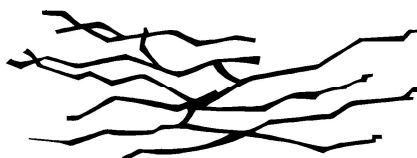


Erwin Schulhoff

1894 – 1942



Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Saturday July 23rd 2022 at 8:30 pm
Sunday July 24th 2022 at 8:30 pm

JULY 23RD

Presentation I Erwin Schulhoff: The Beginnings (1894-1913)

Erwin Schulhoff *Sonata for Violin and Piano, op. 7 (1913)*

I. Allegro risoluto

II. Tranquillo

III. Presto

IV. Allegro molto

Presentation II Erwin Schulhoff: The Search for a Language (1913-1919)

Erwin Schulhoff *Fünf Pittoresken (1919)*

I. Foxtrott

II. Ragtime

III. In Futurum

IV. One-Step

V. Maxixe

JULY 24TH

Presentation III Erwin Schulhoff: The Glorious Years (1919-1930)

Erwin Schulhoff *Sonata for Violin and Piano* (1927)

I. Allegro impetuoso

II. Andante

III. Burlesca: Allegretto

IV. Finale: Allegro risoluto

Erwin Schulhoff *Hot-Sonate “Jazz-Sonate”* (1930)

I. M.M. ♩=66

II. M.M. ♩=112

III. M.M. ♩=80

IV. M.M. ♩=132

Presentation IV Erwin Schulhoff: The Last Years (1930-1942)

Alexander Liebermann *Seen from the Sky* (2021)

As a result of Erwin Schulhoff's untimely death in 1942, his music – which was generally well received during his lifetime – was largely forgotten after the Second World War. In recent years, many musicologists, musicians, and musical societies have worked hard to bring Schulhoff's music back into the consciousness of musicians and into concert halls. Although much progress has been made in recent decades, today – in the year that marks the eightieth anniversary of his death – the name Erwin Schulhoff remains a mystery to many musicians and classical music aficionados.

Like many other artists born at the turn of the century, Schulhoff's life is marked by many dramatic experiences: Schulhoff experienced the First World War, the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the emergence of Czechoslovakia, the rise of fascism in Germany, and ultimately the Second World War, which led to his persecution and untimely death.

The coexistence of different musical styles at the time, which included Post-Romanticism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Dadaism, Neoclassicism, and jazz, just to name the best-known, was a phenomenon hitherto unknown in the history of music. This mosaic of styles influenced Schulhoff greatly and allowed him to find different means of expression.

With this festival, we not only want to remember Schulhoff's life but also disseminate his works and talk about the importance of his oeuvre in the history of twentieth-century music. In these two concerts we will give you an insight into Schulhoff's life, describe his different creative periods, and listen to some of his most important works.

Erwin Schulhoff was born in 1894 in Prague to a German-Jewish family. Encouraged by Antonín Dvořák, Schulhoff began his musical studies at the Prague Conservatory at age ten. After his studies in Leipzig and Cologne, Schulhoff was drafted into the army to fight on several fronts during the First World War.

Schulhoff's career as a pianist and composer rose after the war; he toured Germany, France, and England as both a pianist and composer. However, after 1930, because of the rise of fascism in Germany, Schulhoff faced increased difficulties; he was no longer accepted in Germany, and his music was banned from concert halls.

In 1941, Schulhoff applied for Soviet citizenship to flee Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. He was arrested and deported to the Wülzburg camp near Weißenburg, where he died from tuberculosis on August 18, 1942.

From birdsong-inspired compositions to political monodramas, the wide-ranging music of composer **Alexander Liebermann** is sought after across the United States and Europe. His most recent compositions include a climate-change reflecting monodrama commissioned by the Deutsche Oper Berlin, a birdsong-inspired string trio commissioned by members of the Staatskapelle Dresden, and a soundtrack for the documentary film *Frozen Corpses Golden Treasures*.

As a nature enthusiast, Dr. Liebermann devotes much of his time to the sounds of wildlife; his original and accurate transcriptions of animal vocalizations are viral on social media and featured in the world-renowned magazine National Geographic. His first book *Birdsong: A Musical Field Guide*, was recently published by Just A Theory Press.

Liebermann graduated from Hanns Eisler Conservatory, Juilliard, and Manhattan School of Music. For his doctoral thesis on Erwin Schulhoff, Liebermann was awarded the Saul Braverman Award in Music Theory. He resides in New York, where he is music theory and ear training faculty at Juilliard's preparatory division Music Advancement Program.

Hlíf Sigurjónsdóttir studied the violin with concertmaster Björn Ólafsson at the Reykjavík College of Music. She furthered her studies at the Universities of Indiana and Toronto where her teachers were Franco Gulli and Lorand Fenyves, followed by two winters as a stipendiary at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Canada. Later she took private lessons in New York from the renowned violinist and teacher Gerald Beal.

Hlíf has worked with many of the leading musicians of the twentieth century, including William Primrose, Janos Starker, Ruggiero Ricci, Igor Oistrach, György Sebok and the members of the Hungarian quartet.

