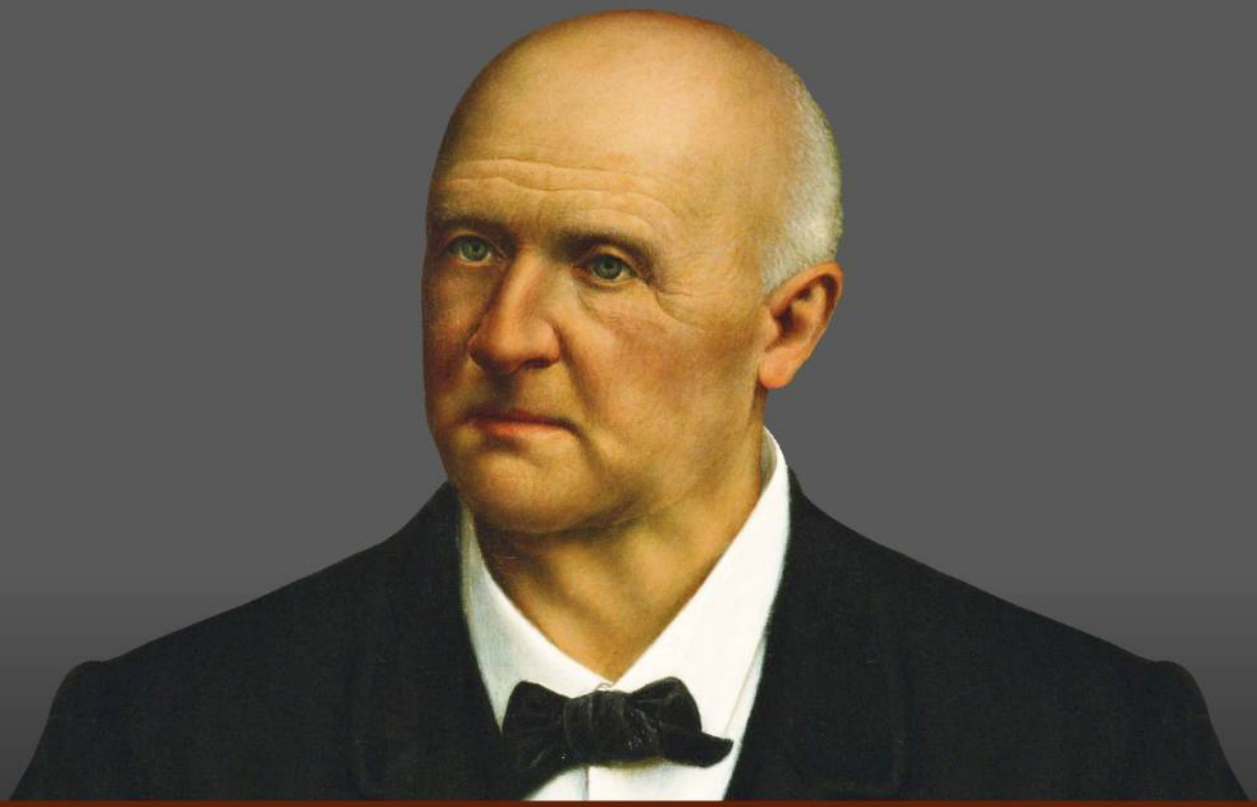


10

Lecture hall



Jesuit College, lecture hall n° VIII, third floor





The lecture halls were accessible by using the college's main entrance.

The Faculty of Law occupied the first and second floors : it housed lecture halls n° I to VI.

The Faculty of Philosophy was located on the third floor : it housed the Dean's office, the Dean's room, a professor's office, the registry, and five lecture halls (n° VIII to XII) .

Professor Bruckner gave his harmony and counterpoint lecture on Monday evenings in " hall n° VIII ". There was three window bays facing " Postgasse "(post alley) and three facing " Bäckerstraße "(baker street) .

The precise location of this hall was described by student Ernst Schwanzara, as follows :

« I determined the location of Bruckner's lecture hall at the " Old University " by ascertaining the name of the janitor who had once been assigned to him, Johann Neudorfer, and by locating his daughter Elise in Vienna, who showed me the hall on site in May 1930. It was then destroyed by bombing on November 5, 1944. It was located on the third floor of the so-called " seminary wing ". One side of the hall's windows faced " Bäckerstraße " which, at that time, was blocked off with an iron chain during lecture hours (from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm) so that the lectures would not be disturbed by street noise. »

There has been some uncertainty regarding the exact location of the lecture hall. If, as Schwanzara writes, " one side of the windows "faced" Bäckerstraße ", was there another, perhaps facing" Universitätsplatz " ? Or" Postgasse " ? In 2000, architect Friedmund Hueber pointed out, regarding the destruction caused by the 1944 bombing, that while both arched passage ways on" Bäckerstraße "were damaged, the lecture hall building itself was not. This would mean that the lecture hall itself was not destroyed and still exists structurally today, albeit in a spatially altered form.

We ignore how many seats the" long benches " had, which were probably a relic from the" Academic Gymnasium ", which relocated on" Beethovenplatz " in 1866. Bruckner himself stated that" around 70 students "attended his lectures. It must have been quite crowded, considering that the hall also had to accommodate the lectern, two blackboards, a stove, four tables, and a piano. Bruckner, whose lectures were always well attended, was accustomed to demonstrating " improvements "on the" old, thin sounding piano "during lessons, so that the students could then dictate these passages from the blackboard.
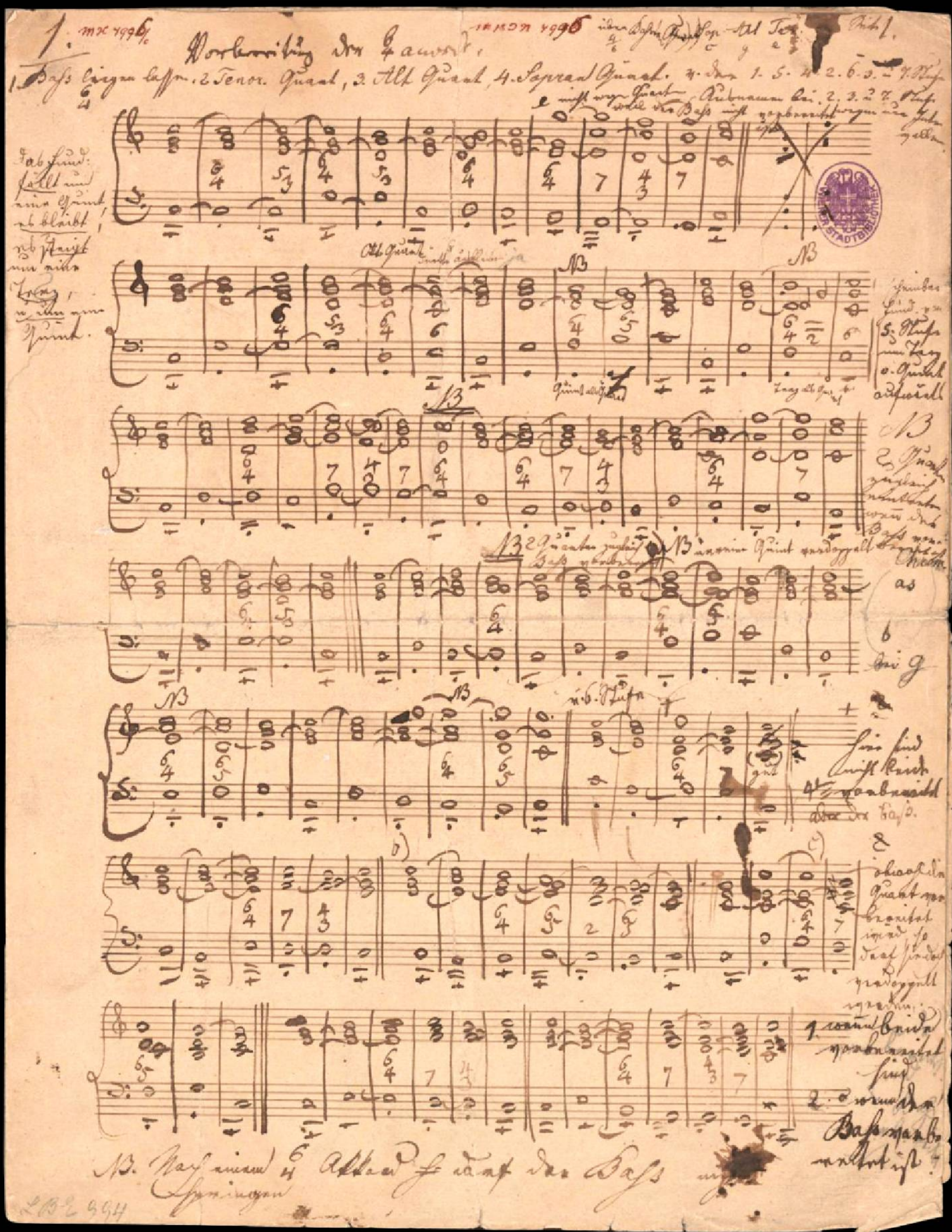
At the suggestion of professors Rudolf Weinwurm and Eduard Hanslick, the piano in" lecture hall n° VIII "was purchased in 1864 at the Imperial and Royal court piano manufacturer Friedrich Ehrbar (formerly owned by Eduard Seuffert) , which was located at" Schiffgasse "n° 753 in" Neue Wieden " (south-eastern part of the Wieden district) .

