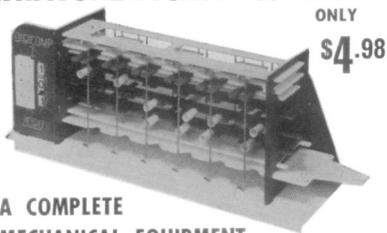


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## GENERAL SCIENCE

## Scientists Play Music

► **MANY ENGINEERS** and scientists have interest and abilities in music. While working hours are spent in classrooms or laboratories, spare time is often devoted to pounding pianos, tooting trumpets and general music-making pursuits.

Correlation between musical activities and scientific studies was recently investigated in a survey conducted by the American Music Conference in Chicago. More than 100 deans of the nation's college engineering departments and presidents of technical schools were queried on the place of instrumental music in their own and their families' lives, and concerning the academic and aesthetic benefits derived from playing musical instruments.

The majority of those replying stated they played musical instruments. Brass, woodwinds and pianos claimed the attention of most of the science educators, while some reported proficiency on several instruments. More than two-thirds of the scientists' families were musically inclined, according to survey results.

In every instance except one, where the father played a musical instrument, members of his family did also. Even among those scientists who did not play musical instruments, two-thirds had families where some members participated in music-making.

Science educators and their families were

interested in local community music groups, judging by their membership in a wide assortment of organizations. University orchestras and bands, suburban bands, a madrigal group, church and civic bands were all part of extra-curricular activities for these busy scientists.

Certain mental qualities seemed to be stimulated by the study and playing of music, according to replies. Listed were the very qualities many scientists feel necessary for studying other subjects: concentration, mental discipline, perseverance and creative thinking. Improved hand-and-eye coordination, teamwork and cooperation were additional benefits.

"Music-making is an outlet, a relief from usual pursuits," one science educator reported. Others said it "gives satisfaction that comes from creativity," and promotes "general cultural appreciation."

"Music-making stimulates thinking in other areas," was another comment. "Some students say that it is the finest relaxing therapy, and that they return to their science studies with greater vigor and a clearer mind."

Some of the most brilliant scientists the world has known have also been fine musicians, like Albert Einstein.

• Science News Letter, 85:254 April 18, 1964

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## Spread of Research Money

► **AREAS OF THE COUNTRY** that are getting more than their share of Federal research money will be the focus of a new set of hearings planned by the House.

The hearings, to start May 6, are being called by a Science subcommittee headed by Rep. Emilio Q. Daddario (D-Conn.). Since last August, the group has been studying problems of Government research.

Reporting to the full committee, Rep. Daddario said his group has concluded that "a great deal needs to be done" by both the

Government and the scientific community to improve the way the money is spent.

He urged that the new hearings also concentrate on where the line should be drawn on supporting "indirect costs" for basic research.

Some of the nation's most prominent scientists showed up for the subcommittee's first round of hearings, which included a special two-day seminar, last October and November.

So far, the subcommittee has issued two reports. One dealt with the subcommittee's purpose and described a number of social issues emerging from increased technology. The second reviewed trends in Federal spending on scientific projects and research from World War II to the present.

A third report, dealing with how Congress can become better informed on scientific matters, is being prepared.

The subcommittee also has arranged for the National Science Foundation to conduct a study on science education in the United States and report its findings to the committee.

To help Congress decide whether to support big new applied research and development projects, the full committee has appointed a Research Management Advisory Panel.

• Science News Letter, 85:254 April 18, 1964

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