

EXIT TO USA

Concert Commemorating the Exiled Artists after the Anschluss
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**Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
Monday, May 19, 2014 | 8 PM**

Ethel Merhaut | soprano
León de Castillo | tenor
Ulrike Anton | flute
Hannah Eisendle | piano
Gordon Schermer | piano
Marcel Rubin Quartet:
Lukas Medlam | violin
Mátyás András | violin
Nebojsa Bekcic | viola
Thomas Michael Auner | violoncello
Valsassina Ensemble

Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Avenue
New York
NY 10019

program

Eric Zeisl (1905-1959)

String quartet No. 2 in d minor (1953)

Pesante
Andante
Scherzo
Finale

Marcel Rubin Quartet

Hanns Eisler (1898-1962)

Selected Songs:

Wer traurig sein will (lyrics: B. Viertel)
Komm ins Offene, Freund! Es-Dur (lyrics: F. Hölderlin)
Epilog: Nahe schon ist der Herbst (lyrics: St. Hermlin)
Horatios Monolog (lyrics: W. Shakespeare)
The Rat Men (lyrics: B. Brecht)
Die Speisekammer (lyrics: B. Brecht)

León de Castillo, tenor
Valsassina Ensemble

Hanns Eisler (1898-1962)

Duo for violin and violoncello op.7 no.1 (1924)

Tempo di menuetto
Allegretto vivace

Mátyás András, violin
Leo Schmidt, violoncello

Alexandre Tansman (1897-1986)

Sonatine for flute and piano

Modéré
Intermezzo
Scherzo (Fox-Trot)
Notturmo
Finale

Ulrike Anton, flute
Hannah Eisendle, piano

program

Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942)

Waltz-songs from Tuscan songs by Ferdinand Gregorovius op.6:

Liebe Schwalbe, kleine Schwalbe (Little Swallow)

Klagen ist der Mond gekommen (Those eyes of thine)

Fensterlein nachts bist du zu (Casement so humble and small)

Ich geh des Nachts (I wandered by night)

Blaues Sternlein (Stars of Heaven)

Briefchen schrieb ich (My Love Letters)

Ethel Merhaut, soprano
Gordon Schermer, piano

Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942)

Die schlanke Wasserlilie (lyrics: H. Heine)

Frühlingslied (lyrics: H. Heine)

Süße, süße Sommernacht (lyrics: A. Lynx)

León de Castillo, tenor
Gordon Schermer, piano

Ruth Schonthal (1924-2006)

„A Bird's Song About ...“ for flute and piano

Ulrike Anton, flute
Hannah Eisendle, piano

Hannah Eisendle (born 1993)

„tough tRuth“ for string quartet and piano

Hannah Eisendle, piano
Marcel Rubin Quartet

Walter Arlen (born 1920) - Arr.: Lukas Medlam

Three Fragments from “The Song of Songs”

As An Apple Tree

Very Dark Am I

Upon My Bed by Night

Ethel Merhaut, soprano
Marcel Rubin Quartet

Ruth Schonthal (1924-2006) - Arr.: Lukas Medlam

From: Four Songs (texts by Rainer Maria Rilke)

Ethel Merhaut, soprano
Marcel Rubin Quartet
Hannah Eisendle, piano

composers

Eric Zeisl (1905-1959)

Eric Zeisl studied composition under Richard Stöhr, Joseph Marx and Hugo Kauder. Zeisl's specialty in Vienna during the interwar period was in music composition, where he could successfully establish himself among the circle of moderate advocates of Vienna Modernism. In November 1938, he fled to Paris and went into exile in New York. He was lured to Hollywood in 1941 and settled in the West Coast of America, where he worked as a composer and arranger. He started teaching in 1946 at the Southern California School of Music and Arts and after 1949 at Los Angeles City College.



Hanns Eisler (1898-1962)



Eisler was born in Leipzig, however he grew up in Vienna and studied under Arnold Schoenberg. In 1933, he was working with poet Bert Brecht in Berlin before he was forced to flee from National Socialism. Eisler travelled for many years finding work in Prague, Vienna, Paris, London, Moscow, Spain, Mexico and Denmark. He finally managed to obtain a visa for the United States, he received a teaching placement in New York. However, in 1947, he was banished from the U.S. due to "un-American activities" and returned to Europe.

