

## *The Seven Deadly Sins (Die sieben Todsünden)*

One of Kurt Weill's most beloved and frequently performed works is now available in four versions, accessible to a wide range of performance settings

### **Original (1933)**

*for Soprano, Male Quartet, and Symphony or Chamber Orchestra.*  
(2-1-2-1; 2-2-1-1; timp/perc [2], hp, pno, bjo/guitar; full string section).

### **Arrangement for Low Voice by Wilhelm Brückner-Rüggeberg (1956)**

*for the same performing forces as the original, but with the role of Anna (sometimes also the Male Quartet) transposed down a perfect fourth*  
(2-1-2-1; 2-2-1-1; timp/perc [2], hp, pno, bjo/guitar; full string section).

### **Arrangement for 2 Pianos and Percussion by John Greer (2015)**

*for Soprano, Male Quartet, two pianists and one (optional) percussionist (for school and amateur performances).*

### **Version for 15 Players by HK Gruber/Christian Muthspiel (2019)**

*for Soprano, Male Quartet, and fifteen instrumentalists.*  
(1-0-2-1; 1-1-1-0; timp/perc [1], pno, bjo/guitar; 1-1-1-1-1).

When staged, **all four versions** call for a female dancer (Anna II), with additional non-singing performers ad lib.

**All four versions** may be studied and rehearsed from the published piano vocal score (Schott 1972).

## Frequently Asked Questions about performing *The Seven Deadly Sins*

### **Are translations available in languages other than the original German?**

Yes! There are a number of approved translations. There's the English translation by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman that appears in the published piano-vocal score. Then there's another English translation, by Michael Feingold, and a French translation, by Edouard Pfrimmer. For more information you can contact the publisher.

### **May we perform the work using recorded playback?**

On a case-by-case basis, yes, dance performance accompanied by recording may be possible. You'll need to contact the publisher for authorization and a license.

### **How should we bill the work in our programs and advertisements?**

You should list Weill's full name above the title, then follow with the work's title, the genre designation, and Brecht's credit, as below, all in the language corresponding to the language in which the piece is performed:

**Kurt Weill**  
**The Seven Deadly Sins / Die sieben Todsünden / Les Sept péchés capitaux**  
**Ballet with Singing / Ballett mit Gesang / Ballet chanté**  
**Text by Bertolt Brecht**

An edition of Brecht's libretto published after Weill's death added the words "der Kleinbürger," but that addition may not be used in connection with Weill's music. Also, if you're performing the work in any of the three approved versions other than the original you should identify it using the given version description specified above.

### **What kind of license do we need to perform *The Seven Deadly Sins*?**

That depends on what kind of performance you'd like to do. If you want to perform it in concert, as a kind of song cycle without staging, choreography, scenery, or special lighting, that's considered a so-called "small right." In that case, the performance would be licensed by the appropriate performing rights society (e.g. ASCAP, PRS, GEMA, etc.), with performing materials on rental from the publisher. On the other hand, if you want to perform it as a staged or semi-staged dance or dramatic work, you'll need to arrange with the publisher for a "grand rights" license and a rental agreement for performing materials.

### **May we perform selected excerpts?**

Lotte Lenya, Weill's wife, for whom he wrote the role of Anna I, felt strongly that *The Seven Deadly Sins* should be performed only in its entirety. If you'd like to request an exception to that longstanding policy, you need to submit a request to the publisher. Make sure you make a request of this kind far in advance of any planned performance.

### **May we make our own arrangements or adaptations?**

Weill was proud of his orchestrations and felt that they were extremely important in defining the identity of each of his works. He felt the same way about his works' overall form. The four authorized versions described above have been developed and vetted with great care before being made available for use throughout the world. It's unlikely that new arrangements or adaptations made for the use of a given performance will be approved.

### **How do I contact the publisher of *The Seven Deadly Sins* in my territory?**

Schott Music represents the work throughout the world. You can refer to the Schott website at <https://en.schott-music.com/> for further information.