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America's Discovery of the Arts After the Industrial Revolution: The Evolution of the Middle Class Through Music

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Research & Scholarship SYMPOSIUM

America's Discovery of the Arts After the Industrial Revolution: The Evolution of the Middle Class Through Music

Music in nineteenth century America was greatly influenced by the Industrial Revolution and brought about changes in society through the development of concert life, the introduction of the piano in the home, and the new role women were given in music. This paper seeks to address how the middle class in America drastically changed from exposure to music. This exposure occurred through the formation of the classical concert in Europe that spread to America and promoted an awareness for the arts. It also caused more families to incorporate music into their daily lives through the growing affordability and popularity of the piano. This acceptance of the piano caused many women to gain employment and an independence that prior to this time had not been seen. Overall, it can be seen that American life today was shaped by the heavy emphasis of music throughout the nineteenth century.