

Article: **New Music for an Old World:**

Dr. Thaddeus Cahill's Dynamophone, an Extraordinary Electrical Invention for Producing Scientifically Perfect Music (Baker, Ray Stannard): 291-301

McClure's Magazine, July 1906, pp. 291-301

Electronic Music Inquiry Unit

Source: <https://modjournal.org/issue/bdr538457/#>

The Modernist Journals Project (searchable database). Brown and Tulsa Universities, ongoing. www.modjournal.org (Public Domain in the United States)



The article was written in 1906 and highlights the unique and extraordinary aspects of the Dynamophone (also called the Telharmonium) from the authors perspective. Numerous photos are included, from what the inside of a Dynamophone looks like, including samples of inductors and the wires, to images of Dr. Cahill himself.

The article highlights the following themes:

*Largest Musical Instrument Ever Built
Invention May Work Revolutionary Changes
Democracy of Music
How the new Music is Produced
A Hundred Instruments in One
How the Invention was Made
What is a Perfect Musical Instrument?
Story of Dr. Cahill's Unusual Career
Lord Kelvin Encourages the Inventor*

*How Does the New Machine Produce Music?
Helmholtz and His Tuning Forks
Electricity Used to Produce Music
The Grooming of an Electrical Current
How the Music is Telephoned
Learning to Play the Dynamophone
Effect of the New Music on Musical Art
We Shall Keep the Old with the New*

"We can not really herald the complete dominance of democracy until we have good music, great pictures, and the best books at the command of every citizen. ... Free libraries have placed the best and rarest books at the command of any man who wishes them. But music, by its nature ephemeral and costly of production, has not so easily submitted itself to such democracy of enjoyment."