

# MUSIC AND WAR WORK

## Results Of Three-Year Investigation

ON June 23, 1940, the "Music While You Work" programme was introduced by the BBC, and Wynford Reynolds began to take notes of its effects. The result of his investigations appears in a pamphlet recently issued by the BBC: *Music While You Work: a Summary of Research on Music in Industry*. We reprint what he calls "certain basic conclusions."

He says:

1. The music should be familiar to the ordinary worker. Singing, humming, or whistling is a sure sign that the music is having its proper tonic effect. Music can be easily overdone, however, and he recommends two and a-half hours daily as the limit. The best time to give music is either at the beginning of the day's work, as an antidote to bad weather conditions or nervous strain, or at the end of a particularly tiring day.

2. The melody should be clear and well defined. The workers want to hear a tune that rides over factory noises. They, incidentally, are much better at hearing it than anyone not used to that particular factory.

3. The tone level or volume should be constant, and there should be no variations in audibility between one part of a tune or programme and another.

4. The tempo or rhythm should create a bright and cheerful atmosphere. Extremes of fastness or slowness should be avoided. Most important, rhythm and tempo should not be thought of in terms of "working speeds." They should be considered as a means of creating a spirit of cheerfulness and gaiety in workers in industrial processes.



5. Paragraph No. 4 does not apply at all either to office and executive staff for whom music is in itself unsuitable, nor to highly skilled workmen on individual tasks.

6. The music is best suited for workers who are employed on repetition or other monotonous work (especially female labour). For them, certain types of music are definitely undesirable. The tone of an organ is unsuitable for amplification in factories. "Hot" music is unsuitable and so is "jazzing" of any melody. The rhythm should be clear, but unobtrusive, and any lack of a "melodic line" involving harmony or complex rhythm tends to create confusion of sound.

7. Loud-speakers should be small and well-placed about the factory, rather than large, and only one or two to a shop.

### Most Popular Music

The following types of music are the most popular, in this order:

1. Dance bands. Novelty bands—accordion, mandolin, banjo, etc.

2. Theatre orchestras—the revue or music hall type of orchestra, combining certain dance band features with those of a light orchestra.

3. Military and brass bands. Light orchestras—the "straight" type of orchestra playing selections from light opera and musical comedy, Viennese waltzes, intermezzi, etc.

Figures show that when the foregoing principles are followed, production is increased by between 12½-15 per cent. for an hour or an hour and a-half after the programme.

## Church Doors As Notice Boards

OF obsolete laws that serve as reminders of customs in an older world, one that still remains in force in New Zealand is that which requires jury notices to be fixed on church doors. A meeting of J.P.'s in Nelson recently decided to ask the Minister of Justice to have the law amended, and T. E. Maunsell, S.M., who is Chancellor of the Diocese in Nelson, said that the proper place for such notices was the post office, and there was no need to disfigure church doors any longer.

The Listener inquired into the history of this law, and found that the actual wording of it dates back to 1730 when the statute (3 Georgii II., Chap. 25) said that the list of full names of persons liable and qualified to serve on juries "yearly and every year, twenty days at least before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, upon two or more Sundays" was to be fixed "upon the door of the Church, Chapel, and every other public place of religious worship" (within the jury district).

In 1841 the English law required that the list should be published in one paper

in the county as well, but in 1861 the clause relating to newspapers was struck out.

In 1868, New Zealand adopted most of the English statute of 1825 with this difference, that the notice had to be placed "upon or near the principal outer door."

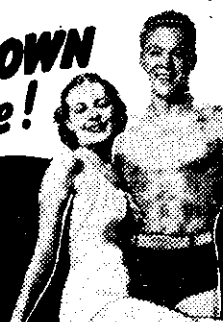
England abolished jury lists in 1922 and substituted a system of marks to be placed alongside the names in the electors' roll of people who might have to serve as jurors.

The old practice originated at a time when the church porch was the regular meeting-place of the people, and when, according to an Anglican clergyman whom we asked, church porches were built especially big to accommodate the people who would stand around after the service to exchange their news. Church doors have often been used for other notices—every schoolboy knows about Martin Luther, for instance—and this person remembered having a rating notice on the door of his own church in recent years.

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