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)

Austrian born composer and a leader of the Second Viennese School. In 1933, Arnold Schoenberg was robbed of his professorship in Berlin by the Nazis and fled via Paris and Barcelona to the United States.

By this time he had already established himself as a respected composer with a successful career. He continued composing and teaching in Los Angeles for the rest of his life.



Alexandre Tansman (1897-1986)



Tansman, a Polish born composer and pianist, spent most of his life in France. He studied music at the Łódź Conservatory, however, his doctoral study was in law at the University of Warsaw. In 1941, he fled Europe, due to his Jewish background, and moved to Los Angeles. After the war Tansman returned to Paris, but due to his absence his music was no longer as popular. He turned back to his Jewish and Polish roots and created some of his greatest works. He was also a friend of Igor Stravinsky.

Alexander von Zemlinsky (1871-1942)



Zemlinsky was born in Vienna, in his early twenties he was already a very successful composer, pianist and conductor. He finished his studies in composition and got in touch with Schoenberg – they became close friends. After his never interrupted career as a composer, around the turn of century he became a successful conductor. Even though he converted to Christianity in 1899 – he was counted among the ostracised in the 1930s. He emigrated in 1938, via many stations to finally reside in the US, where he had only a few years to live before his death.

Ruth Schonthal (1924-2006)

Although her parents were Viennese, she was born in Hamburg in 1924. She began composing at a very young age, which led her to continue her studies at the Stern'sche conservatory in Berlin. In 1938 her family was forced to flee to Stockholm and when they were unable to obtain visas for the United States, they settled in Mexico City. While in Mexico, she was discovered by Paul Hindemith who then took her to Yale University in 1946. She was a professor for composition at the New York University until her death in 2006.



Hannah Eisendle (born 1993)



Graduated from the Vienna Music High-School (Wiener Musikgymnasium), received during school piano lessons with Ulrike Fendel and violin lessons with Susanne Bauer. She belongs to various chamber music ensembles in Vienna and won numerous prizes in piano and chamber music competitions and has received commissions for various occupations. In 2013 she released her first CD with live recordings of a piano recital at the Austrian Society for Music in Vienna. She is currently studying composition and music theory at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where she also plays Cello as a supplementary instrument and Piano with the Professors Florian Krumpöck, Christiane Karajev, and Stephan Möller.

Walter Arlen (born 1920)

Walter Arlen (Aptowitz at birth) was born in Vienna in 1920. As a composer he was always a miniaturist and composed tonally. After he was expelled from his native city, he began studying with Roy Harris, the father of the American symphonic style. Arlen worked from 1952 to 1980 as a critic for the Los Angeles Times and lectured as a professor, establishing the music department at Loyola Marymount, a Roman Catholic university. After 1986, he once again intensified his composing. In October 2008, Walter Arlen was honored with the Order of Merit for services rendered to the Republic of Austria by the President of the National Assembly, Barbara Prammer. Walter Arlen today lives in Los Angeles.



artists

Ethel Merhaut

Born in Vienna, Ethel Merhaut finished her Bachelors in Solo-singing at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna in 2012 and has since been studying under the supervision of Prof. Irina Gavrilovici. In addition to her vocal studies, Ethel has a Master of Sciences degree with honors in "Theater, Movie, and Media Sciences" from the University of Vienna. The young soprano made her professional debut in the summer of 2011 with two Mozart roles, Barbarina in "Le nozze di Figaro" at the Opera of Klosterneuburg and as Zerlina in "Don Giovanni" at the Sommertraum Festival in Semmering. In the summer of 2012, she participated at the International Vocal Arts Institute's summer program in Tel Aviv, where she sang the part of Ida in Johann Strauss' "Fledermaus". Apart from the extensive amounts of concerts she gives in Vienna, in December 2012, she performed at the Austrian Culture Forum in London, where she specialized in the works of expelled Jewish artists.

