

ACOUSTICS2008/72
Noise induced hearing loss amongst classical music students - An audiometry study of students of the Royal Academy of Music

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Under the new UK guidance for Control of Noise at Work, entertainment noise now has to be considered for all employees. Health surveillance has been undertaken as part of the induction for all 1st year students studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, as of September 2007. Seminars were arranged and details of the audiometric tests given prior to the health surveillance, so that only valid data was collected. A total of 350 students were asked to fill out questionnaires on their particular habits. Analysis of the audiograms showed double the incidence of health surveillance warning levels of hearing loss amongst men compared to women, although both had significantly better hearing than general population for their age. When early signs of noise induced hearing loss were considered, a loss of more than 20 dB at any high frequency, was indicated for more than half of the brass musicians.