



MUSIC, MIGRATION & MOBILITY:
The Legacy of Musicians from Nazi-Europe in Britain

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Prepared by Dr. Beth Snyder, Norbert Meyn and Sam Weinstein

REPERTOIRE GUIDE—Choir with Orchestra/Ensemble

HANS GÁL (1890-1987)

Widely admired as a composer of opera, ballet, symphonic, chamber and choral music in Austria and Germany before his emigration, [Hans Gál](#) wrote more than half of his entire oeuvre in Britain. He taught at the University of Edinburgh, where he continued to develop his highly sophisticated and pleasing style.

Von ewiger Freude, op. 1

- Composed—1912
- Duration—30'
- Orchestration—four female voices, double female choir, organ, two harps
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—single movement, cantata-like structure with organ prelude

Vom Bäumlein, das andere Blätter hat gewollt, op. 2

- Composed—1916
- Duration—27'
- Orchestration—alto, six-part female choir, small orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—text by Rückert

Phantasien, op. 5

- Composed—1919
- Duration—20'
- Orchestration—alto, female choir, clarinet, horn, harp/piano, string quartet/string orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—three songs to poems by Rabindranath Tagore: 'Ich laufe wie ein Bisam läuff', 'Ich pflücke deine Blume', 'Was flüsterst Du'

Requiem for Mignon, op. 26

- Composed—1922
- Duration—30'
- Orchestration—baritone, mixed choir, women's choir, organ, orchestra
- Publisher—Tischer & Jagenberg / Elrich
- Notes—fragment from Goethe's Wilhelm Meister



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Nachtmusik, op. 44

- Composed—1933
- Duration—10'
- Orchestration—soprano, male chorus, flute, cello, piano
- Publisher—Robitschek (now available privately)
- Notes—text by Grimmelshausen

De Profundis, op. 50

- Composed—1936
- Duration—75'
- Orchestration—SATB soloists, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Breitkopf & Härtel
- Notes—cantata to German baroque poems: 'Von der Vergänglichkeit' (Gryphius), 'Auf grüner Erde' (Fleming), 'Nachtgesänge' (Gryphius), 'Totentanz' (Albert), 'Zum Frieden' (Logau)

Of a Summer Day, op. 77

- Composed—1951
- Duration—24'
- Orchestration—soprano/mezzo, 3-part women's choir, string orchestra
- Publisher—Association of American Choruses (now available privately)
- Notes—'To-day' (Carlyle), 'Morning' (anon.), 'Make much of time' (Herrick), 'Song of June' (Symons), 'Elegy' (Arnold), 'Scherzo' (Harvey), 'Hurricane' (Bridges), 'Sunset' (Bridges), 'Silver' (de la Mare)

Lebenskreise, op. 70

- Composed—1955
- Duration—90'
- Orchestration—four soloists, mixed choir, youth choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Alkor (Barenreiter)
- Notes—symphonic cantata to poems by Hölderlin and Goethe



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PETER GELLHORN (1912-2004)

As a conductor and pianist with an extraordinary musical memory, Peter Gellhorn was a highly respected figure in Britain throughout the second half of the 20th century. His compositions, mostly written during his early career in Berlin and then London as well as during internment as an 'enemy alien' on the Isle of Man, were edited and published through RCM research in 2016.

Mooragh, July, 1940 for male choir and strings

- Composed—1940
- Duration—6'
- Orchestration—male choir, strings
- Publisher—RCM Editions
- Recording—petergellhorn.com (non-commercial)
- Notes—poem by F. F. Bieber (first published in camp newsletter *The Mooragh Times* in August 1940)

ROBERTO GERHARD (1896-1970)

One of the most influential composers in post-war Britain, Roberto Gerhard enjoyed success as a composer of ballet, opera, chamber and electronic music. Born to Swiss-German parents in Barcelona studied with Granados, Pedrell and Schoenberg and became an important modernist figure in Catalonia before emigrating to Britain in 1939 to escape the Franco regime.

L'alta naixença del Rei in Jaume

- Composed—1932
- Duration—17'
- Orchestration—soprano, baritone, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recording—Auvidis Montaigne MO 782106 [Roberto Gerhard 6]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS / MinSc
- Notes—poems by Josep Carner

The Plague

- Composed—1964
- Duration—44'
- Orchestration—narrator, mixed chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—OUP
- Recordings—Explore Records [The Plague] / Auvidis Montaigne MO782101 [Roberto Gerhard 1]
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc



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BERTHOLD GOLDSCHMIDT (1903-1996)

Forced to emigrate after a hugely successful early career as a conductor and composer whose opera 'Der Gewaltige Hahnrei' had been celebrated in Mannheim in 1932, Berthold Goldschmidt worked as a conductor and coach in Britain and came to wider international acclaim only in the final decade of his life, when many new works were written and published.

Letzte Kapitel, op. 15

- Composed—1931
- Duration—9'
- Orchestration—speaker, chamber chorus, percussion, piano
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recording—Largo [Goldschmidt: Letzte Kapitel]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—first performed in 1984; two settings of satires by Erich Kästner

MICHAEL GRAUBART (1930-)

After his arrival in Britain as a child refugee, Michael Graubart studied physics before training as a professional flautist and composer (with Mátyás Seiber) and later working as a conductor and educator in London and Manchester. He describes his music as atonal, following 12-note technique, but essentially motivic and melodic.

Untergang

- Composed—1975
- Duration—9'
- Orchestration—baritone, mixed choir, piano, percussion, some winds/brass (see site)
- Recording—non-commercial(?) on MG's site
- Publisher—michaelgraubart2010.musicaneo.com
- Notes—two movements, text by Georg Trakl on destruction of Europe and its culture



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JOSEPH HOROVITZ (1926-2022)

A revered teacher and colleague at the Royal College of Music for many decades, Joseph Horowitz achieved widespread critical acclaim and success as a composer of orchestral concertos, chamber music, ballet and film music.

Horrortorio

- Composed—1959
- Duration—25'
- Orchestration—soprano, alto, tenor, bass, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Novello
- Notes—a nuptial cantata for soli, chorus and orchestra (choral extravaganza); commissioned by The Hoffnung Astronautical Music Festival

Samson

- Composed—1977
- Duration—29'
- Orchestration—baritone solo, mixed chorus, brass band, extra percussion
- Publisher—Novello
- Notes—oratorio; commissioned by The National Brass Band Festival, libretto by Chris Judge Smith

KARL RANKL (1898-1968)

As the first music director of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden after WW2 and later director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Glasgow, the conductor and composer Karl Rankl, a pupil of Schoenberg and Webern and close friend of Hanns Eisler, was at the centre of post-war music in Britain. His songs, eight symphonies and opera 'Deirde of the Sorrows' are a treasure trove that should be explored further.

Der Mensch

- Composed—1964
- Orchestration—soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass, male choir, female choir, mixed choir, orchestra
- Notes—oratorio in 3 parts



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FRANZ REIZENSTEIN (1911-1968)

Franz Reizenstein was born in Nuremberg and studied first in Berlin under Hindemith and then, as a young refugee, under Ralph Vaughan-Williams at the Royal College of Music in London. Reizenstein was a successful virtuoso pianist and composer of orchestral, vocal, piano and chamber music as well as film scores.

Voices of Night

- Composed—1951
- Orchestration—soprano, baritone, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Novello
- RCM Shelf Mark—C362VS
- Notes—cantata/radio opera; text arranged by Christopher Hassall

Genesis, op. 35

- Composed—1958
- Orchestration—soprano, baritone, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Alfred Lengnick
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—text arranged by Christopher Hassall



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MÁTYÁS SEIBER (1905-1960)

Mátyás Seiber's compositions have been loved and admired all over Europe and beyond, but few know the full range of his output, which includes chamber music inspired by Hungarian folk tunes as well as modernist twelve-tone works, large scale orchestral and choral works, songs and film scores.