Hlíf has given numerous concerts both as a soloist and with various ensembles and orchestras. In 2014, MRS Classics released her disc *DIALOGUS* with works for solo violin, all of which were written for her. That disc has been highly acclaimed, e.g. by Voix des Arts, and one of Fanfare Magazine's critics, Maria Nockin, has named it as one of the best CDs of the year 2015. In 2015 MSR Classics re-released the critically acclaimed 2-CD set of her playing the Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin by J.S. Bach, first released in 2008.

Hlíf is very interested in historical recordings made by the Iceland State Radio which led to radio programs, releasing a CD and events featuring the first generation of classically trained musicians in Iceland. Hlíf is the artistic director of Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Summer Concert Series.

Slava Poprugin graduated from Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow in 2000 and the next 15 years he served as docent at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory leading the piano solo and chamber music classes. Upon the graduation from the Gnessin Academy he started a fruitful collaboration with Natalia Gutman, one of the world's most esteemed cello performers. Their joint performances for more than 15 years literally covered the world with concerts on such stages as the Tchaikovsky and Moscow Conservatory Halls, National Concert Hall in Taipei, Hoam Art Hall in Seoul and Sala Cecília Meireles in Rio de Janeiro. In 2018 he was appointed as a professor at the Royal Conservatoire in Den Haag and has since lived in the Netherlands.

Slava's other remarkable collaborations include performances with Yury Bashmet, Alexander Buzlov, Martin Fröst, Alexander Kagan and others at the renowned chamber music festivals in Kuhmo, Rheingau and Kreuth.

Slava is also much sought after as a soloist with orchestra, playing a wide variety of programs with music of Mozart, Rachmaninov, Stravinsky, Schumann, Ravel and with such conductors as Susanna Mälkki, Vladimir Jurowski, Dmitry Liss, Vladimir Verbitsky. Slava's performances are available on CDs, both recitals and in ensembles with Natalia Gutman (Live Classics), Alexander Buzlov (Delos), Alexei Lubimov (Alpha). Besides his teaching and performances Slava runs the Steppenwolf Recording Studio in the Netherlands.

Adrien Liebermann is a Berlin based saxophonist. He obtained his Bachelor of Music degree in 2019 from the Hochschule für Musik-Hanns Eisler in Berlin in the class of Johannes Ernst and two years later he graduated with a Master's degree in the class of Philippe Geiss at the Haute École des Arts du Rhin in Strasbourg, France. He won the first prize of both the classical Saxophone competition 2013 in Lübeck and the German competition Jugend Musiziert in Hamburg 2015. He has obtained a scholarship from Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Berlin e.V. and the DAAD organisation.

Adrien has played with Orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Karajan-Akademie, the Theater und Orchester Heidelberg and the Hohenfels Orchestra. Working with renowned conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Suzanna Mälkki, Enno Poppe, Marie Jacquot and Matthias Pintscher has truly inspired him. As a soloist he has played with the Orquestra Jovem do Estado da São Paulo and with the Sibelius Orchestra.

Adrien developed his Jazz and improvisation skills with Prof. Peter Weniger and Volker Schlott of the Jazz Institute Berlin, Prof. Maria Baptist, Richard de Rosa, Michael Alizon and Philippe Geiss. He has recorded for several CDs, e.g. the Sonata which his brother, Alexander dedicated to him. Adrien teaches the saxophone and the clarinet in music schools.

Martin Frewer was born in Dartford, Kent in 1960 and started taking piano lessons at the age of six and later violin lessons as well. He spent his undergraduate years studying mathematics at Christ Church in Oxford, during which time he also commuted to London for violin lessons with Yfrah Neaman. After receiving his degree in mathematics at the Oxford University he continued his studies with Neaman at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, also studying the viola with Nannie Jaimeson. He has participated in master-classes with Igor Ozim, Martin Loveday, Eric Gruenberg, Almita & Roland Vamos, Peter Guth, Ake Lundeborg & Lin Yaoti.

In 1983 he got a position at the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and settled down here, pursuing his mathematics skills as a software engineer at the Marel food processing company as well as taking part in the music life in Iceland. He is a very good music arranger and is the founding member and manager of the Spiccato chamber orchestra.

Cellist **Pórdís Gerður Jónsdóttir** plays both classical music and jazz, improvises as well as composes. She studied classical cello performance at the Iceland Academy of the Arts (B.Mus) and received her Master of Music degree after studies at the Royal Academy of Music Aarhus, Denmark. She also holds a diploma from the FÍH College of Music in jazz performance and improvisation. Pórdís is a founding member of Cauda Collective chamber ensemble. In 2021 she released her debut record **Vistir** with her own jazz compositions.

In 2014 Pórdís finished a B.Sc. degree in nursing (RN) and in 2019 she completed a post-graduate diploma in public health sciences, both degrees from the University of Iceland. In between concerts she works as a nurse in the paediatric emergency room in the Iceland University Hospital.