

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

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REPERTOIRE GUIDE—String Orchestra

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.

Serenade for String Orchestra, op. 46

- Composed—1937
- Duration—13'
- Orchestration—string orchestra
- Publisher—Novello (now Music Sales)
- Recordings—CBC Records SMCD 5167
- Notes—four movements; also for mandolin ensemble

Music for String Orchestra, op. 73

- Composed—1957
- Duration—20'
- Orchestration—string orchestra
- Publisher—Breitkopf & Härtel
- RCM Shelf Mark—FuSc
- Notes—three movements



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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.

Andante for String Orchestra (without Double Bass)

- Composed—1940
- Duration—5'
- Orchestration—string orchestra without double bass/string quartet
- Publisher—RCM Editions
- Recordings—non-commercial (petergellhorn.com)
- Notes—composed during internment on the Isle of Man

The Cats

- Composed—1940
- Duration—3'
- Orchestration—string orchestra without double bass
- Publisher—RCM Editions
- Recordings—non-commercial (petergellhorn.com)
- Notes—composed during internment on the Isle of Man



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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 Schönberg and became an important modernist figure in Catalonia before emigrating to Britain in 1939 to escape the Franco regime.

Concertino for String Orchestra

- Composed—1928
- Duration—10'
- Orchestration—string orchestra
- Publisher—Tritó Ediciones
- RCM Shelf Mark—FuSc
- Notes—three movements; atonal (recalling Bartók); first performed in Barcelona in 1929



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JOSEPH HOROVITZ (1926-2022)

Joseph Horovitz was born in Vienna in 1926 and emigrated to England with his family in 1938. After completing a BMus at Oxford, he studied with Gordon Jacob at RCM and later with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. His compositions range widely from ballets, one-act operas, concertos and chamber music, through to pieces for brass, wind bands and choral works.

Suite for Strings

- Composed—1956
- Duration—15'
- Orchestration—string ensemble, optional wind and brass
- Publisher—Belwin Mills
- Notes—four movements; educational

Fantasia on a Theme of Couperin

- Composed—1962
- Duration—13'
- Instrumental forces—11 solo strings
- Publisher—Novello
- Notes—theme taken from the Passacaille in Livre 2, Ordre 8 of François Couperin's Pièces de clavecin

Love Song

- Composed—1944
- Duration—4'
- Instrumental Forces—string ensemble and harp
- Publisher—Mills Music
- Notes—incorporated into the 1973 work Adagio Cantabile for orchestra

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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 Schönberg 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.

Suite for Strings

- Composed—1953
- Orchestration—string orchestra
- Publisher—OUP (Two Dances for Strings – Valse and Fandango)
- Recording—recorded (non-commercial) by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and broadcast 14 November 1953
- Notes—dedicated to John Gardner and the Haslemere Musical Society; the Valse and Fandango from the Suite were published by OUP as 'Two Dances for Strings'

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.

Concerto for String Orchestra, op. 43

- Composed—1966
- Instrumentation—string orchestra
- Publisher—IMC
- RCM Shelfmark—FuSc



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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.

Besardo Suite No. 2

- Composed—1942
- Duration—14'
- Instrumental forces—string orchestra
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—Dutton Epoch (Antiphon: A Tribute to John Manduell)
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc
- Notes—six movements; based on tunes from Jean-Baptiste Besard's *Thesaurus Harmonicus* (1603)

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 Schönberg 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.

Music for String Orchestra (in one movement), op. 91

- Composed—1964
- Orchestration—string orchestra
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc