

KURT WEILL NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Number 1

Spring 1994

IN THIS ISSUE

More Radical Than Most Gebrauchsjazz: Music for the "Berlin im Licht" Festival	6
Nils Grosch	
Weill and Schoenberg	10
David Drew	
Around the World: Street Scene Research Documents at Yale University and the Rubin Academy of Music and Dance	14
David D'Andre and Claude Abravanel	
Books	17
Christopher Hailey. Franz Schreker, 1878-1934: A Cultural Biography. Keith Cochran	
Marc A. Weiner. Undertones of Insurrection: Music, Politics, and the Social Sphere in the Modern German Narrative. Keith Cochran	
Hans Otto Münsterer. The Young Brecht. James K. Lyon	
Peter Thomson and Glendyr Sacks, eds. The Cambridge Companion to Brecht Ronald Speirs	
Peter Jelavich. Berlin Cabaret. Alan Lareau	
Performances	20
Violin Concerto , Philadelphia Orchestra in New York Michael von der Linn	
Die sieben Todsünden in New York Nicholas Deutsch	
Street Scene in Houston Howard Pollack	
Der Lindberghflug in Dessau Andreas Hillger	
Recordings	23
Die sieben Todsünden. David Hamilton	
Fassbaender/NDR Radio Philharmonia (Hannover)/Garben on Harmonia Mundi	
Bierett/Cologne Radio Orchestra/Zagrosek on Capriccio	
Silja/Cleveland Orchestra/von Dohnányi on Cleveland Orchestra label	
Videos	24
Der Lindberghflug. Directed by Jean-François Jung; produced by WDR/La Sept/INA. Geoffrey Burleson	
Die sieben Todsünden (Les sept péchés capitaux). Directed by Peter Sellars; produced by La Sept-Arte/ Opéra de Lyon. Geoffrey Burleson	
Columns	
Kurt Weill Edition Report	3
1994 Grant Awards	5
New Publications	16
Selected Performances	27



Nils Grosch uncovers new information about
music composed for the "Berlin im Licht" Festival.
Page 6.

Lady in the Dark at City Center

As part of the series "Encores! Great American Musicals in Concert," City Center is poised to present a performance of *Lady in the Dark* on 4-7 May 1994. Christine Ebersole will appear in the leading role and Robert Fisher will conduct. City Center, the former home of the New York City Opera, is located in midtown Manhattan.

One Touch of Venus in Meiningen

One Touch of Venus will have its German-language premiere at Das Meininger Theater on 17 June 1994 and will remain in repertory during the theater's summer season. Wolfgang Hocke serves as musical director for the production, which will workshop a new German translation by Richard Weihe.

Paul Green Centennial

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Paul Green Foundation celebrated the centennial of Paul Green's birth with a series of events spanning January-April 1994. Paul Eliot Green (17 March 1894 - 4 May 1981) wrote seven Broadway plays (including *Johnny Johnson*), eleven other plays, seventeen symphonic dramas, two novels, and five screenplays.

In addition to exhibitions, readings, and concerts, the celebration featured five performances of a multimedia production of drama, music, dance, pantomime, and ritual entitled "A Tribute to Paul Green" (18-26 March) and a symposium on 19 March devoted to the topic "Paul Green: Teacher, Playwright, Citizen."

Zinman Conducts All-Weill Pops Concert

David Zinman will conduct the Baltimore Symphony in an all-Weill "SuperPops" evening, 9-11 June 1994, at 8:15 p.m. The occasion will mark the premiere of "Kurt Weill: Bilbao to Broadway," a concert of theater songs devised by Kim Kowalke for six soloists, optional chorus, and orchestra. Among the singers Zinman has invited for the three performances at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall are Judy Kaye, Angelina Réaux, and Kurt Ollmann. Evenly balanced between Weill's European and American works, the program is divided into four thematically conceived sections, so that orchestras can program either a half- or full-evening performance. Compiled from Weill's original orchestrations (in cooperation with European American Music Corporation and the Kurt Weill Foundation), performance materials will be available for the 1994-95 season from the Rodgers & Hammerstein Concert Library.

Der Kuhhandel in Bautzen

The first stage production of Lys Symonette's reconstruction of *Der Kuhhandel* opens at the Deutsch-Sorbisches Volkstheater in Bautzen, Germany on 18 June 1994. Stage director Wolfgang Poch leads a production team featuring Hans Ellerfeld, set designer, and Dieter Kempfen, musical director. The cast includes Kathrin Wachter, Birgitt Bauman, Uta Jentsch, and Christian Bär. For performance dates and times call the theater at (03591) 5840.

Réaux in Saratoga Springs and Montreal

Charles Dutoit leads the Philadelphia Orchestra in a performance of *Die sieben Todsünden* on 10 August 1994 at the orchestra's summer season at Saratoga Springs, New York. Soprano Angelina Réaux will join the Philadelphia Orchestra as soloist and will also sing the role of Anna I in performances with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Charles Dutoit, conductor, during the coming season, on 14 May 1995.

KURT WEILL NEWSLETTER Vol. 12, No. 1; Spring 1994

© 1994 Kurt Weill Foundation for Music
7 East 20th Street
New York, NY 10003-1106
Tel. (212) 505-5240
Fax (212) 353-9663

ISSN 0899-6407

The Newsletter is published to provide an open forum wherein interested readers may express a variety of ideas and opinions. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the publisher's official viewpoint. The editor encourages the submission of articles, reviews, and news items for inclusion in future issues. The submission deadline for the next issue is 15 July 1994.

David Farneth, *Editor*
Mario R. Mercado, *Associate Editor*
Edward D. Harsh, *Production Editor*
Kathleen Finnegan, *Production Assistant*

Board of Trustees

Kim Kowalke, *President*
Henry Marx, *Vice-President*
Lys Symonette, *Vice-President*
Guy Stern, *Secretary*
Milton Coleman, *Treasurer*
Philip Getter
Harold Prince
Julius Rudel

Foundation Staff

Kim Kowalke, *President*
David Farneth, *Director and Archivist*
Lys Symonette, *Musical Executive*
Mario R. Mercado, *Director of Programs*
Edward D. Harsh, *Associate Director for Publications*
John Andrus, *Associate Archivist*
Kathleen Finnegan, *Administrative Assistant*



Sins Banners Available

The New York Philharmonic is offering to make available to orchestras and other concert presenters its reproductions of the banners designed by Caspar Neher for the original production of *Seven Deadly Sins*. The banners made a striking visual complement as lobby hangings to the Philharmonic's December 1993 "Brecht, Weill, and Berlin" festival. Each of the seven canvas banners measures 8 feet wide x 20 feet high and was painted by Oscar Hammerstein III (pictured above). For more information, contact the Philharmonic's Archivist and Historian, Barbara Haws, at (212) 875-5931. Photo: Chris Lee, courtesy New York Philharmonic.



Program cover for *Lost in the Stars* at the Habimah Theater in Tel Aviv. Uri Paster directs the cast in a new Hebrew version by Ehud Manor. Rafi Kadishsohn is the music director. The production runs in repertory through the end of May 1994.



The North Carolina School for the Arts presented *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* in January 1994 as part of its semester-long celebration of Kurt Weill. The school will perform *The Threepenny Opera* at the end of April and *The Seven Deadly Sins* in early May. Photo by Allen Aycock.

Kurt Weill Edition Receives NEH Grant

National Endowment for the Humanities offers support

The National Endowment for the Humanities, chaired by Sheldon Hackney, has awarded the Kurt Weill Edition major funding in support of editorial work from April 1994 through March 1996. The support may continue beyond this two-year span through a process of re-application and evaluation of the Edition's progress during the initial period.

NEH funds will support a range of activities associated with the preparation of edited manuscripts. The work of volume editors and other expert consultants are paramount among these. Also covered will be meetings of the Editorial Board, costs of preparing source materials, and a portion of staff salaries.

Part of the grant comes in the form of outright funds, distributed to the Edition as expenses are incurred. The remainder is designated as "matching" funds. Intended to stimulate third party support of the KWE, these funds will be released in direct, one-to-one proportion to moneys donated to the project by outside foundations, corporations, or individuals.

Exile Conference at Harvard

From 5-8 May 1994, the Department of Music of Harvard University hosts an international musicological conference entitled "The Musical Migration, Austria-Germany to the U.S., circa 1930 - 1950." The conference, cosponsored by the Goethe Institute of Boston, focuses on the unprecedented flow to the United States of German and Austrian musicians and scholars fleeing National Socialism.