In a furniture inventory from 1881, the then school care-taker, Ludwig Kölblinger, recorded the furnishings of the hall in detail :

1. Lange Bänke [long benches] 12
2. Kleine Tische [small tables] 2
3. Größere Tische [larger tables] 2
4. Sesseln [arm chairs] 8
5. Schwarze Tafel samt Gestell [blackboard and frame] 1
6. Schwarze Wandtafel [black chalkboard] 1
7. Katheder Lectern [lectern] 1
8. Wandrechen [wall shelves] 11
9. Clavier [piano] 1
10. Erdener Ofen [earth stove] 1

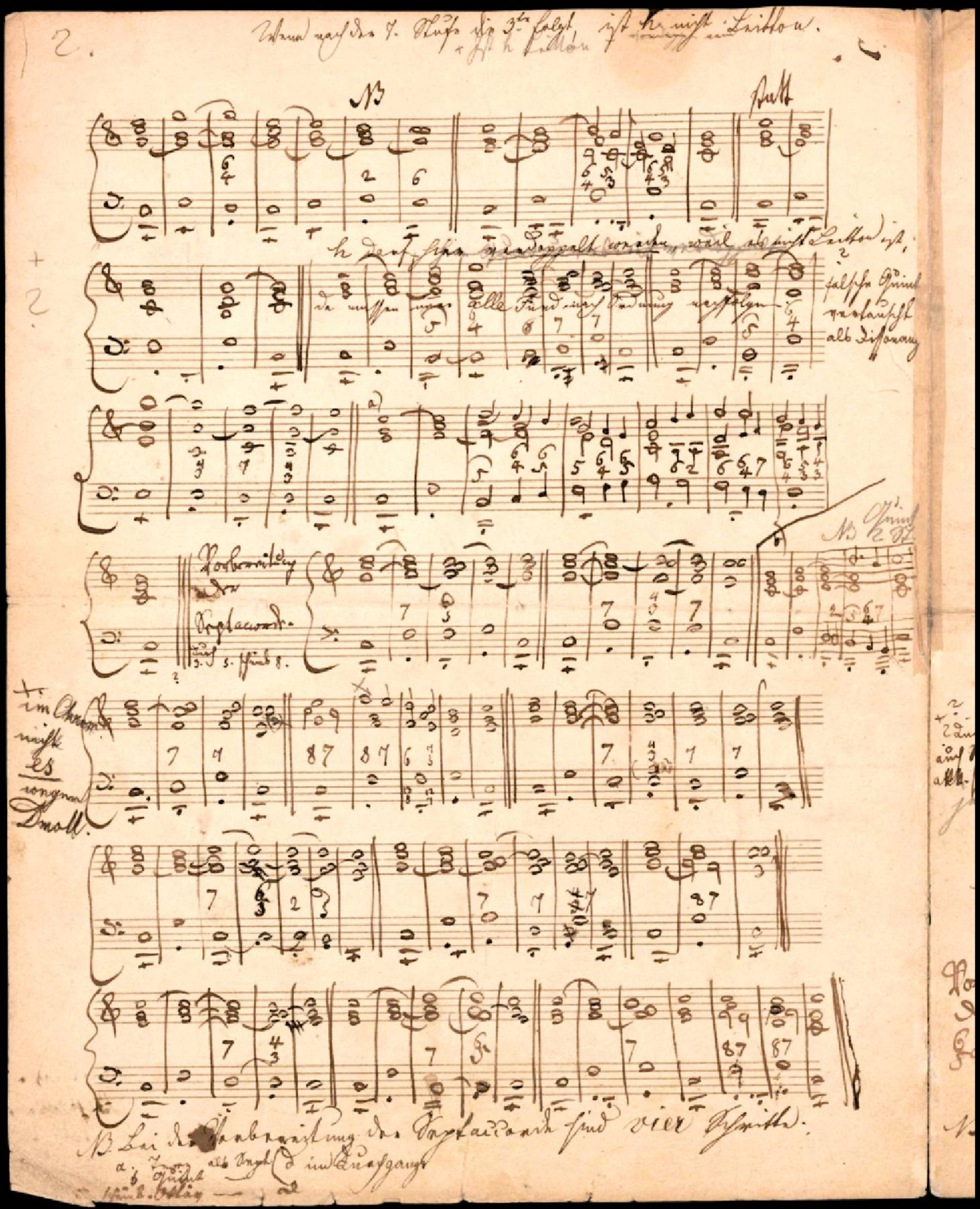
harmony exercises by prof. Bruckner

Austrian National Library (undated)
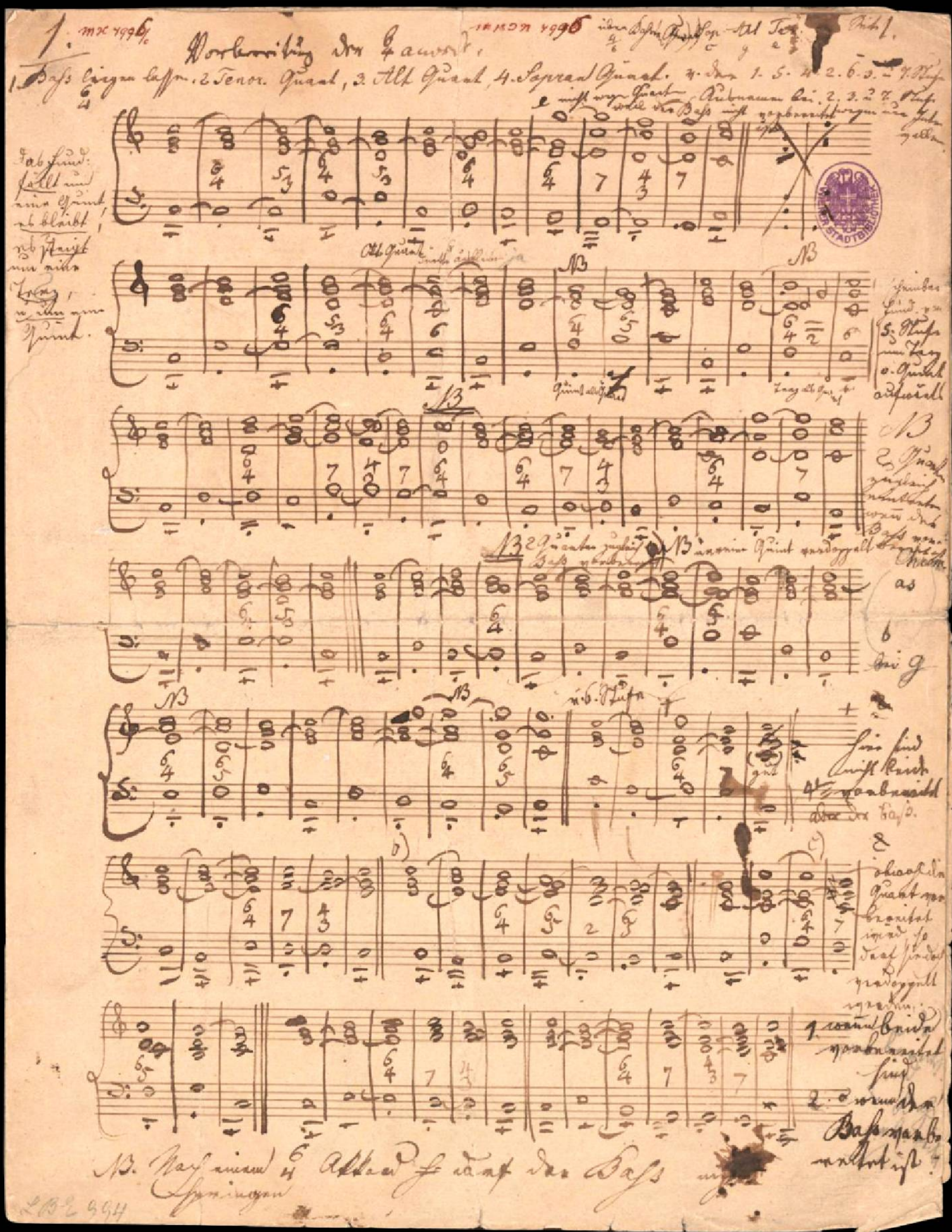


harmony exercises by prof. Bruckner

Austrian National Library (undated)



