

# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 064 -- HIS MASTER'S MUSIC (THE GRAMOPHONE) -- FEBRUARY, 2022

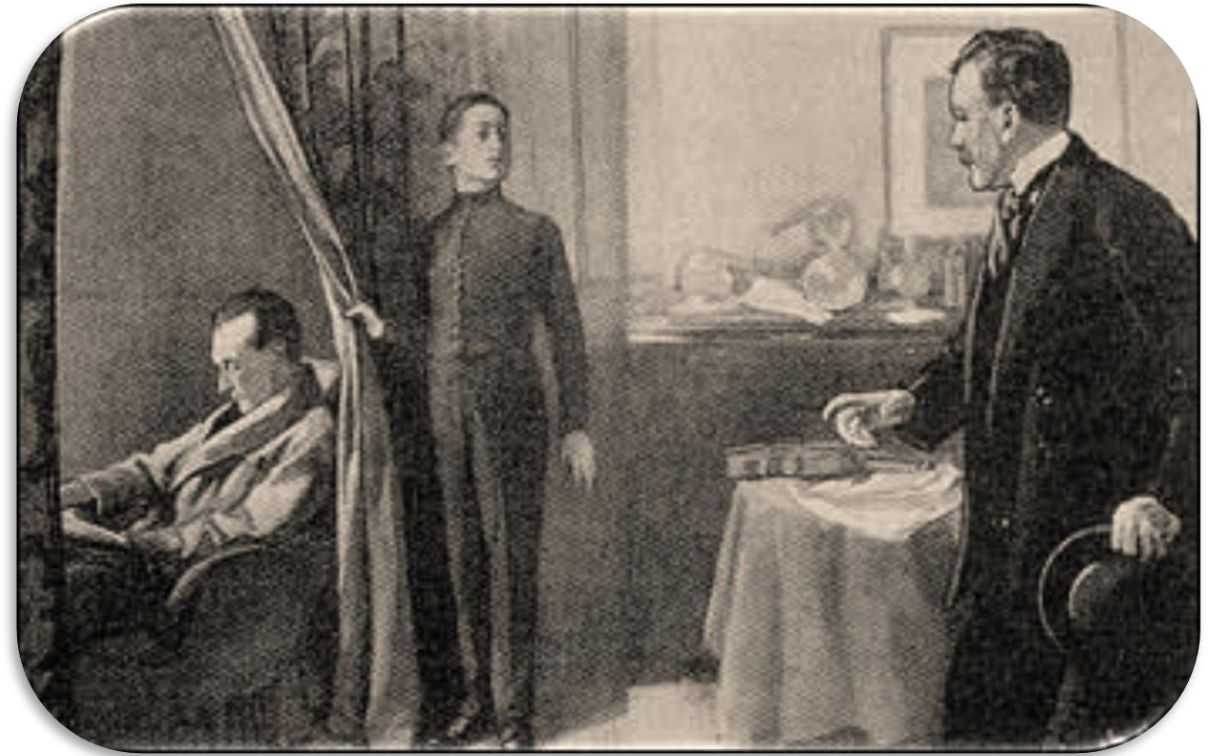


WELCOME TO TOPIC # 064... HOLMES AND I WILL  
BE DISCUSSING THE MASTER'S MUSIC, PRIMARILY  
THE GRAMOPHONE...





**IN THE 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE MAZARIN  
STONE,' HOLMES MADE NOVEL USE OF HIS  
MUSICAL TALENTS.**



*IN ORDER TO EAVESDROP ON A DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO THIEVES, SHERLOCK LEFT THEM ALONE IN HIS FLAT'S LIVING ROOM WHILE HE PLAYED HIS VIOLIN IN AN ADJACENT ROOM.*