Harvard music faculty members Reinhold Brinkmann and Christoph Wolff will co-direct the proceedings. Scholars from Europe and the United States participate in five sessions: "Immigrants and Refugees," "Sociological and Geographical Aspects," "Kulturbruch and Acculturation," and "Scholars in Exile." An entire session, tentatively scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 2 pm, is devoted to Kurt Weill and will include papers by Stephen Hinton (Yale University), David Kilroy (Tufts University), and Alexander Ringer (University of Illinois). Kay Kaufman Shelemay (Harvard University) serves as chair and Kim Kowalke (University of Rochester) as respondent for this session.

The conference, which takes place in Paine Hall, opens with a concert of songs and chamber music by emigrant composers, among them Adorno, Eisler, Schoenberg, and Weill. Other participants include Leon Botstein (Bard College), Hermann Danuser (Humboldt Universität, Berlin), Leo Treitler (City University of New York), Claudia M. Zenck (Graz), and Edward Rothstein (*The New York Times*). For a complete schedule of events, contact the Harvard music department at (617) 495-2791.

The city of Dessau presented *Kurt Weill Fest '94* in early March at various venues throughout the city. This year's festival included performances by the KurtWeill-Ensemble; a revue entitled "Lost in the Stars and Stripes" by Alan Marks, Sona MacDonald, and Udo Samel; and a production of *Mahagonny Songspiel* at the city theater. For the main event, the festival organizers presented a concert performance of *Der Lindberghflug*. A review appears on page 22.



Upcoming Tributes on Video

Rhombus Media

Rhombus Media, based in Toronto, Canada, is completing an 85-minute video tribute to Weill's music by classical, jazz, rock, pop, and rap performers. Filmed in a converted Toronto warehouse and on location in New York and Berlin, the film features performances by Teresa Stratas, Stan Ridgway, Betty Carter, Elvis Costello and the Brodsky Quartet, William S. Burroughs, Mary Margaret O'Hara, P.J. Harvey, David Johansen, Ellen Shipley, Ralph Schuckett, The Persuasions, Kathy Dalton, Ghettooriginal, Charlie Haden, the Esprit Orchestra, and Lou Reed. In addition, the film incorporates archival recordings of Lotte Lenya and Weill himself.

The production will be telecast to an international audience in fall 1994 by PBS and the CBC, as well as television stations in Germany (ZDF), France (ARTE), Portugal (RTP), and the Netherlands (NOS); it will be available subsequently on video-disc and videogram. A CD will be issued by Sony Classics.

The film is directed by Larry Weinstein and produced by Niv Fichman and Larry Weinstein. Hal Willner serves as music producer. Other members of the creative team include Mike Zyrd (Writer), Horst Zeidler (Director of Photography), Michael Levine (Production Designer), and Linda Muir (Costume Design). Other award-winning Rhombus music projects include films on Ravel, Schoenberg, De Falla, Yehudi Menuhin, and Glenn Gould.

Hessischer Rundfunk

Director Barrie Gavin is preparing a documentary on the life of Lotte Lenya under the working title of "Lenya: An Invention" for broadcast in late fall on German television. Austrian composer HK Gruber will narrate a script written by Gavin and Kim H. Kowalke. The Hessischer Rundfunk production is designed by Clare-Lise Leisegang. The show will include interviews with people who knew Lenya and will feature audio and video archival performances. Both Gavin and Leisegang gathered archival and research materials from the Weill-Lenya Research Center.

Canadian Broadcast Corporation

Producers Ron Krant and Tamar Weinstein of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation have completed a 16-minute video feature on the life and music of Kurt Weill to be aired during the spring on the



Photos from the Rhombus Media production. Top to bottom: Elvis Costello, Betty Carter, Lou Reed. Photos: Viliam Hrubovcak

CBC's daily 1-hour news show, Prime Time News. The documentary, which makes use of archival materials from the Weill-Lenya Research Center, demonstrates the wide appeal of Weill's music and surveys current productions and projects throughout the world.

Prix Italia Includes Three Weill Telecasts

The Prix Italia television festival, now in its 45th year, included three video productions featuring works by Weill: *Der Lindberghflug* (directed by Jean-François Jung; produced by Westdeutscher Rundfunk - La Sept - INA), *Les sept péchés capitaux* (directed by Peter Sellars; produced by La Sept/Arte), and *Kurt Weill in America* (directed by Barrie Gavin; produced by Hessischer Rundfunk). [A review of the first two appears on page 24.]