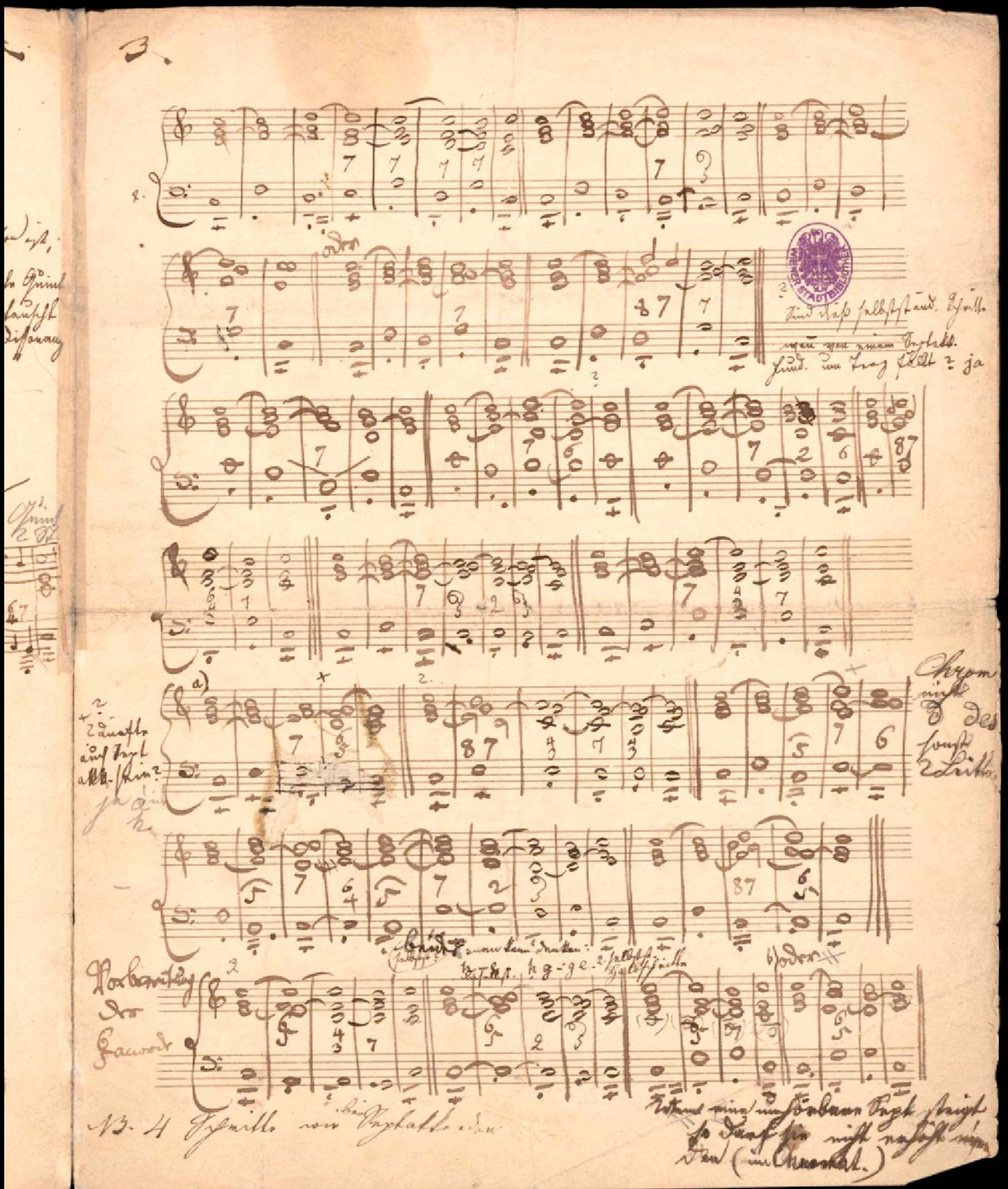
harmony exercises by prof. Bruckner

Austrian National Library (undated)



harmony exercises by prof. Bruckner

Austrian National Library (undated)



the tragic fire at the “ Ringtheater ” in Vienna





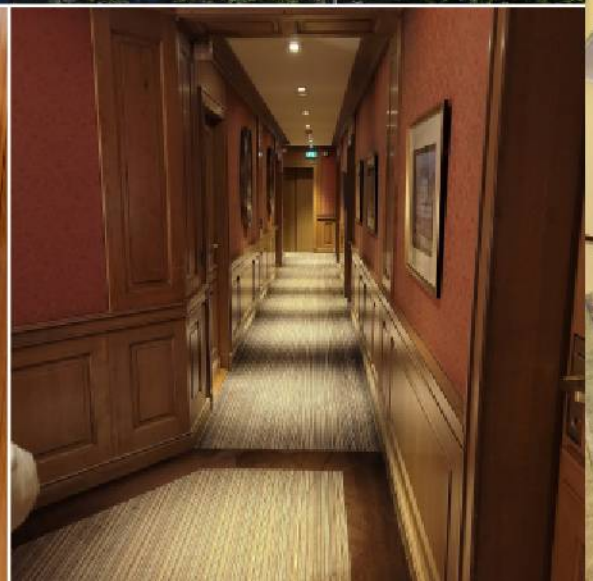
Monday, 31 October 1892 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Faculty of Philosophy in the main building of the University of Vienna

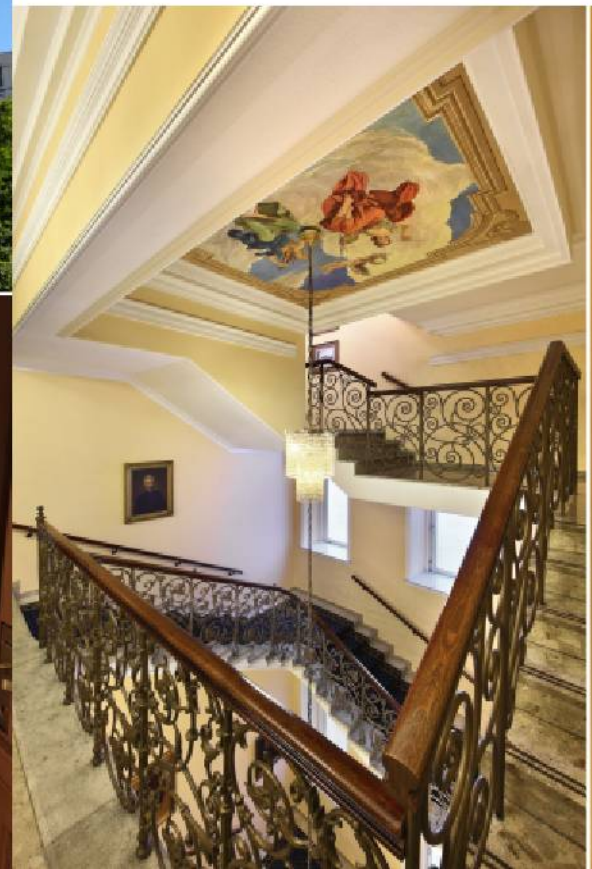
Hörsaal XLI (41) first floor *Today, during his weekly harmony lecture, professor Bruckner recounts to his students some of his fond memories, including the tragic fire at the* ***Ringtheater*** *on Thursday evening,* ***8 December 1881*** *which he witnessed from the window of his apartment on the fourth floor of the* ***Wohnhaus at Heßgasse 7.***



