

# IX INTEREST IN THE ARTS

In Chapter IX of "How to Live on Twenty-Four Hours a Day," titled "Interest in the Arts," the author challenges the common belief that evening leisure must default to idleness or literature. The chapter opens by addressing a misconception: many choose idleness over engaging with literature due to a lack of interest, overlooking the vast array of non-literary subjects that books can offer insights on, such as bridge or boat-sailing. The text distinguishes between literary studies and other educational pursuits, emphasizing that a lack of affinity for literature does not indicate intellectual weakness or limit one's potential for personal development.

The discussion shifts to the realm of music, specifically pointing out the societal pressure to appreciate literature over other forms of art. The author argues this preference is unwarranted, highlighting the depth of knowledge and enjoyment one can gain from music. For example, he uses the Promenade Concerts as a case where many attend, enjoy, and discuss complex pieces like Beethoven's C minor symphony without understanding the intricacies of the music or being able to play an instrument themselves.

The author strongly suggests that simply enjoying music is the starting point for a deeper exploration of the art. He encourages readers to educate themselves about the structure of an orchestra and the distinct sounds of its instruments, using "How to Listen to Music" by Mr. Krehbiel as a recommended resource. This kind of learning would not only enrich the concert-going experience but also lay the groundwork for a more profound, systematic knowledge of music. Through the example of attending concerts and dedicating a few evenings a week to study, the author illustrates how one can transform a passive interest into an active and rewarding pursuit.

By advocating for a more deliberate and informed engagement with music, the author aims to inspire readers to utilize their leisure time more effectively. Rather than

surrendering to idleness or engaging with art superficially, he presents an argument for investing time to cultivate a genuine appreciation and understanding of music, thereby enriching one's cultural and intellectual life.