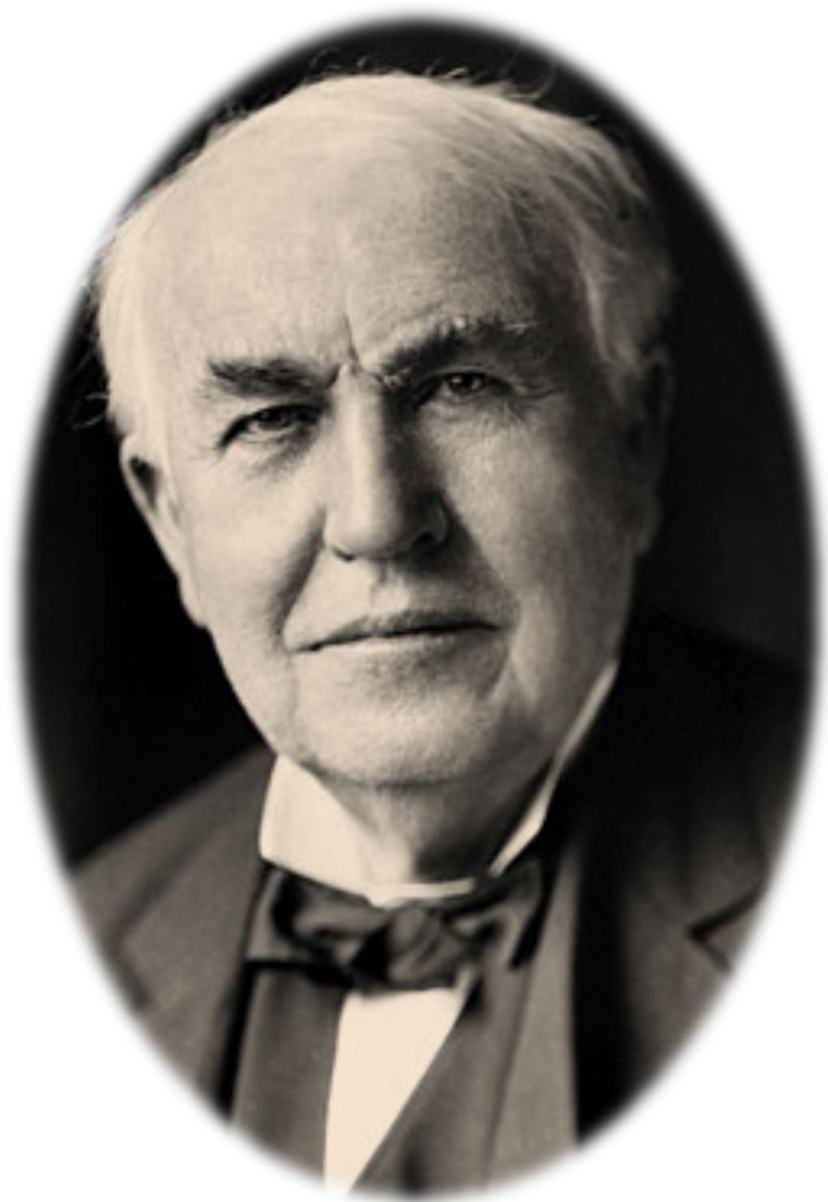
*IN TRUTH, THE MUSIC CAME FROM A GRAMOPHONE  
RECORDING, ALLOWING HIM TO SLIP BACK INTO  
THE ROOM AND LISTEN AS THE TWO ARGUED.*





**PRESUMABLY SET IN 1903, THE STORY USES THE RECORDING DEVICE THAT HAD ONLY BEEN ON THE MARKET FOR NINE YEARS — 1894 BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE TRUE BEGINNING OF THE RECORD INDUSTRY.**