HOTEL DE FRANCE
WIEN

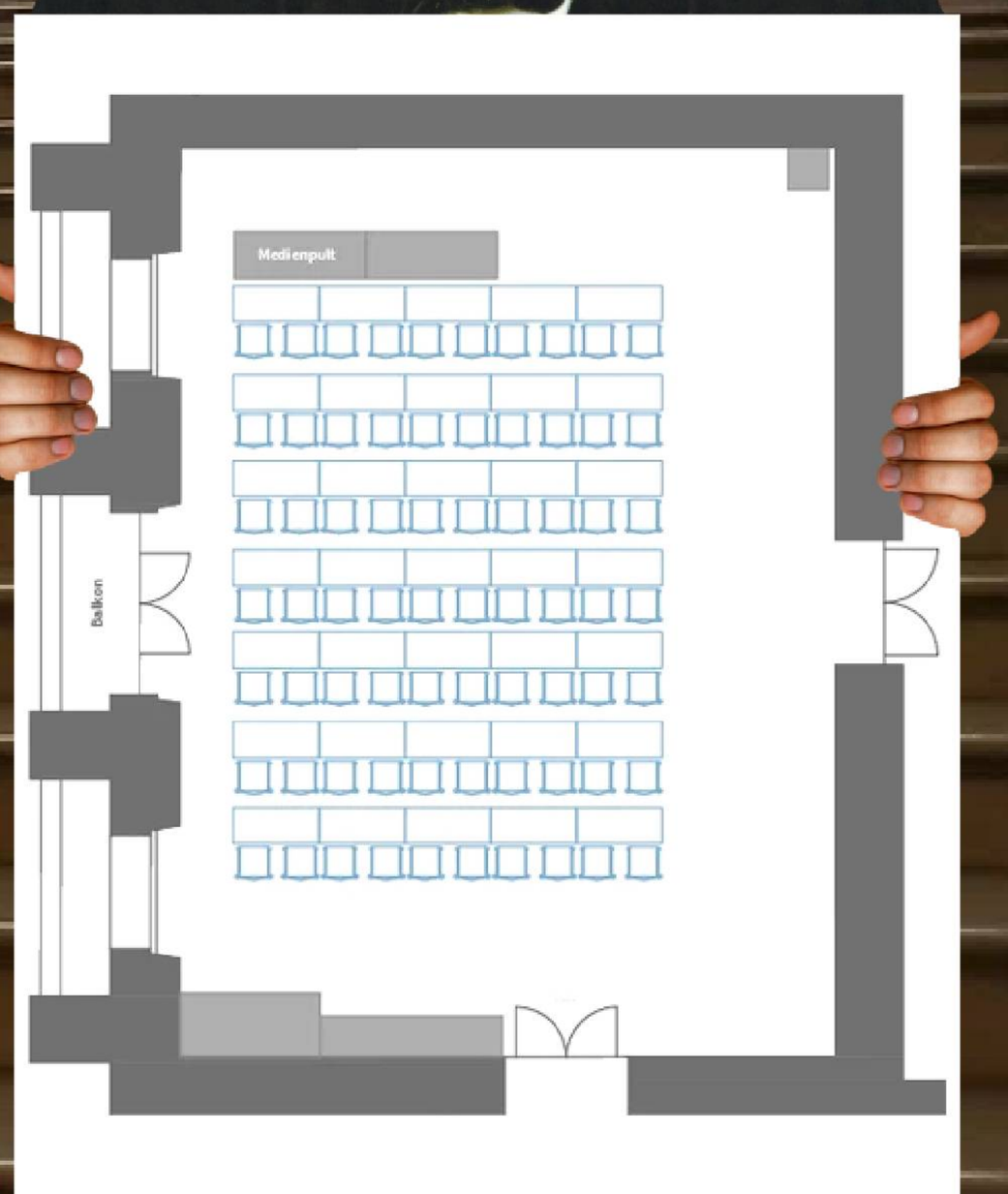








My dear students, make sure not to arrive late for my weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint in Room 36 right behind the statue of our beloved Emperor. Here's a plan, and specs … capacity : 70 students / 115 m² / 12.7 x 9.1 x 7 meters.





FRANCISCVS · JOSEPHVS · I ·

Main building of the University of Vienna on the " Ringstraße "

Two main staircases lead from the Mezzanine to a reversing platform and via two sets of steps on each side to the first floor.

Architect Heinrich von Ferstel envisioned the representational steps on the south side as the access point for the Faculty of Law on the first floor.

A marble and stone statue of patron " Franciscus Josephus I " dressed in the regalia of the Order of the Golden Fleece (by the German sculptor Caspar von Zumbusch, 1886) stands at the top of the staircase.

(That is why many of the law students were aspiring to become state officials.)

The expression " Lawyers' steps " still exist today, even if they now lead to the Dean's office for Information Technology, the Institute for German studies, and the " small Ceremonial Hall ".

The Portal in front of the " Lawyers' steps " gives direct access to the Senate Hall , the " large Ceremonial Hall " and the " small Ceremonial Hall ".

Academic celebrations, conferences and lectures take place in the " small Ceremonial Hall "

Lecture Hall XXXVI (36) small Ceremonial Hall

capacity : 70 students

dimensions : 12.7 m x 9.1 m x 7 m

floor space : 115 square meters

professor Anton Bruckner gives his weekly harmony and counterpoint lecture each Monday

according to the memoirs of Michael Maria Rabenlechner (1868-1952) :

" [it was] located to the right of the entrance to the large ballroom and, because it served various music academy lectures, had a piano on the left of the lectern next to the blackboard. "

Bruckner will teach in this room until his last lecture on Monday, 12 November 1894

Max Auer reports that house-keeper " Frau Kathi " Kachelmayr and the beloved students

helped professor Bruckner :

" Slowly, and with a heavy heart, he climbed the great stairs for the last time."

which resulted in an asthma attack

After the 2003 renovations

the Lecture Hall XXXVI (36)
is renamed Elise Richter Hall



universität wien

Elise-Richter-Saal

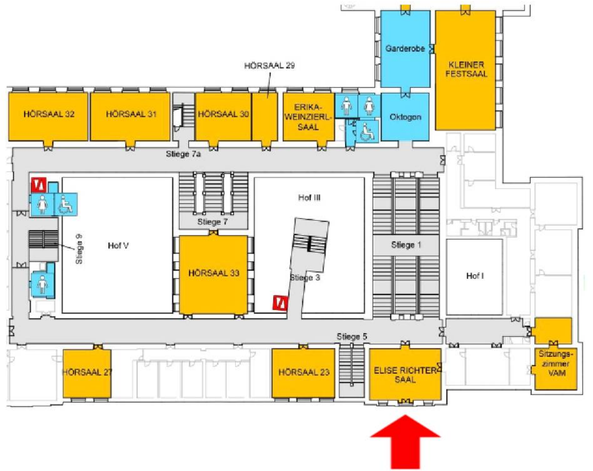
Elise Richter (1865–1943)

Als erste Frau Österreichs hat sich Elise Richter im Jahre 1905 an der Philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Wien habilitiert. Sie erhielt zwei Jahre später die Venia legendi der Romanistik und wurde zur Dozentin ernannt.

1921 konnte sie auch den „Titel eines außerordentlichen Professors" erwerben. In den Jahren 1922–30 fungierte sie als Vorsitzende des von ihr gegründeten „Verbandes der akademischen Frauen Österreichs".

Ihr umfangreiches sprachwissenschaftliches Werk fand international große Beachtung, die ordentliche Professur wurde ihr jedoch versagt. Als Jüdin 1938 von der Universität entlassen, wurde sie 1942 gemeinsam mit ihrer Schwester, der Anglistin und Theaterwissenschaftlerin Helene Richter, in das Konzentrationslager Theresienstadt deportiert. Dort verlieren sich ihre Spuren.





Elise Richter is the first woman in Austria to complete her habilitation in 1905. After a two year waiting period due to sexism and anti-Semitism, she officially receives her teaching qualification at the University of Vienna in 1907. This makes her the first female lecturer in Austria.

10 March 1942 : The sisters Elise and Helen Richter hope to remain in their beloved Vienna.

They are evicted from their house, and taken to a so-called Jewish home for the elderly.

That same month, Adolf Eichmann orders the beginning of the deportations of Jews : 20,000 from Prague - 18,000 from Vienna.

10 October 1942 : Elise and Helene Richter are among the 1,321 Jews on the last railway transport from the Austrian capital to Theresienstadt (Terezín) .

The concentration-camp then holds 58,000 inmates, the highest number ever. The conditions are indescribable.

8 November 1942 : Helene Richter dies at the age of eighty-one. The cause of death is recorded as " intestinal catarrh ".

After her sister's death, Elise endures the vermin, malnutrition, sickness and inner torment for another eight months.

21 June 1943 : Elise Richter dies at the age of seventy-eight of " unknown causes " (probably intestinal catarrh and pneumonia) .


capacity : 70 students
dimensions : 12.7 m x 9.1 m x 7 m
floor space : 115 to 116 square meters
ceiling height : 7 meters
Lecture hall 36



Lecture hall 36

capacity : 70 students

dimensions : 12.7 m x 9.1 m x 7 m

floor space : 115 m²

professor Anton Bruckner gives his weekly harmony and counterpoint lecture

according to the memoirs of Michael Maria Rabenlechner (1868-1952) :

« [it was] located to the right of the entrance to the large ballroom and, because it served various music academy lectures, had a piano on the left of the lectern next to the blackboard. »

Bruckner's evening lectures are very popular : they enjoy almost the status of main events on the cultural scene of the Austrian capital. Since they are not part of the strict core music curriculum but are offered as an elective course (« skills ») open to students from all faculties, often well over 100 attendees - whom the « Master » affectionately calls « Gaudeamus » - are crowding the room !

