

Music in a Box 聆听八音盒的悦耳乐章

Nowadays, it's easy to hear music wherever you go. All you have to do is **turn on** your MP3 player or the nearest radio. But what did people who lived hundreds of years ago do if they wanted to listen to music? Was the world back then full of silence? Thanks to an **ingenious** invention known as the [music box](#), people have been able to listen to music whenever they wanted for nearly two hundred years.

今日，无论走到哪里，人们很容易就可以听到音乐。你只需打开你的 MP3 播放器或是就近的收音机。但是，生活在几百年前的人如果想听听音乐的话，他们会怎么做呢？难道当时的世界一片寂静吗？近二百年来，幸亏一个称之为八音盒的巧妙发明，让人随时想听音乐，就能听音乐。

A music box can **defined** as a case containing an apparatus for producing music **mechanically**. In other words, it's a box that can play music without needing **electricity**. Music boxes, however, did not gain mass **appeal** until the 19th century, when Switzerland became the **dominant** manufacturer. During this period, music boxes started **popping up** everywhere. They were even placed in public areas. Thanks to **interchangeable** discs, some of the more **advanced** models could play a **plethora** of different songs. These discs could be considered the world's first CDs. Today, most music boxes are made by Japanese and Chinese companies, with one Swiss company, [Reuge](#), still maintaining a strong present in the industry.

八音盒可以被定义为一种包含特殊装置、以机械原理来产生音乐的盒子。换言之，八音盒是一种无需电力就可播放音乐的盒子。然而，直到 19 世纪，瑞士成为主要的制造商时，八音盒才获得大众的青睐。在此期间，八音盒开始像雨后春笋般地出现，它们甚至被摆放在公共场所。多亏有可替换盘片的功能，一些较为先进的八音盒可以播放多到不行的曲目。这些盘片被认为可能是世界上最早的 CD。现今，大多数八音盒是由日本和中国公司所制造，但是一家瑞士公司 Reuge，仍然在这个产业中占有重要地位。

The **popularity** of music boxes has **declined** rapidly in the modern era, but that doesn't mean they should be forgotten. Because they have been made for such a long time, music boxes represent hundreds of years of human **civilization** and history. So **wind one up** and listen to music the way people used to enjoy it in **days gone by**.

现今，八音盒的人气迅速下降，但这并不意味它们应该被遗忘。因八音盒已经存在这么长的时间，它们代表人类数百年的文明和历史。因此，上紧八音盒的发条，用从前人们聆听音乐的方式来听听音乐吧！

— by Baxley Aldworth

Vocabulary

ingenious [ɪn ˈdʒɪnjəs] adj. 心灵手巧的; 制作精巧的

define [dɪ ˈfaɪn] v. 下定义

mechanically [mɪ ˈkæniːkəli] adv. 机械方面地

electricity [ˌɪləkˈtrɪsəti] n. 电力

appeal [əˈpiːl] n. 吸引力

dominant [ˈdɒmənənt] adj. 占优势的, 支配的

interchangeable [ˌɪntəˈtʃeɪʒəbəl] adj. 可交换的

advanced [ədˈvænst] adj. 先进的; 高级的

plethora [ˈplɛθərə] n. 过多

Idiom

turn on: 打开 to cause to begin the operation

pop up: 出现, 发生(尤指出乎意料) appear suddenly or unexpectedly

wind up: 上紧发条 to tighten the spring of (a clockwork mechanism)

go by: (指时间)过去, 消逝 to elapse; pass