

## **ANCIENT EASTERN MUSIC**

Sir—In reference to the article in *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH* on July 30th concerning my recent researches into the ancient music of the Coptic Church, there are one or two matters that need further explanation.

The question of the possible harmonisation of Eastern music is a large one, and we need to tread with caution. But it really resolves itself in the present instance into a very simple fact that was emphasised some years ago when Mr. Haig Gudenian brought Oriental music to Queen's Hall.

The Eastern idiom in music is mostly quite unsuitable for harmonisation, but there are melodies that form notable exceptions. Some of them are given in my pamphlet "The Ancient Music of the Coptic Church," which is a reprint of a lecture given at the University Church, Oxford.

In these instances harmonisation is not only possible, but desirable, and I find that the themes work up into very beautiful and effective tone-poems, which I hope shortly to publish for violin and piano.—Yours,  
&c., **ERNEST NEWLAND SMITH.**

London, W., Aug. 20.

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