At the time, the benches were filled exclusively by male students. Women were not admitted as « regular students » to the Faculty of Philosophy until 1897.

When the new building was planned in 1873, the University of Vienna had 3,813 students. When the main building was inaugurated by Emperor Franz-Josef on 10 October 1884, the number had risen by 50 % !!

For late evening lectures, incandescent gas lamps are used, which cast a flickering, warm, but also slightly hissing light, leaving a characteristic smell. During the winter season, the heating is provided by a forced air system. (On the « Ringstraße » , it is often drafty and cold inside these monumental stone buildings.)

The benches and narrow writing desks are made of solid, dark-stained softwood or oak. The room, which as a high ceiling, is acoustically very reverberant. The scratching of steel nibs on paper, the whispering of the students, and the clattering on the wooden benches form the normal backdrop until professor Bruckner makes his entrance with deep, almost obsequious humility. He then graciously bows to the students, and usually begins the lecture with the words « Praised be Jesus Christ » . On the wall behind the elevated lecturer's podium is a large, wooden slate board on which he draws with a chalk counterpoint exercises and harmonic analyzes. As soon as he sits down at the piano, he plays examples and improvisations on a selected theme, which transform the « Hörsaal » into a temple of musical genius !



Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint given by professor Anton Bruckner.

Today, Bruckner mentions that he is misunderstood - especially by Dr. Eduard Hanslick.

" like Beethoven was in his own time ! "

Bruckner's evening lectures are very popular : they enjoy almost the status of main events on the cultural scene of the Austrian capital.

Since they are not part of the strict core music curriculum but are offered as an elective course (skills) open to students from all faculties, often well over 100 attendees.

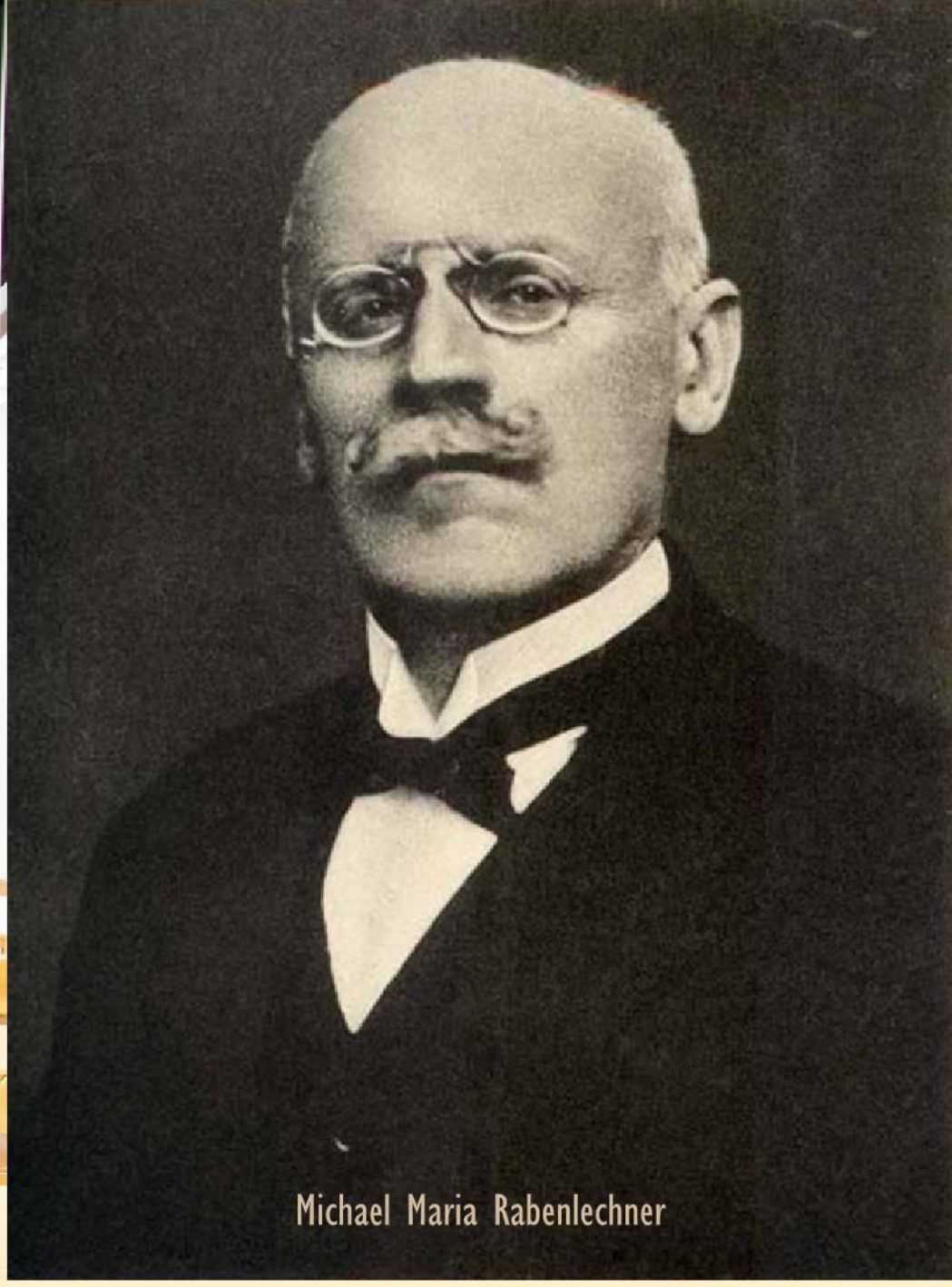
capacity : 70 students
ceiling height : 7 meters

Lecture hall 36

Monday, 11 January 1892 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm



University of Vienna 1890-1891 winter semester



Michael Maria Rabenlechner

It was purely by chance that Rabenlechner accompanied a friend to the lecture hall, and attended - even though he could not follow the content of the course

« It was during the winter semester of 1890, on a December evening - I was sitting buried in books in the brightly lit main reading room of the University of Vienna Library - when a (musically gifted) friend of the same age approached me, who was just about to leave the reading room. We greeted each other and, when I asked him where he was going, he replied that it was high time for him to go to his class. Since we hadn't seen each other for a long time, I decided to accompany him to the door of the auditorium. " Come along to the lecture ", my friend replied, " you won't regret it. You'll meet a character unlike any other in the entire University of Vienna : æsthetics and music theory - pure gold ! - but presented beneath a pile of the most amusing and cozy formalism ! " When I replied that I completely lacked any knowledge in music theory, my friend reassured me, saying that, given the originality of the character I was about to meet in this class, my time would not be wasted. So, I not only went to the door, but - curious and excited - I entered the lecture hall in question, which was located to the right of the entrance to the large ceremonial hall and, because it served various academic lectures on music, had a piano on the left side of the lectern next to the blackboard. The hall was packed, but judging by the young age of many of the attendees, it seemed to me that those present were not exclusively university students, but also included associate professors, and, perhaps, even students from the conservatory. The two of us, my friend and I, sat down on the last bench of the hall that was still free, but we had been sitting for less than a minute when the door opened with a bang, and professor Anton Bruckner entered. He was then a university lecturer giving a course on " harmony theory ". [...] Bruckner had barely entered the lecture hall and was not yet a step away from the entrance door - when a general, loud round of applause broke out. I was taken aback. " That's how he's always greeted ", my friend explained to me. The man being cheered nodded kindly to his loyal followers, and, when the applause subsided a little, he spoke kindly in his unadulterated dialect : " I can't clap along - I have a sore finger. ", and raised one hand as proof, on which a lower finger joint was bandaged in white. Gentle cries of regret, which, however, sounded more like suppressed amusement, acknowledged the master's reply. He walked up the steps of the podium, took off his coat, put down his things, picked up the chalk, but before he even began the lecture, he smiled and said, again in the most casual dialect : " Just now, there was a woman outside in the corridor - a woman from out of town - and she spoke to me. She adores my compositions so much - she absolutely must see me before she leaves Vienna ; but I replied to her : ' Well, I'm not some kind of exhibit ! ' " »

The bibliophile court councillor, literary historian, poet, and grammar school teacher Michael Maria Rabenlechner was born on 12 July 1868 in Vienna. In 1883, he became a member of the Catholic student fraternity " KaV Norica Wien ". He studied philosophy at the University of Vienna. After earning his doctorate, he worked briefly as an intern at the university library, then, as a high school teacher in Trieste and in Meidling. After various attempts at poetry, such as " Mystische Rosen " (Mystic Roses) and the dramatic scene " Der Traum in der Sylvesternacht " (The Dream on New Year's Eve) , as well as the anthology " Lorbeerblüten " (Laurel Blossoms) , Rabenlechner turned to research. His main project was the publication of the complete works of Robert Hamerling (16 volumes, 1912) - both Hamerling and Rabenlechner attended the " Schottengymnasium " in the first district. Another important project was the history of the City of Vienna, which translated in several hundred newspaper articles. On March 3, 1912, Rabenlechner was co-founder and first active chairman of the " Vienna Bibliophile Society " (" Wiener Bibliophilen-Gesellschaft ") . Now an honorary member of the society, Dr. Rabenlechner, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 12, 1948, was awarded the " Ring of Honour " (with a certificate) of the City of Vienna by mayor Theodor Körner on July 15, in the presence of members of the city council. Michael Maria Rabenlechner died on 27 October 1952 in Vienna, and was buried in the Meidling Cemetery. The " Rabenlechnerweg " (Rabenlechner path) located in the twenty-second district (" Donaustadt ") was named in his honour in 1965.



