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Keven McElhone, Kevin McElhone : Mechanical Music (Shire Albums) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mechanical Music (Shire Albums):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A highly recommended introduction By Midwest Book Review
The sound of a barrel or fairground organ, a player piano or a musical box can bring back many memories, and this pamphlet covers the history, development and use of all types of mechanical music devices, from pocket musical boxes to full pipe organs and more. Exquisite color photos abound, making Mechanical Music a highly recommended introduction.

The sound of a street barrel organ or a fairground organ may revive distant memories for older people or stir an interest in younger folk. Wealthier families may have possessed their own automatic music machines in the form of a player piano, a Polyphon or cylinder musical box. If well treated, these instruments may still be in working order. This book covers the history, development, use and fall from favour of many types of exotic instruments, from pocket-sized musical boxes to roll-playing pipe organs and everything else in between. It describes pianolas, organettes, roller organs, orchestrions, nickelodeons, carillons and many more. It introduces a complex subject in a way that will encourage readers to visit collections open to the public or perhaps join one of the societies that encourage the restoration of instruments to their former glory.

About the Author Kevin McElhone is the archivist of the Musical Box Society of Great Britain which caters for all

kinds of automatic musical instruments.