MUSIC THAT HANGS TO MERE RHYTHM

But Londoners "Accommodated Themselves" to New Form of Ballet Art.

From the London Times.

We are either surprisingly quick or else surprisingly careless in accommodating ourselves to new forms of art. London audiences have settled down calmly to a new development of the ballet after a comparatively short ac-

experiment in another direction, and not an entirely successful one. The two preludes are a mistake. The first one was probably considered necessary to secure an atmosphere before the rising of the curtain, and the second was doubtless inserted to stifle conversation; but neither achieves its object, and the second, at any rate, is near dullness with no movement or color on the stage to help it out.

Taking the music harmoniously as a whole, it is evidently more intentionally bizarre than sincere. As long as the 12-note scale is in general use the continual employment of keys a semi-tone apart is not likely to become acceptable. Busoni has shown that the major and minor of the same key can be used simultaneously, presenting two aspects, a kind of stereoscope view of the same thing; and our ears are becoming accustomed to regard all the keys, both major and minor, not as distinct points to be reached by modulation, but as twenty-four transpositions of one scale.

But until we learn to accept an interval smaller than the semi-tone as our unit there are certain clashes that will probably never please even the most catholic ear. Realizing to the full the vital importance of rhythm in this case, M. Stravinsky has let the actual sound of his music look after itself.

Le Sacre du Printemps is at best an experiment in another direction, and not an entirely successful one. The two preludes are a mistake. The first one was probably considered necessary to secure an atmosphere before the rising of the curtain, and the second was doubtless inserted to stifle conversation; but neither achieves its object, and the second, at any rate, is near dullness with no movement or color on the stage to help it out.

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