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How to Make Music Studios Attractive.

From BERNARD BOEKELMAN.

“Situated in the rear of the house, away from the noise and din of the streets is to me at once a retreat and a haven from the outer world. As it is at home, I have been enabled to surround myself with home comforts.

“The principal room, which is 20 by 14, has two large windows opening into a glass conservatory, and two folding doors directly opposite, separate the studio from the waiting-room. There are no heavy portieres, only light curtains before the windows, as I maintain that all draperies destroy the sound-waves. A large Persian rug covers the center of the room with smaller ones dispersed here and there. The paintings are few; mostly those of our great composers.

“Two pianos (Steinway grands) separated by an antique closet, occupy the entire right side of the room. They are placed so that the narrow part of each instrument fits into the corner, thereby allowing them slightly to incline toward each other. I have found this an admirable position, and especially suited for ensemble playing.

“Directly opposite is a Persian fireplace, with Persian hand-carved book-shelves on either side. Thus I am surrounded by my books, which are invaluable friends in my work and during my time of recreation. Being very fond of all fine pottery and Japanese and Chinese bric-a-brac, I have gathered together quite a little collection, which is dispersed about the room. In this way I have tried to make of my studio both a pleasant workroom and a useful library. A man much given to mental work, should have a subdued, artistic surrounding, and no loud colors.

“My writing-desk is placed in the embrasure of one of the windows; a large table littered with letters, books, writing materials, study lamp, etc.; two closets for music; busts of [Bach](#) and [Beethoven](#); some chairs finish up the furnishing of the studio. Before each piano is a stool—which I prefer.

“The room, if used with the one in front, is quite large enough for private musicales, as I have found by experience. If possible, I certainly should prefer to have my studio at home instead of in an office-building. Artistic home surroundings act beneficially on an esthetic mind, and it is a teacher’s duty to remember that, both for his pupils and for himself.”