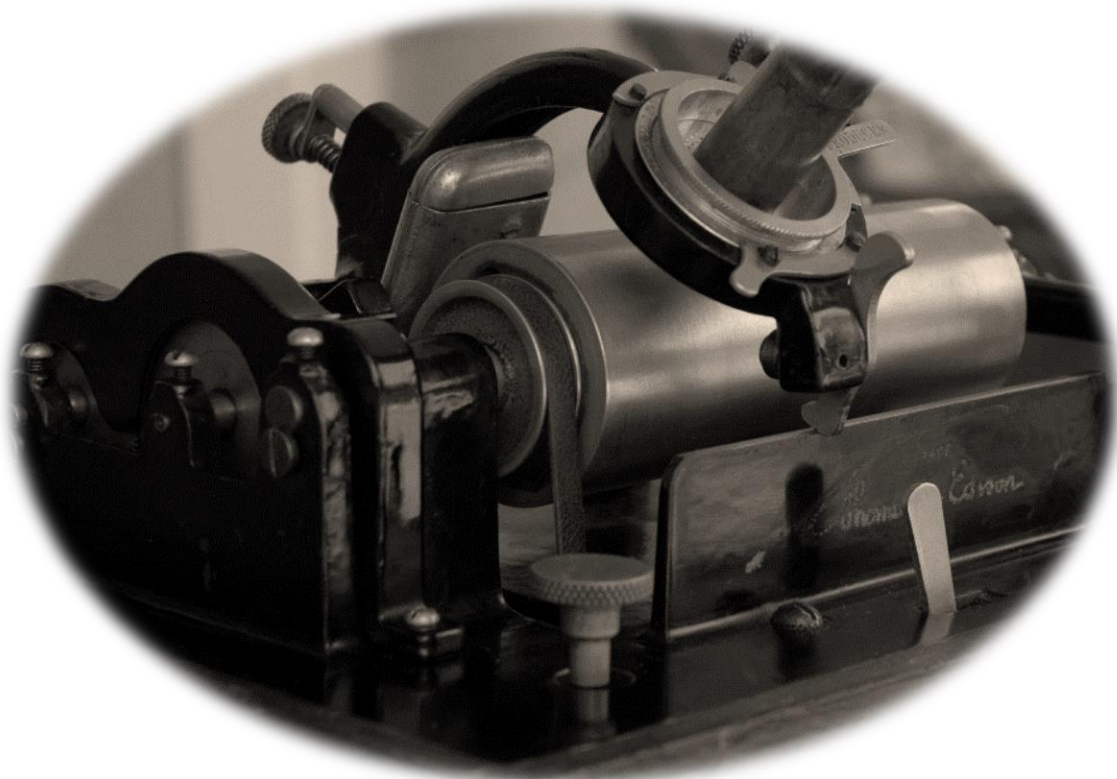


**YES, MASTER CURTIS, SHERLOCK'S REFERENCE TO A 'GRAMOPHONE' REFLECTS THE COMPETITION OF VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RACE TO MAKE A MARKETABLE RECORDING AND PLAYING DEVICE... WHILE WORKING ON OTHER INVENTIONS, EDISON DEVELOPED A METHOD OF RECORDING SOUND ON TINFOIL IN 1877.**





HE DEVOTED HIS ATTENTION TO THE INCANDESCENT LIGHT, AND ANOTHER TEN YEARS PASSED BEFORE HE AND A TEAM FROM BELL'S VOLTA LABORATORY RACED TO DEVELOP A BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE MACHINE.



BY 1887, BOTH GROUPS HAD DEVELOPED A MACHINE USING WAX CYLINDERS — EDISON CALLED HIS A 'PHONOGRAPH' AND BELL AND HIS PARTNER CHARLES TURNER CALLED THEIRS THE 'GRAPHOPHONE.'



WHEN THE PUBLIC FAILED TO SHOW INTEREST IN THE DEVICE FOR DICTATING CORRESPONDENCE, THEY BOTH TURNED TO MAKING MUSICAL RECORDINGS THAT COULD BE PLAYED IN THE OFFICE AND OTHER PLACES.