Monday, 11 July 1892 *end of the summer semester*

Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly harmony and counterpoint lecture by professor Anton Bruckner

Today, only four students are attending ... but it does not really matter.

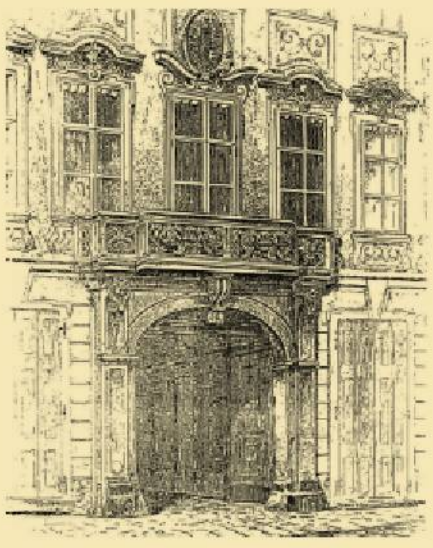
Schwanzara and Bruckner spend the after hours celebrating the end of the semester at the " Gasthaus Zur blauen Kugel "

In his mellow mood, the venerable professor sits in front of the " Blue Cannonball Inn " on the little street terrace surrounded by potted oleanders and ivies - enjoying a few Lager beers and a pleasant chat with young Ernst.

The " Gasthaus Zur blauen Kugel " (the Blue Ball Inn) is located at " Annagasse " n° 16 in the first district near the Opera House.











KAISERLICHES PATENTAMT.

PATENTSCHRIFT

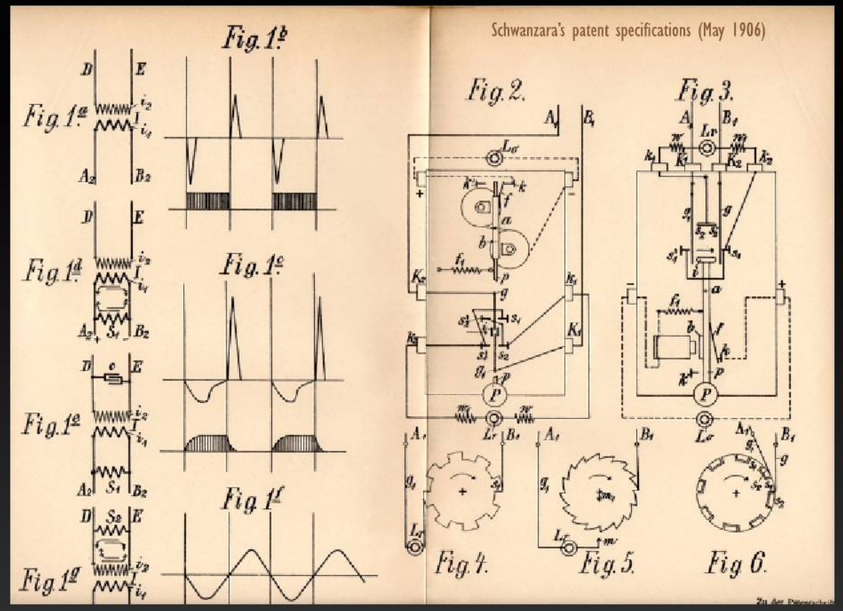
— № 179640 —

KLASSE 21 a. GRUPPE 20.

ERNST SCHWANZARA in WIEN.

Wechselstromerzeuger, insbesondere für Fernsprechämter zur Erzeugung der Anrufströme.

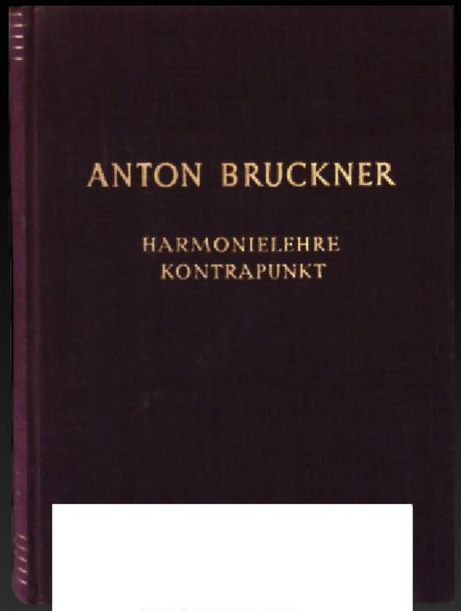
Patentiert im Deutschen Reiche vom 4. Mai 1906 ab.



Schwanzara's patent specifications (May 1906)

Fig. 1a Fig. 1b Fig. 1c Fig. 1d Fig. 1e Fig. 1f Fig. 1g

Fig. 2. Fig. 3. Fig. 4. Fig. 5. Fig 6.

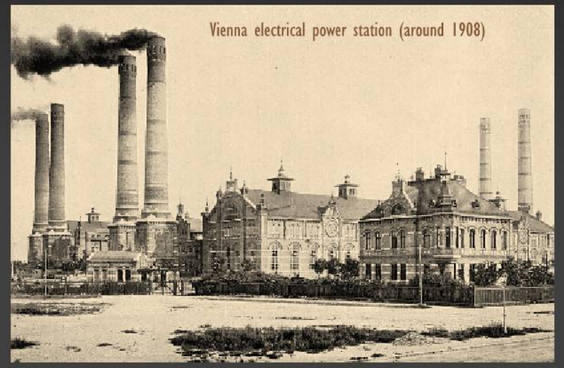


ANTON BRUCKNER

HARMONIELEHRE
KONTRAPUNKT

Ernst Schwanzara

Ernest Adolf Schwanzara was born on 18 December 1873 in Vienna. The son of a musical family, he attended professor Bruckner's weekly evening university lectures for three consecutive winter semesters (1891-1892 / 1892-1893 / 1893-1894) , though there is no record of him having officially registered at the Faculty of Philosophy. He became fascinated by his personality and unconventional teaching method, and was so appreciative of the opportunity to come into contact with him. Schwanzara's phenomenal short hand transcriptions during lecture breaks (including one from December 14, 1891) are valuable historical documents. He received the title of « ministerial councillor » during his career as a senior civil servant, and worked as a public works engineer for the City ofVienna. In May 1906, he submitted patent specifications (« Wechselstrom-Erzeuger für Fernsprechämter »)] . In 1950, he edited the book entitled « Anton Bruckner : Lectures on Harmony and Counterpoint at the University of Vienna » . Ernst Schwanzara died on 21 December 1954.