León de Castillo

Born in Mérida, Yucatán (Mexico) to a Mexican mother and an Austrian father, León de Castillo grew up in a family that holds a large musical tradition that spans generations. After studying singing after one year, he had his debut as a soloist at "Theater an der Wien" with Plácido Domingo and Patricia Petibon in the Zarzuela "Luisa Fernanda". At the end of 2011, he returned to his hometown Mérida where he dedicated himself to Mexico for 2012, the year of the Mayan culture. He performed on numerous occasions including a solo concert at the Theatre Jose Peón Contreras on January 5th inaugurating the 470th anniversary celebration of his hometown Mérida. In 2013, he founded the "Primavera Festival", which concentrates on the Mexican-Austrian relationship and is a festival against racism. In addition to opera, de Castillos' repertoire also includes Deutsches Lied and other Art songs in 7 different languages. He has given songs recitals all over the world in places such as Mexico, USA, France, Italy, and Austria.

Ulrike Anton

Studied in Paris at the Conservatoire Hector Berlioz and the Ecole National de Musique Bourg-La-Reine in Paris with Prof. Raymond Guiot and Prof. Jean-Loup Gregoire respectively. She received her Professional Performance Diploma and Master of Music degree while studying with Prof. Peter Lloyd in Manchester at the Royal Northern College of Music. While studying at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, she received her Ph.D. in Musicology in 2003. In 1994 she won the first prize at the Concours Music Regional Ile-de-France competition. Ulrike regularly performs and tours as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe, the USA, and China. Her recordings include several CDs published by Preiser Records, Gramola and Centaur. In addition to her performing career, she has also given many Master Classes and courses internationally for Flute and Chamber music. She currently holds several teaching positions around the world including for IES, Institute for the International Education of Students, as the Vienna Adjunct Professor Head of Instrumental Performance Workshop.

Gordon Schermer

Gordon Schermer is a versatile musician equally at home in opera, art song, musical theater and chamber music. His performances have taken him across the United States as well as Canada, Italy, Austria and Israel. He has performed in venues such as Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York and the Salle Bourgie in Montréal. He has been a fellowship coach at the Aspen Music Festival and School where he served as the children's chorus master for Puccini's *La bohème* and rehearsal pianist/coach for Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. Mr. Schermer has appeared in master classes given by Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Catherine Malfitano and Nathan Gunn among others. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Mr. Schermer now resides in Manhattan. He is an adjunct professor at Montclair State University and a staff member at Manhattan School of Music and the Bard College Conservatory of Music. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Ian Hobson, Kenneth Merrill and John Wustman.

Lukas Medlam

Lukas Medlam, born in 1985, started the piano at the age of five and the violin when he was six years old. His mother, a professional violinist, was his first teacher, however, while he attended the Purcell school, he studied with Paul Barritt, the leader of the Halle Orchestra. Lukas was the leader of the Hampshire Youth Orchestra for two years, although he prefers solo and chamber music repertoire. In 2000, Lukas won the Basingstoke Young Musician of the Year competition and won the Newbury Young Musician of the Year in June 2002, both on piano. The latter included a concerto performance with the Southern Sinfonia in Autumn 2003 as part of the award. In November 2008, he performed the Barber Violin Concerto with the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra. He plans to perform more concerts internationally and is currently commencing a master's in violin at the Vienna conservatoire. He formed the Marcel Rubin Quartet for discovery and presentation of lesser-known works of the 20th century in 2013.

Marcel Rubin Quartet

Lukas Medlam | violin

Mátyás András | violin

Nebojsa Bekcic | viola

Thomas Michael Auner | violoncello

Consisting of four international, like-minded and dedicated musicians, the Marcel Rubin Quartet was formed in late 2013, through their frequent contact within the Valsassina Ensemble – a Viennese string ensemble formed in 2011 – and through a common aim of participating in the discovery of and presenting lesser-known works of the 20th century quartet repertoire. Despite only having established themselves relatively recently, they were already involved in a wide range of projects and concerts like Vienna's "Primavera Festival" in the spring of 2014. They also toured to France and Mexico to perform among others at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. Its members represent four European countries and their affection for Vienna and the rich traditions of music making which flourish there, unites them in their music making and also beyond their quartet collaborations.



LEÓN DE CASTILLO

TENOR

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ENSEMBLE

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