

self is. This statement, however, is too sweeping; it might be challenged. Perhaps there have been great musicians who in the eyes of the world have offended against moral principles; if so, how can their music be fit to be listened to? The answer it seems to me lies in the fact that the music was the out-pouring of the best there was in the man and because he may have acted contrary to our ideas of right and wrong need be no indication that he was immoral. There are exceptions then, but on the whole I should say that our great musicians, those who have found the harmony which God put into the world, have been religious men, they must necessarily have been so; and, hence, too, they must have been moral. Certainly this is true in regard to our five greatest composers, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. To Bach religion was a cult and he devoted the greater part of his life to the enrichment of the music of his church; Handel though perhaps not religious in the strictest sense of the word, was a man of honor, integrity, and blameless morals; Haydn lived in simple faith and dedicated all of his compositions to God; Mozart was deeply religious; and Beethoven, in spite of the fact that he was once accused of atheism, lived a pure life, hating wrong as much as he exalted moral virtue. Thus we might go on through the list of those musicians whose works have lived, and find at least a large majority true to the higher life. With such transmitters as these have been we are justified in assuming that the effect of music upon the moral nature cannot but be good.

It may be well to mention here that there is a large class of people, at whose head is Tolstoi, who believe that the influence of music is decidedly bad. This is no recent idea for long ago the myth of the sirens originated probably from early conceptions of the moral effect of music. Concerning this myth Emil Maumann says, "for, as Homer elsewhere suggests, noble and manly music invigorates the spirit, strengthens wavering man, and incites to great and worthy deeds, whereas false and sensuous music excites and confuses, robs man of his self-control, till his passion overcomes him