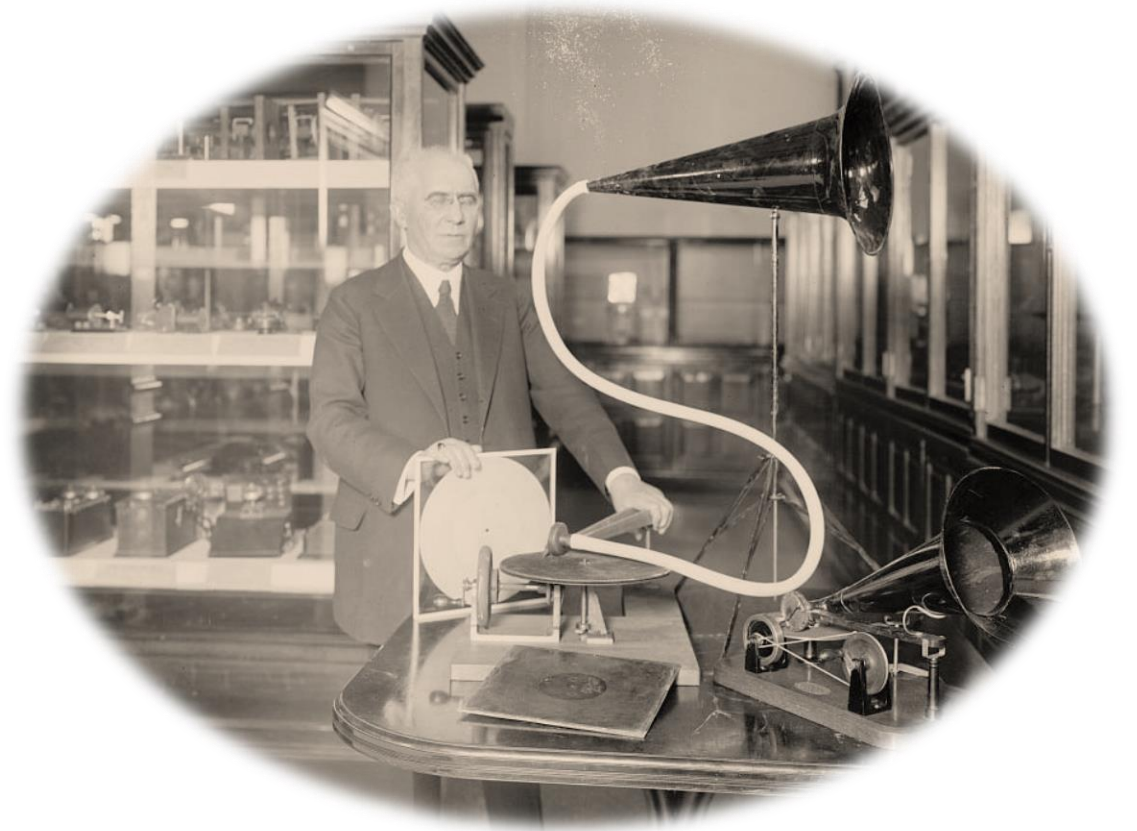




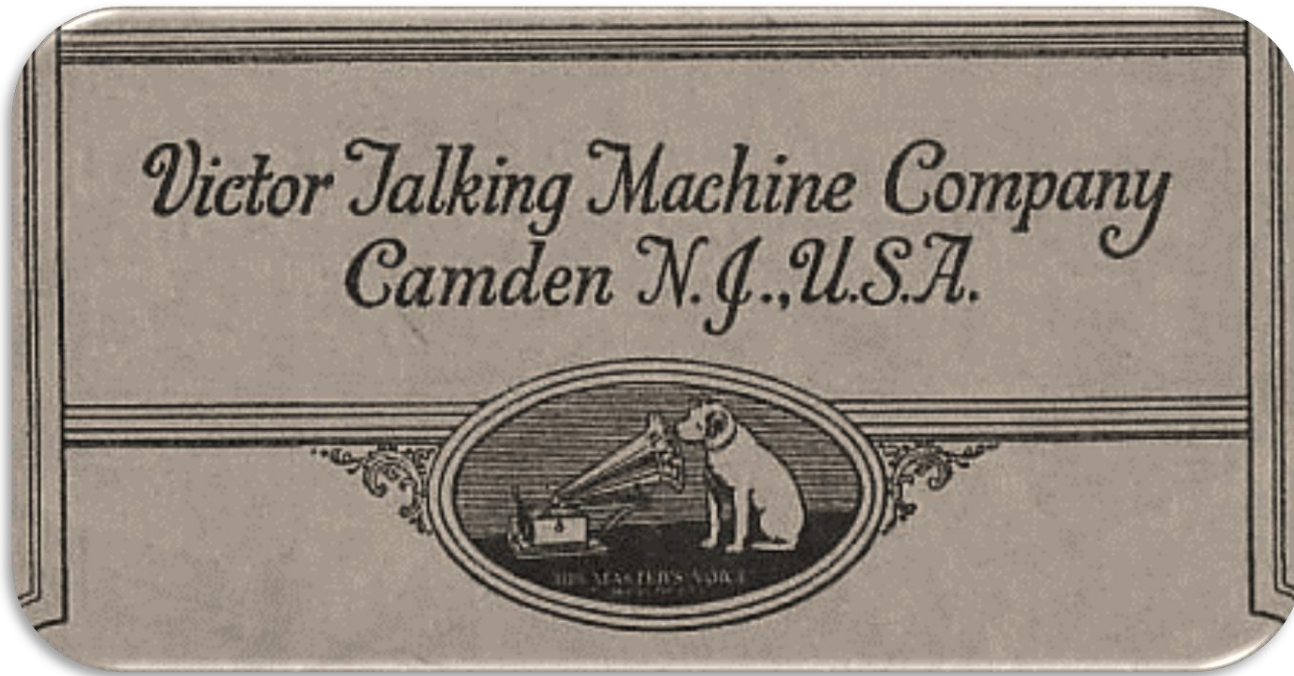
**IN THE MEANTIME, EMILE BERLINER IN WASHINGTON, DC, AFTER STUDYING THE TWO DEVICES, DETERMINED THAT THE WAX CYLINDER DID NOT MAINTAIN A LONG-TERM RECORDING AND THE STYLUS COULD NOT BE HELD IN PLACE.**



