Max Kalbeck

born Breslau, Jan 4, 1850; died Vienna, May 4, 1921
Documents associated with this:
  Correspondence
  Diaries
  Other material

German music critic, author of the standard four-volume biography of Brahms (1904-14), co-editor of the Brahms letters, and member of the Brahms circle (Brahms set some of his poetry to music).

Kalbeck worked for the Breslauer Zeitung before moving to Vienna in 1880 and joining the staff of the Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung, subsequently becoming music critic for the Neue Freie Presse in 1883, theater critic of the Neues Wiener Tagblatt in 1886 and music critic in 1894, and the Wiener Montags-Revue in 1890. He was one of the most influential Viennese critics of his day. He also prepared almost sixty opera librettos.

He produced several books of music criticisms, including, e.g., Humoresken und Phantasien (Berlin, 1896) and Opernabende : Beiträge zur Geschichte und Kritik der Oper (Evenings at the Opera: Contributions to the History and Criticism of Opera), 2 vols (Berlin, 1898). Albeit an advocate of the "classical composers" from Mozart to Brahms, he also wrote studies of Wagner's Ring and Parsifal, and of the Bayreuth Festival Theater.

Kalbeck and Schenker
Schenker consulted Kalbeck in October or November 1906 about finding a publisher for his Harmonielehre (OJ 12/7), a complimentary copy of which he later had sent to him (CA 56, 58: November 22 and 24, 1906).

Correspondence between Kalbeck and Schenker survives as OJ 5/19 (1897-1906: 12 items) and OJ 12/7 (1897-1906: 8 items).

Sources:
  MGG
  NGDM

Correspondence

CA 56 Handwritten letter from Schenker to Cotta, dated November 22, 1906
Cotta should by now have received the sum covering the publishing and marketing costs of Harmonielehre. Schenker lists five recipients of review copies.

CA 58 Handwritten letter from Schenker to Cotta, dated November 24, 1906
Schenker lists the journals for which the five music critics (as listed in CA 56) to receive review copies write.
Rudorff reports on situation with his "Eckbert" Overture, and comments adversely on publishers.

Karpath expresses approval of Schenker's Kontrapunkt I and Moriz Violin's book on the continuo. — He thinks highly of Violin and of Hans Weisse as a composer.

Karpath exchanges newspaper clippings with Schenker. — Announces a forthcoming review of Schenker's monograph on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (1912). — Tells of a potential new pupil for Schenker who is currently studying with Schreker. — Complains at being persecuted by supporters of Schoenberg.

Acknowledges one postcard; the other reaches him while writing the letter. Reports and comments on article by Hans Friedrich in Der Merker. Remarks on the nature of hatred, national and personal, in wartime.

Deutsch thanks Schenker for his suggestion of Brahms's Op. 117; Mr. Kalbeck has suggested Brahms's "Sapphische Ode" (Op. 95, No. 4) and "Nachtwandler" (Op. 86, No. 3).

The overdue ["Moonlight" Sonata edition] contract is finally ready, and Deutsch hopes that Schenker is happy with the wording. The Bonn photographs are also ready. Schenker should expect to receive an edited version of his commentary, and perhaps also an English translation.

Responding to a request for information about Brahms's meeting with Wagner, Weisse promises to send Schenker the relevant volume of Max Kalbeck's biography of Brahms.

Weisse has sent Schenker a volume of Kalbeck's Brahms biography, and reports that Universal Edition is about to send him the proofs for two of his compositions, a set of vocal quartets and a string quartet.

Following up a discussion with Schenker in the presence of Wilhelm Furtwängler, Weisse draws up a list of Schenker's early essays. Oswald Jonas and his wife have been copying them and Jonas plans to write a Foreword to a new edition of these writings.
Altmann did not know of the letter from Brahms to Kalbeck about which Schenker had written him. — He hopes for an economic upturn [now Hitler is in power].

Diaries

Diary entry by Schenker for 3 April 1907
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-06_1907-04/r0002.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 4 April 1907
Diary entry by Schenker for 22 October 1912
Diary entry by Schenker for 30 November 1914
Diary entry by Schenker for 4 May 1919
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-02-14_1919-05/r0004.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 2 March 1920
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-01_1920-03/r0002.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 18 March 1921
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-02_1921-03/r0018.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 29 July 1924
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-06_1924-07/r0029.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 8 August 1924
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-06_1924-08/r0008.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 19 December 1924
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-07_1924-12/r0019.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 19 March 1933
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-06_1933-03/r0019.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 23 March 1933
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-06_1933-03/r0023.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 12 April 1933
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-06_1933-04/r0013.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 26 April 1933
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-06_1933-04/r0027.html]

Other material

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/other/CA-171-172b.html]
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/other/OC-2-60_3.html]