Ulysses

- Composed—1947
- Duration—45'
- Orchestration—tenor, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Schott
- Recording—Lyrita [Mátyás Seiber: The Joyce Settings]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—text by James Joyce: 'The Heaventree', 'Meditations of evolution increasingly vaster', 'Obverse meditations of involution', 'Nocturne-Intermezzo (Hommage à Schönberg)', 'Epilogue'

Faust Choral Suite

- Composed—1949
- Orchestration—soprano, tenor, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Augener
- RCM Shelf Mark—Songs
- Notes—words by Goethe

Cantata Secularis – The Four Seasons

- Composed—1952
- Duration—20'
- Orchestration—mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Schott
- Notes—on medieval Latin poems: 'Ver', 'Aestas', 'Autumnus', 'Hiems' (by Virgil)

Three Fragments from *the Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

- Composed—1958
- Duration—19'
- Orchestration—speaker, wordless chorus, chamber orchestra
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—Lyrita [Mátyás Seiber: The Joyce Settings] / Decca 4802152 [Eloquence: Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Seiber]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—'A veiled sunlight lit up taintly the grey sheet of water', 'the last day had come', 'he closed his eyes in the langour of sleep'



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LEOPOLD SPINNER (1906-1980)

Firmly rooted in the twelve-tone serialism of Schoenberg and Webern (who was his teacher), Leopold Spinner is known for his finely crafted chamber music and songs. After his emigration to Britain in 1939 he became Chief Editor of Boosey & Hawkes in London.

Die Sonne sinkt

- Composed—1952
- Orchestration—soprano, chorus, chamber orchestra
- Publisher—manuscript only
- Notes—text by Nietzsche

Cantata after Poems of Hölderlin, op. 11

- Composed—1955
- Duration—8'
- Orchestration—soprano, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Notes—dodecaphonic

Cantata on German Folksong Texts, op. 20

- Composed—1963
- Duration—18'
- Orchestration—mezzo, chorus, chamber orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes/Schott
- RCM Shelf Mark—FulSc / VS
- Notes—text from 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn'; revised in 1964; premiere on 5 May 1976 in Vienna

Die Nacht, op. 29

- Composed—1979
- Orchestration—mezzo, 3-part male choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes

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EGON WELLESZ (1885-1974)

Egon Wellesz was one of the most renowned and widely performed modernist composers of the first quarter of the 20th century. After studying with Arnold Schoenberg for a short period he found his own path as a composer of opera, ballet and chamber music. A highly respected scholar, he became a Fellow of Lincoln College Oxford after his migration to Britain, where he also wrote his cycle of nine symphonies, completed in 1971.

Gebete der Mädchen zu Maria, op. 5

- Composed—1910
- Duration—13'
- Orchestration—soprano, women's chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—text by Rilke

Mitte des Lebens, op. 45

- Composed—1931
- Duration—51'
- Orchestration—soprano, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—anonymous texts as well as texts by Schröder, Angelus Silesius, Alfred Brust, psalms

Schönbüheler Messe C-dur, op. 58

- Composed—1963
- Orchestration—women's choir, orchestra, organ
- Publisher—Verlag Gregorius

Duineser Elegie, op. 90

- Composed—1963
- Orchestration—soprano, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Doblinger
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—texts by Rilke

Mirabile Mysterium, op. 101

- Composed—1967
- Orchestration—two sopranos, two baritones, speaker, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Doblinger
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—words by Sophronius of Jerusalem



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Canticum Sapientiae, op. 104

- Composed—1968
- Duration—17'
- Orchestration—baritone, mixed choir, orchestra
- Publisher—Doblinger
- Recording—VINYL-Amadeo AVRS 6456 [Wellesz, Cerha, Ligeti, Dimov, Hauer]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—after texts from the Old Testament