**HIS IMPROVEMENTS INVOLVED A DISC INSTEAD OF A CYLINDER AND A ZINC MASTER THAT COULD BE USED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE RECORDING... IN 1887 HE OBTAINED PATENTS IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY FOR HIS 'GRAMOPHONE'... BY 1894, HIS MACHINE AND DISCS FORMED THE BASIS FOR THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ACROSS THE WORLD.**



IN 1900, HE COPYRIGHTED A PICTURE BY FRANCIS BARRAUD OF A TERRIER LISTENING TO A DISC RECORDING FOR USE AS A TRADEMARK IN HIS VICTOR TALKING MACHINE COMPANY.







THUS, AS ANTHONY BOUCHER POINTED OUT, WHILE AMERICANS CONSIDERED 'GRAMOPHONES' THOSE DEVICES RECORDING AND PLAYING BACK ON A CYLINDER IN ENGLAND, HOLMES' RECORDING MACHINE WOULD HAVE USED BERLINER'S DISC MACHINE.



IN THE U.S., THE TRADEMARKED TERM  
'GRAMOPHONE' HAD BEEN DROPPED IN 1900 AND  
ALL RECORDING FORMATS (DISC OR CYLINDER)  
WERE SIMPLY 'PHONOGRAPHS.'



**BOUCHER HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED IN ANOTHER ARTICLE THAT THE RECORDING WAS MOST LIKELY HOLMES' OWN RENDITION OF HOFFMAN'S BARCAROLLE BECAUSE FEW SOLO VIOLIN RECORDINGS EXISTED IN DISC FORMAT.**



Violin

toplayalong.com

## Barcarolle

from *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*

J. Offenbach

Moderato  
2

8

14

19

25

29

35

*p*

*pp*


*sf*



WHILE SOME DOCUMENTS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE INTERNET INDICATE EARLY RECORDINGS OF VIOLIN SOLOS WERE MADE ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SINGLE-INSTRUMENT SOUNDTRACKS AND SOME OF THE EARLY PHONOGRAPH COMPANIES, SUCH AS THE REED, DAWSON, AND COMPANY, EVEN SPECIALIZED IN VIOLIN RECORDINGS, MANY OF THE TITLES AND PERFORMERS ARE NOT INDICATED.



The UNIVERSAL  
**DOLCE-TONE**  
*"Has No Equal"*  
**NEW INVENTIONS**  
Fabric Diaphragm  
ALL PATENTED



