

## PREFACE

articles are devoted to great national schools such as the Madrid and St. Petersburg Conservatories.

In many matters the author has been compelled to compare, weigh, and analyze all opinions entitled to respect. Wherever he regards a fact as definitely settled he states it without discussion, but where it is impossible to reconcile divergent views he has presented both sides of the question. He has treated every subject in the light of the latest research, presenting material about many subjects not heretofore treated in an encyclopædia of music. It is hoped, therefore, that the work is thoroughly up to date for all purposes.

In order to include hundreds of new subjects while giving adequate treatment to the usual topics, it has been necessary to adopt some method of condensation. Abbreviations have been employed and such useless verbiage as "the time and place of his death are a matter of dispute" has been eliminated. In biographical accounts the name of the person is invariably followed by an active verb leading into that person's achievements. If the dates or other facts are unknown, they are omitted without comment.

This book was written to meet the necessities of students and lovers of music, but it is hoped that professional musicians may find it helpful by reason of its simplicity, compactness, and thorough system of cross-referencing.

Although no work of this kind can be wholly free from error, it is hoped that the efforts that have been made to insure accuracy of statement have been successful. The publishers will welcome the coöperation of all who detect errors, and will be most grateful for corrections or addenda that will make this cyclopædia more accurate and complete.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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