

Music Past and Present: An Epilogue

The output of international music scholarship has reached staggering proportions. To find one's way through this ever-thickening forest on even a single topic becomes a steadily more disconcerting venture. We are inevitably moving toward greater reliance on the computer, for there is no question that the machines can perform in a few minutes some of the most laborious operations, such as the compilation of concordances or bibliographies, that otherwise can require months of drudgery. However, we must still master the traditional way of finding facts and attempting their interpretation by hand and brains; pen and paper are not in danger of being altogether replaced by punchcards. In the making of *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart* (MGG), a thousand brains and pens have been engaged, and one cannot but be consumed with admiration for all the industry, the burrowing investigation, the tenacity, the leaving of no stone unturned, that characterize this giant undertaking.

Much of the contents of an encyclopedia of music must needs be straight, workable musicological reportage, but this one contains many sizable essays