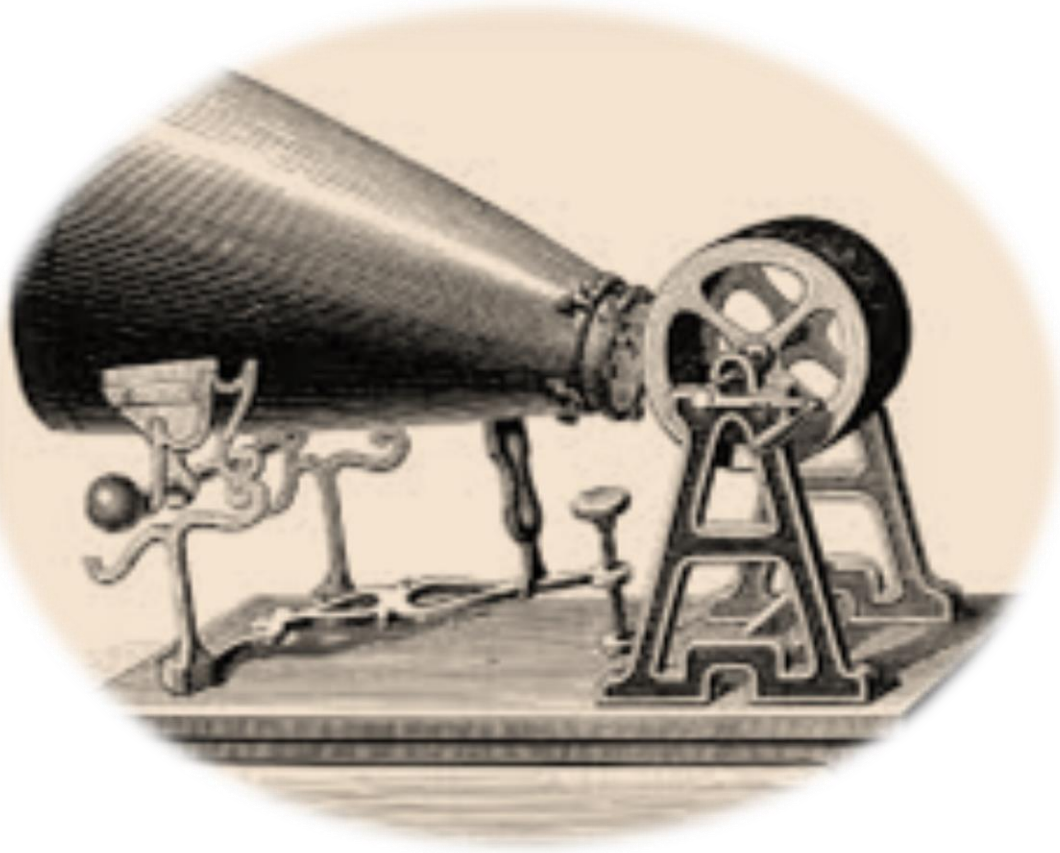
Don't pay those high prices for your phonograph. The Dolce-Tone is highest grade and guaranteed

**Reduction of 25%**  
from standard prices for the next 10 days; don't miss it.

Emerson, Edison and Victor records.  
Reductions on all musical instruments.

**REED, DAWSON & CO., Inc.**  
6 West Park St.  
Fine Repairing    Open Evenings Till Xmas

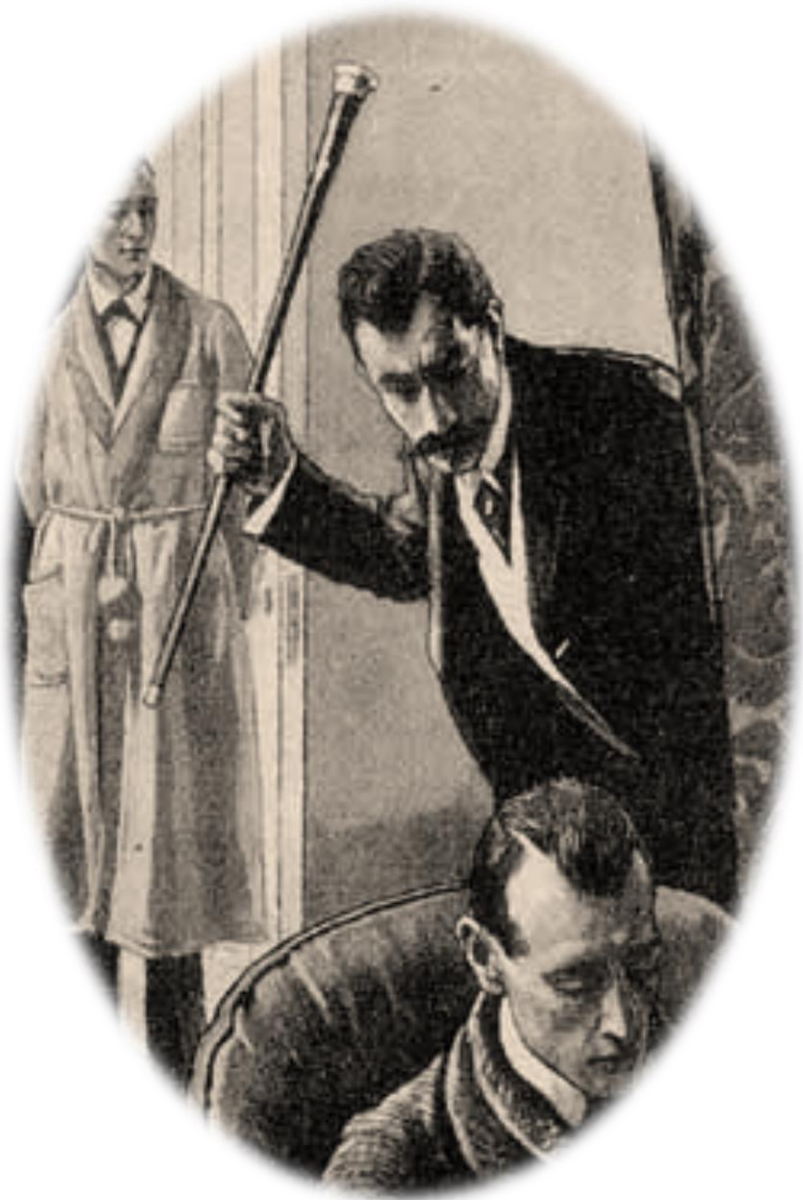
**IT SHOULD BE NOTED SOLO INSTRUMENT  
SOUNDTRACKS WERE ACTUALLY EASIER TO PRODUCE  
BECAUSE THEY INVOLVED ONLY ONE ARTIST  
PERFORMING DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE CONE  
THAT CAPTURED THE SOUND.**



