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Introduction and Acknowledgements

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Etude Magazine was published by Theodore Presser Company between 1883 and 1957. It was a staple for music teachers throughout the country, providing articles related to music history, new developments in music, and practical teaching techniques, as well as musical scores from the classics and new pieces for beginning to advanced students. Begun as an aid for piano teachers, the magazine grew to include information and literature for vocal and instrumental enthusiasts as well. Not only is the series important to the musician, but it provides an insight into the culture itself, including the impact of the development of the car, radio, and television, and expands to world music and the influence of world wars on that culture.

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Dr. Dennis first used the articles and music while researching her dissertation, “Music of Jackson, Tennessee: 1875-1917” (University of Memphis, 2000), at which time she discovered that no index existed. During her subsequent library science education (Master of Library Science, Southern Connecticut University, 2002), she began experimenting with an index and collected copies of the Etude.

This invaluable tool has been used by researchers in the past but has only recently been indexed to provide better accessibility. Dr. Dennis’s An Index to Articles Published in The Etude Magazine, 1883-1957 (A-R Editions, 2011) and Dr. Douglas E. Bomberger’s An Index to Music Published in The Etude Magazine: 1883-1957 (Scarecrow Press, 2004) provide chronological, author, title, and subject listings. Other information about the Etude can be found in Travis Suttle Rivers’s “The Etude Magazine: Mirror of the Genteel Tradition in American Music” (Ph.D. diss., University of Iowa, 1974), and in Dr. Dennis’s article, “An Index to Articles Published in the Etude Magazine, 1883-1957: A New Musicological Resource” (Music Reference Services Quarterly 15:3 [2012]: 180-192).

With the scarcity of Etude issues and the loss of the original microfilmed copies through fire, accessibility has been limited. It is hoped that the scanned images will provide researchers with a much-needed resource through interviews and first-hand accounts that will be of benefit. No financial compensation has been received for this donation to the musicological field. Technology is subject to its own problems and care was taken to create as useful quality as possible. Apologies are offered in advance for all inconsistencies in scanning quality, missing or torn pages, and OCR searchability. These issues belonged to real people who used the resource for teaching and for their own edification, so they show the wear and tear of use.
Thanks go to many who made this venture possible. I thank Maria Jane Loizou of the New England Conservatory of Music for her encouragement as I took on the indexing project, which led to the collection and scanning of these materials. I thank Elissa Stroman for scanning the earlier issues while a student at Texas Tech University. Those scans have since been turned into searchable .pdfs. I thank the University of Memphis for encouraging professional development time each week, and Dr. Francisco Lara for his help with editing .pdfs. I also thank libraries that donated their worn copies to me and to all those on eBay, Alibris, and AbeBooks who sold their copies for a fraction of what they will be worth to researchers. A special thanks goes to Jay L. Berger, Manager, Licensing & Copyright, Carl Fischer Music/Theodore Presser Company, for checking copyright permission to allow this material to be available to the public. And, I am particularly grateful to Holly Mabry, Digital Services Librarian at Gardner-Webb University, for meticulously uploading the scans and adding the metadata. Finally, I thank all the editors, writers, composers, and users of the Etude who made this magazine such a success during its 75-year history.

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