Of the three, *Les sept péchés capitaux* and *Kurt Weill in America* were selected among the four finalists. The two prizes went to *The Vampyr* (a BBC horror film-soap opera adapted from Heinrich Marschner) and *Giselle* (TV 2-Denmark).

A source close to the fourth-place Hessischer Rundfunk documentary, *Kurt Weill in America*, quoted German panelists as saying "the film wasn't experimental enough, and the music Weill wrote in America wasn't important enough for a film."

Christopher Dunkley, writing in the *Financial Times*, questioned why television should be used for conveying works of art to large audiences. "La Sept of France gave us Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* ... again: what is this fixation exerted by the monotonous work of Weill over European intellectuals?"

If the *Kurt Weill Newsletter* decided to reprint publishing blunders (*à la* the *New Yorker* under its former editor), the following English-language summary of *The Seven Deadly Sins* taken from the official festival documents would be a likely candidate for the column:

Brecht's first collaboration with Kurt Weill, a pupil of Busoni's. This work consisted of five songs of Brecht's set to music by Weill (it is interesting to note that Brecht himself had earlier set them to music) and it was not until after their collaboration on Die Dreigroschenoper, Der Lindberghflug, and Happy End. Opera in three acts by Kurt Weill, libretto by Bertolt Brecht. Premiere, Leipzig, March 9, 1930 with Mali Trummer, Marga Dannenberg, ...



Above: A scene from the Westdeutscher Rundfunk-La Sept-INA production of *Der Lindberghflug*, directed by Jean-François Jung. Photo by Michel Lioret.

Below: Teresa Stratas appears in Peter Sellars's video of *The Seven Deadly Sins*, a production of La Sept-Arte. The musical accompaniment is by the orchestra of the Lyon Opera, conducted by Kent Nagano. Photo: Gérard Ansellem.



1994 Grants Awarded

In December 1993, the Board of Trustees of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc. approved the recommendations of the Independent Grants Advisory Panel to award the grants listed below.

Research

Bryan Gilliam, Durham, NC. Research and travel grant to the Weill/Lenya Archive at Yale University, the Bertolt Brecht Archive at Harvard University, and the Weill-Lenya Research Center, New York, to undertake archival and source study work for the preparation of a scholarly edition of *Mahagonny Songspiel* in the Kurt Weill Edition.

Elmar Juchem, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany. Research and travel grant to the Weill/Lenya Archive at Yale University and the Weill-Lenya Research Center, New York, to support study of *Lost in the Stars*.

Dissertation Fellowship

Nils Grosch, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany. Dissertation fellowship for travel to the Weill/Lenya Archive at Yale University and the Weill-Lenya Research Center, New York to support work on Ph.D. thesis *Die Musik der Neuen Sachlichkeit 1923-1929*.

Publication Assistance

Gunther Diehl, Wiesbaden, Germany. Publication assistance grant to support the reproduction of music examples, facsimile pages, photographs, and documents in the book *Der junge Weill und seine Oper "Der Protagonist"* to be published by Bärenreiter Verlag.

Symposia

Goethe Institut-Houston, Houston, TX. Grant to support symposium tied to the Houston Grand Opera production of *Street Scene*.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Grant to support the symposium entitled "The Musical Migration, Austria-Germany to the U.S., circa 1930-1950," a session of which is devoted to Weill.

Performance

Chorus Pro Musica, Boston, MA. *Berliner Requiem*.

Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA. *Mahagonny Songspiel*, Concerto for violin and wind instruments, Op. 12.

HM Treasury Singers, London, England. *Kiddush*.

Houston Grand Opera, Houston, TX. *Street Scene*.

Kurt-Weill-Zentrum, Dessau, Germany. *Der Lindberghflug*.

The Nile Foundation/American Cathedral Arts, Paris, France. *Lost in the Stars*.

Opera at Rutgers, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ. *Mahagonny Songspiel* and other works.

North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC. *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*; *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra, Santa Monica, CA. Symphony No.2.

Trinity College, London, England. *Johnny Johnson*.

University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA. *Berliner Requiem*.