**GIVEN THE NARROW RANGE OF THE SOUND SPECTRUM THESE EARLY DEVICES COULD CAPTURE, LOW-RANGE INSTRUMENTS (SUCH AS THE STRING BASS) WERE OFTEN REPLACED WITH BRASS INSTRUMENTS IN ENSEMBLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ALL PERFORMERS PLAYING AS LOUDLY AS POSSIBLE AND AS CLOSE TO THE CONE AS FEASIBLE FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT.**







*GIVEN THE SUPERIORITY OF HIS STRADIVARIUS INSTRUMENT, OF COURSE, AN ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE THAT A RECORDING OF HOLMES' OWN PLAYING MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED THE SOUND QUALITY NEEDED TO FOOL BOTH THE COUNT AND THE BOXER.*



WHEN THE GREAT DETECTIVE THEN STOOD IN FRONT OF THEM WHILE THE MUSIC CONTINUED, HIS GUESTS WERE PROBABLY COMPELLED TO ASK, 'IS IT LIVE, OR...?'



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 064 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 065, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE LION'S MANE, AS DESCRIBED IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORY...





## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://BAKERSTREET.FANDOM.COM/WIKI/THE\\_ADVENTURE\\_OF\\_THE\\_MAZARIN\\_STONE](https://bakerstreet.fandom.com/wiki/The_Adventure_of_the_Mazarin_Stone)
- [HTTPS://WWW.LOC.GOV/COLLECTIONS/EMILE-BERLINER/ARTICLES-AND-ESSAYS/GRAMOPHONE/](https://www.loc.gov/collections/emile-berliner/articles-and-essays/gramophone/)
- [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/HIS\\_MASTER%27S\\_VOICE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/His_Master%27s_Voice)
- ANTHONY BOUCHER, "THE RECORDS OF BAKER STREET," BAKER STREET JOURNAL, JANUARY, 1949.
- [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/HISTORY\\_OF\\_SOUND\\_RECORDING](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_sound_recording)
- ANTHONY BOUCHER, "PROLEGOMENA TO A HOLMESIAN DISCOGRAPHY," BAKER STREET JOURNAL, APRIL, 1946.
- [HTTPS://ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/FIRSTBOOKOFPHONOGRAPHRECORDS/PAGE/N221](https://archive.org/details/firstbookofphonographrecords/page/n221)
- [HTTPS://ARSC-AUDIO.ORG/BLOG/2017/10/04/1890SINDEPENDENTS/](https://arsc-audio.org/blog/2017/10/04/1890sindependents/)



# Baker Street *Elementary*

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY  
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE  
RUSTY MASON  
&  
STEVE MASON

