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Listening While I Work (21)

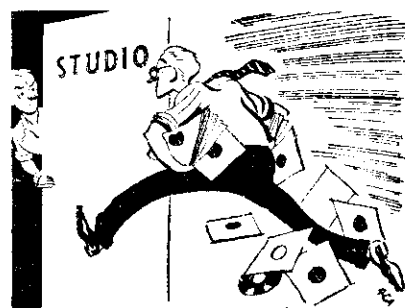
By "Matertamias"

LAST week I had a nightmare. I dreamt I was in an examination room. Before me was a paper. I can't remember all the questions, but some of them ran like this:

1. Distinguish between: (a) Breakfast Music; Lunch Music; Dinner Music; and After Dinner Music.
(b) Music While You Work; Music, Mirth, and Melody; Melody and Rhythm.
(c) Classical Hour; For the Music Lover.

2. Explain why music that cannot be announced in advance cannot be announced in advance.

3. Explain why some of the greatest works of Bach and Beethoven are not considered to be music for the music-lover.



"Music that cannot be announced in advance"

Then, just as I was about to be dragged down among the baritones and basses, I woke up.

* * *

PROGRAMME terminology can be roughly classified into about half-a-dozen groups. There are, of course, these titles that tell you what to expect in a general sort of way. For instance, we know that Morning Star means a single artist—though it may be Frank Sinatra or Yehudi Menuhin or Elizabeth Schumann. We know that the Classical Hour means music that we would not hear in dance halls or musical comedies, though it may be quite modern music. (What is an exact definition of "classical"? Serious?) We know that a Beethoven Hour will, as a general rule, mean 40 minutes or so of Beethoven. Music While You Work means a miscellany of recordings a little lighter and a little more "popular" or jazzy than say, breakfast music. Then there are those titles with an appeal to the would-be intellectually superior: For the Music Lover, For the Connoisseur. There is also the sentimental appeal. What man or woman of 70 or over could resist *These We have Loved*? But who are we, anyhow? Is it you or me or Mr. Brown, the NBS or the American War Department?

* * *

"**HISTORY** is pretty useful," a small boy said to me not long ago. "You can win big prizes at the *History And All That Quizz*." But history as a money-maker has been shelved for a time in favour of **NEWS**. You don't need more than your daily half-hour with the paper and a moderate memory to come away from 22B with the price of an evening with your girl at the pic-

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