original not just a copycat. Composers that are not original are poor composers and the list of such composers include Schubert, Debussy, Joseph Holbrooke and Cyril Scott. Some composers who are claimed to be great, such as Elgar are not great at all, and his orchestration is thick and turgid and he could not write an allegro yet the BBC broadcast wall to wall Elgar. Scriabin stole ideas from Rebikov and claimed them as his own and the big tune in the final of Scriabin's Piano Concerto was written by Rimsky Korsakov.

People become irritated by these observations because they are true . Of course ,they have a right to like music of their choice but many assert that what they like is great and a touchstone for all.

Wilfrid Mellers said that The Beatles were as good as Bach. That tells us not about musical taste but his personality. I have heard people say that Elton John is a brilliant pianist. Horowitz was, but could Elton John play the great works that Horowitz could and did ?

Understandably, young people like pop music because it has handsome men and sexy girls who often show their knickers. This industry is full of sex, drugs and a lack of morals. We have found that when they were introduced to 'classical' music many were changed because of the education it provided , and, strangely, these converts became less immoral.

(511)