Vienna electrical power station (around 1908)



ANTON BRUCKNER

VORLESUNGEN
ÜBER HARMONIELEHRE UND KONTRAPUNKT
AN DER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

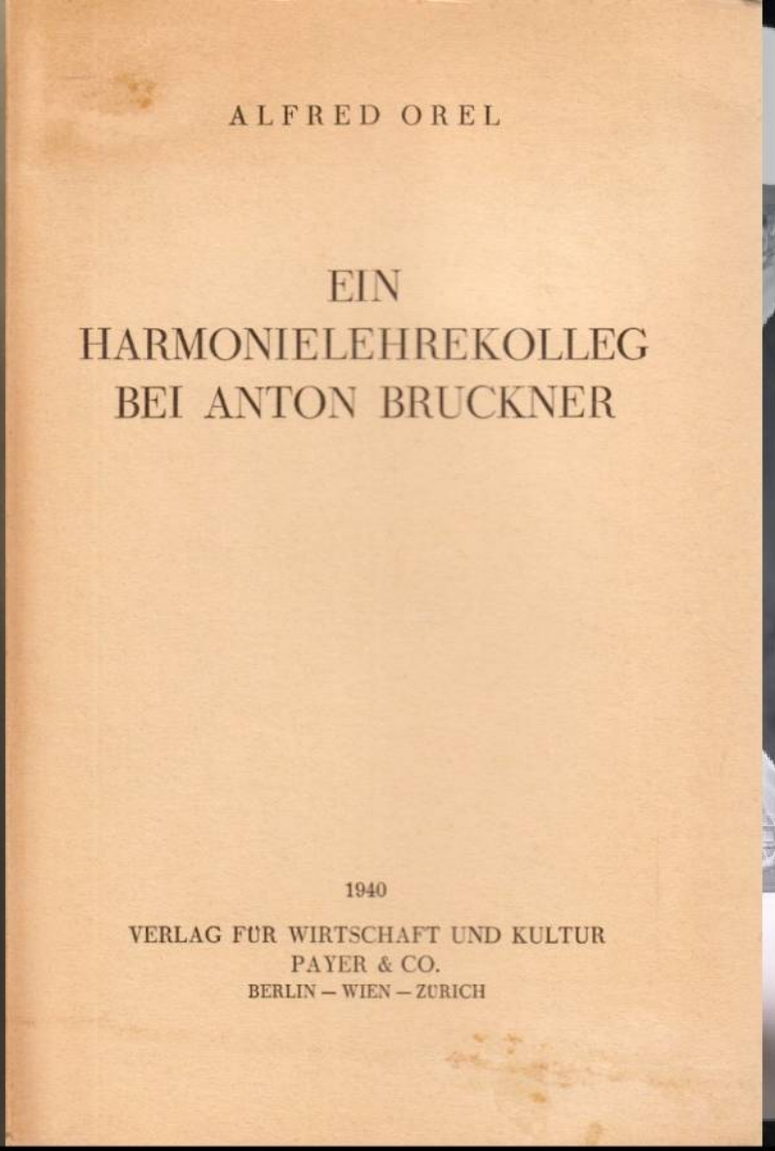
Herausgegeben
von
ERNST SCHWANZARA

ÖSTERREICHISCHER BUNDESVERLAG
für Unterricht, Wissenschaft und Kunst
WIEN



Lecture Hall n° XXXVI (36)
also called small Ceremonial Hall







Alfred Orel. “ A Harmony Lecture with Anton Bruckner ” published by Payer & Co.

The lecture notes of Carl Speiser, who registered in the winter semester of 1889, were given by his son Friedrich Speiser (born in 1887) to Bruckner scholar Alfred Orel (1889-1967) , who taught at the University of Vienna from 1929 to 1945.



universität wien

Monday, 2 May 1892
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

University of Vienna

Hörsaal XXXVI (36)

top of the « Lawyers' staircase »
first floor of the main building

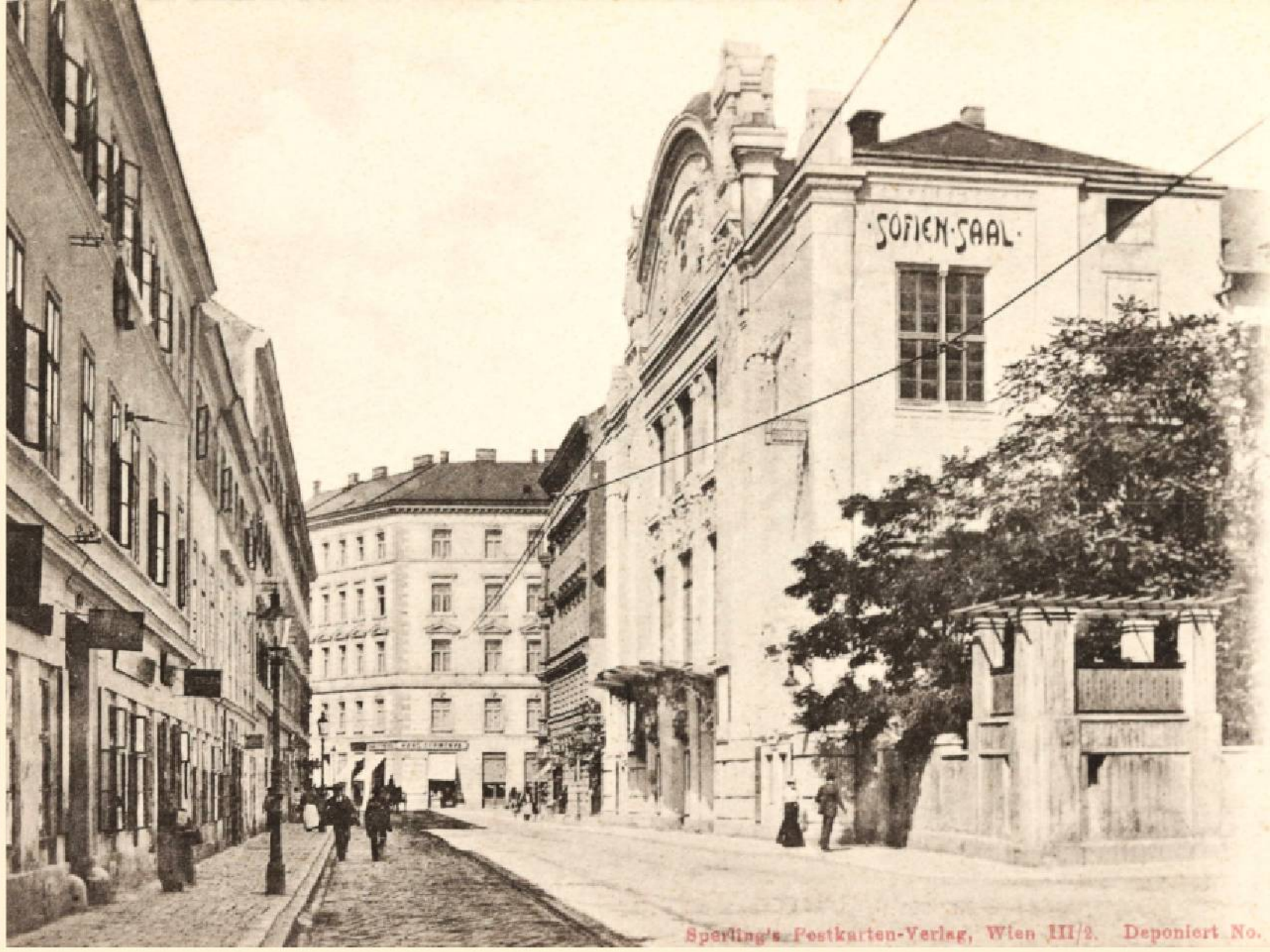
Harmony and counterpoint lecture

Professor Bruckner
hangs a notice on the wall ...

The benches were filled exclusively by male students ; women were not admitted as « regular students » to the Faculty of Philosophy until 1897









Main building of the University of Vienna on the Ringstraße

The Portal behind the statue of " Franciscus Josephus I "standing at the top of the staircase of the Faculty of Law, gives access to the Senate Hall, the large Ceremonial Hall, and the small Ceremonial Hall.

Monday, 30 May 1892, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Lecture hall XXXVI (36) also named small Ceremonial Hall - capacity : 70 students

Professor Bruckner talks to his students about the important speech given by rector Dr. Adolf Exner during the ceremony for the awarding of an honorary doctorate before an audience of 3,000 people at the " Sofiensaal ".

« Where science must come to a halt, where its progress is barred by unsurmountable barriers, there begins the realm of art which knows how to express that which will ever remain a closed book to scientific knowledge. I, " Rector magnificus " of the University of Vienna, bow before the former assistant teacher of Windhaag. »

to which the old composer replied :

« I cannot thank you as I would like. But if there was an organ here, I would have already answered you. »

It is the greatest reward that Bruckner could ever hope to receive ; not to be named " doctor of music " but" doctor of philosophy ".

