

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

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**REPERTOIRE GUIDE—Opera**

**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.

*Der Arzt der Sobeide*, op. 4

- Composed—1917
- Duration—full evening
- Orchestration—
  
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—comic opera in a prologue and two acts, text by Fritz Zoref

*Die heilige Ente*, op. 15

- Composed—1922
- Duration—full evening
- Orchestration—2 sopranos, 1 alto, 3 tenors, 2 baritones, 2 basses, mixed chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—an opera with gods and men, in a prelude and three acts

*Das Lied der Nacht*, op. 23

- Composed—1924
- Duration—full evening
- Orchestration—
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Recording—CPO 555 186-2 [Das Lied der Nacht]
- Notes—dramatic ballad in three scenes, text by K.M. von Levetzow



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*Die beiden Klaas*, op. 42

- Composed—1932
- Duration—full evening
- Orchestration—1 soprano, 1 mezzo, 1 alto, 1 tenor, 1 baritone, 2 basses, mixed chorus, children's chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Schott
- Notes—comic opera in three acts, text by K.M. von Levetzow



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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.

*The Duenna*

- Composed—1949
- Duration—130'
- Orchestration—soprano, 2 mezzos, 2 tenors, 2 baritones, bass, 3 speakers, chorus, dancers, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recording—Chandon CHAN 9520 [La Duena]
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS / CD2757
- Notes—opera in 3 acts; available in both full score and vocal score from Boosey; (composed over 1945-49); scores are also available for two arias (unspecified voice) and interlude and arias (soprano), both with orchestra

WALTER GOEHR (1903-1960)

Walter Goehr was born in Berlin in 1903, where he was later a pupil of Arnold Schoenberg. He became a conductor at the Berliner Rundfunk between 1925 and 1931, emigrating to the United Kingdom in 1933. Between 1933 and 1939 he was a conductor and music director of Columbia Records, before working as a conductor, composer and arranger for the BBC from 1942.

*Malpopita* (radio opera)

- Composed—1931
- Recording—Capriccio 60 124 [Malpopita Funkoper]
- Notes—first performed on 6 May 2004 at Abspannwerk Humboldt, Berlin



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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.

*Der gewaltige Hahnrei*, op. 14

- Composed—1930
- Duration—105'
- Orchestration—2 sopranos, 2 altos, 3 tenors, baritone, 2 basses, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recording—Decca Entartete Musik 440 850-2 [Der gewaltige Hahnrei]
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD3166
- Notes—musical tragi-comedy in three acts; libretto by Goldschmidt after Fernand Crommelynck's 'Le Cocu Magnifique'

*Beatrice Cenci*

- Composed—1950
- Duration—110'
- Orchestration—soprano, mezzo, 3 tenors, 2 baritones, 2 basses, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Unitel DVD 751408 [Beatrice Cenci] / Sony [Berthold Goldschmidt: Beatrice Cenci]
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD3165
- Notes—opera in 3 acts based on the 1819 play by Shelley; one of four prize winning works of the British Arts Council's 'Festival of Britain' competition in 1949; premiered in 1988 (concert version)

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JOSEPH HOROVITZ (1926-2022)

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

*The Dumb Wife*

- Composed—1953
- Duration—55'
- Orchestration—soprano, tenor, bass-baritone, orchestra/ensemble
- Notes—libretto by Peter Shaffer, based on a tale of Rabelais

*Gentleman's Island*

- Composed—1958
- Duration—30'
- Orchestration—baritone, tenor, ensemble
- Publisher—Chester Music
- Notes—opera buffa in one act; libretto by Gordon Snell, based on a Bab Ballad by W. S. Gilbert

*Ninotchka*

- Composed—2006
- Duration—80'
- Orchestration—2 sopranos, mezzo-soprano, tenor, 2 baritones, bass, other singers? instruments?
- Notes—based on the 1939 romantic comedy film

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 'Deirdre of the Sorrows' are a treasure trove that should be explored further.

*Deirdre of the Sorrows*

- Composed—1950



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HANS FERDINAND REDLICH (1903-1968)

Predominantly known for his considerable contributions to the New Oxford History of Music and the fifth edition of Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Hans Ferdinand Redlich spent 30 years in the UK after his emigration from Germany in 1939. He held positions as a lecturer at the universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge and Birmingham.

*A Beggar's Opera*

- Publisher—unpublished, in manuscript only (University of Lancaster)

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.

*Men Against the Sea*

- Composed—1948

*Anna Kraus, op. 30*

- Composed—1952
- Notes—radio opera



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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.

*Eva spielt mit Puppen*

- Composed—1934
- Notes—puppet opera with story by Auerbach

*A Palágyi Pékek*

- Composed—1943
- Notes—comic opera in one act with libretto by György Mikes

*Balaton*

- Composed—1944
- Notes—comic opera in one act with libretto by György Mikes

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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.

*Die Prinzessin Girnara*, op. 27

- Composed—1919
- Duration—120'
- Orchestration—soprano, 2 tenors, 2 baritones, 3 basses, children's choir, mixed chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—two act; libretto by Jakob Wassermann; 1st version premiered on 14 May 1921 in Frankfurt and Hannover; 2nd version composed in 1926 and premiered on 2 Sept 1928 in Mannheim

*Alkestis*, op. 35

- Composed—1923
- Duration—85'
- Orchestration—2 sopranos, mezzo-soprano, alto, 3 tenors, baritone, 2 basses, mixed chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- RCM Shelf Mark—VS
- Notes—one act; libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Wellesz after Euripedes; premiere 20 March 1924 Mannheim

*Die Opferung des Gefangenen*, op. 40

- Composed—1925
- Duration—65'
- Orchestration—mixed chorus, orchestra (soloists?)
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—one act; libretto by Eduard Stucken after a Mexican indigenous legend; premiere 10 April 1926 Cologne; described on the recording as: 'cult drama for dancers, soloists, chorus'

*Scherz, List und Rache*, op. 41

- Composed—1927
- Duration—50'
- Orchestration—high baritone, high soprano, bass, orchestra
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Notes—one act; libretto after Goethe; premiere 1 March 1928 Stuttgart





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*Die Bakchantinnen*, op. 44

- Composed—1929
- Duration—120'
- Orchestration—3 sopranos, tenor, 2 baritones, 2 basses, chorus, orchestra
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—MYTO RECORDS 331 [*Die Bakchantinnen*] / ORFEO C 136012H [*Musica Rediviva*: Deutsches Symphonieorchester Berlin]
- Notes—two acts; libretto by the composer after Euripides; premiere 20 June 1931 Vienna

*Incognita*, op. 69

- Composed—1950
- Publisher—manuscript only
- Notes—three acts; libretto by Elizabeth MacKenzie and William Congreve; premiere 5 Dec 1951 Oxford