Fake Music Re-Anticipations
No one — Complete Recordings of the Zzxjoanw
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In 1903, novelist, film director, and anti-communist Robert Hughes published *The Musical Encyclopedia*, a broad survey of the pronunciation and definition of terms from classical music. Throughout editions printed between 1903 and 1954, the encyclopedia’s ultimate term is “Zzxjoanw.”

Purportedly a Maori word, zzxjoanw means, according to the 1903 edition, alternately a “drum,” “fife,” or “conclusion.” In any case, zzxjoanw conjures a sound, even if a receding sound.

However, the instrument or movement’s sound remains yet unheard (apart from the pronunciation of the word itself; given as “shaw”), as there is no such word in Maori language. And there will be no such word: the Maori language contains no Z, X, or J, and all syllables must end in a vowel.

It’s unclear whether the word’s original inclusion was by hoax or misattribution but it nonetheless persisted until challenged in the 1970s, and persists well enough today to not flag a spelling error in Google Docs, where we presently type this entry.

Hughes’ authorship of the word though does not encompass the unknown authors of compositions for the zzxjoanw. Though these authors — and by extension, their music — never in fact existed, their acknowledgement did, and does still, to the extent that Hughes’ book still circulates.

Today, with the word’s faulty fabrication fully out in the light, we are unable from all angles to authorize the release of the music not produced on the zzxjoanw.

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