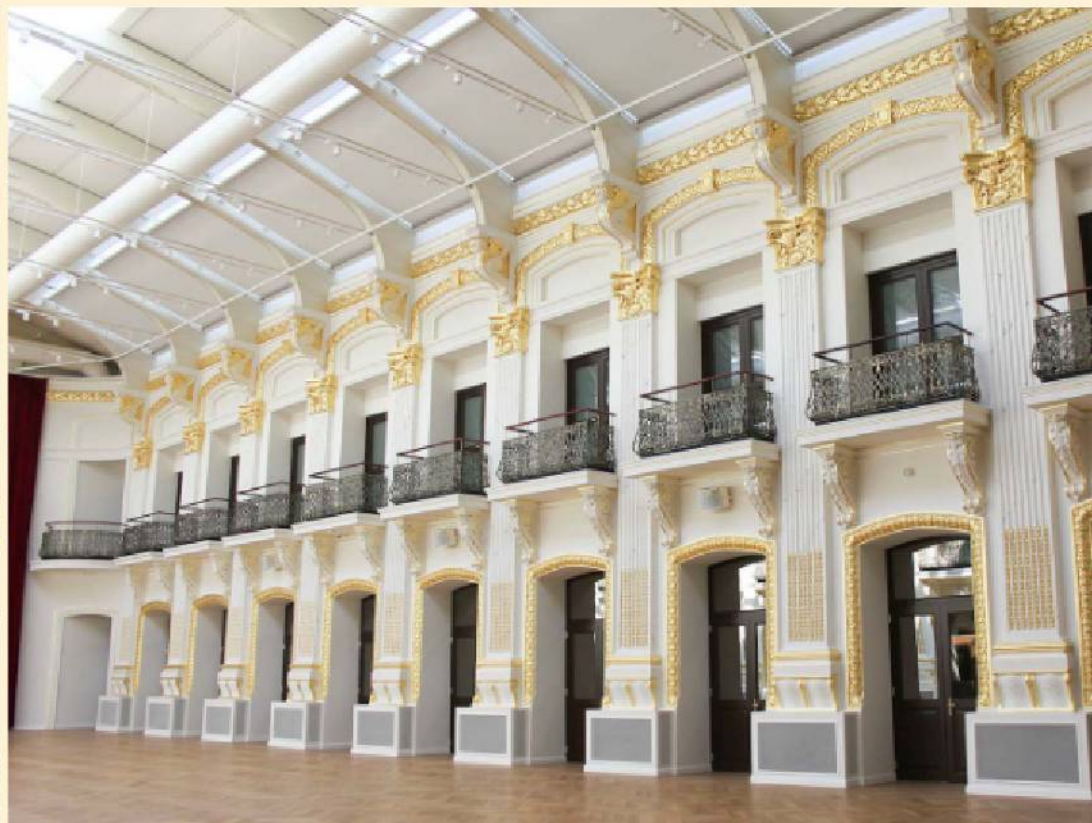
Never in the history of this prestigious institution, such an honour had been bestowed upon a musician.

Bruckner is then carried in triumph by the noisy " Bruckner-Commers " all around the hall.

Once in the carriage that drives him back home at" Heßgasse n° 7 ", he bursts into tears, repeating :

« It's too much, too much ! »







Lecture Hall n° XXXVI (36)
also called small Ceremonial Hall

Monday, 21 November 1892 : Main building of the University of Vienna



Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint by professor Anton Bruckner, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

First subject Bruckner tells to his students that he served for a time as fourth corporal in the National Guard in 1848. He even participated in military exercises !

also registered on the Election list of officers : Anton (or Ludwig ?) Schlager, (Ludwig ?) Ehrenecker, head school master Michael Bogner, church organist Anton Kattinger

In 1848, Bruckner refused a position as piano teacher at the“ Gymnasium ”(grammar school / secondary level) in Kremsmünster Abbey.

Anton Kattinger (1798-1852) had been promoted to a position as tax inspector at Kremsmünster and Bruckner, who had often acted as Kattinger's deputy since 1845, now had the responsibility of taking a more prominent part in the performance of church music in the abbey.

On 2 March 1848, Bruckner had received a fine testimonial from Kattinger, who complimented him on his figured bass playing (“ the fruit of conscientious theoretical study ”) and his improvisational abilities, and was confident that he would acquit himself with distinction in an “ open examination ”.

Bruckner was able to test himself against Kattinger and Anton Weiß, from Wilhering Abbey, in an organ improvisation contest at St. Florian. According to Josef Seiberl, Bruckner's playing in the late- 1840's did not have the contrapuntal mastery, not to say the rich inventiveness, evident in later performances. Nevertheless, he was a good enough player to impress Josef Anton Pfeiffer, a well known provincial composer and the organist of Seitenstetten Abbey, who furnished Bruckner with a glowing testimonial and predicted a very bright future for the young musician both as an organist and, on the strength of some compositions he had seen, as a composer.

Bruckner was named“ provisional organist ”in St. Florian. He received an annual salary of 80 Florins. This, together with the income he received as a school teacher and private teacher, made him feel“ like a prince ”, as he recalled later in life. He was certainly not attracted to a piano teaching position at a school in Kremsmünster, which was offered to him in 1848. After the death of his wife in 1849, Anton Kattinger left the abbey in January 1850.

After the 1848 Revolution, the market town of St. Florian was transformed into an independent political entity. Andreas Schlager, a former employee of the monastery, was elected mayor on 2 August 1850. Despite the fact that the monastery suffered major economic and legal losses, it proved extremely generous to the people by providing premises and land free of charge. As a token of gratitude, the mayor named abbot Ferdinand Moser an “ honorary citizen”. Schlager served his first term until December 3, 1861. On July 21, 1867, he was re-elected for a second term, which lasted until September 3, 1870.

Second subject Bruckner explains to his audience in the auditorium some details about his (revised) Eighth symphony, which will be performed at the“ Musikverein ”on the first Sunday of Advent (18 December) .

It is highly probable that, after the lecture, a limping Bruckner and August Stradal went to Gause's restaurant and beer hall (located in a basement at“ Johannesgasse ”n° 12 in the first district) to tell his supporters that he could hardly walk because his feet were so swollen.

The next day, Bruckner decides to consult the Austrian internist and laryngologist professor Leopold (Anton Dismas) Schrötter von Kristelli. He is diagnozed with cardiac insufficiency, heart enlargement and cirrhosis of the liver. The underlying cause is diabetes. Dietary restrictions are the only treatment available at that time.

Dr. Schrötter orders the strictest prevalence and reduction of alcohol consumption insisting that Bruckner should simply replace his beloved“ Pilsner ” by milk ... and also not eat bread !!



Lecture Hall n° XXXVI (36)
also called small Ceremonial Hall

Monday, 5 December 1892 : Main building of the University of Vienna

Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint by professor Anton Bruckner, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Today, professor Bruckner talks to the audience about his illness and the indications he received from the Austrian internist and laryngologist, professor Leopold Schrötter von Kristelli.

The once plumpish composer became emaciated, and he suddenly seemed older. His hands shook, and he appeared to have lost many of his teeth. He was also afflicted with a chronically sore throat.

Bruckner is diagnozed with cardiac insufficiency, heart enlargement and cirrhosis of the liver. The underlying cause is diabetes. Dietary restrictions are the only treatment available at that time.

« He ordered me to bed and, for weeks, I was'nt allowed anything but milk, without bread or beer. »



Monday, 12 December 1892 : Main building of the University of Vienna

Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint by professor Anton Bruckner, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Today, professor Bruckner recounts to his students that Ludwig Speidel, music-critic of the“ Wiener Fremdenblatt ”, once told him what Ludwig van Beethoven would probably have thought of Bruckner’s works ... and their critics !



Ludwig Speidel

Lecture Hall n° XXXVI (36)
also called small Ceremonial Hall

Monday, 13 March 1893 : Main building of the University of Vienna

Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Today, due to his upper-arm dislocation, professor Bruckner assigns an alternate teacher, who behaves more like a school master. The audience does not really listen to him.





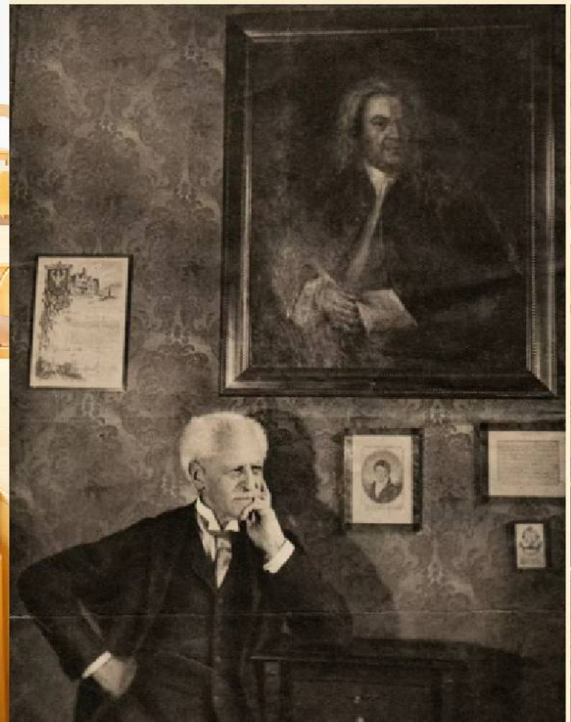
Monday, 29 October 1894 : Main building of the University of Vienna

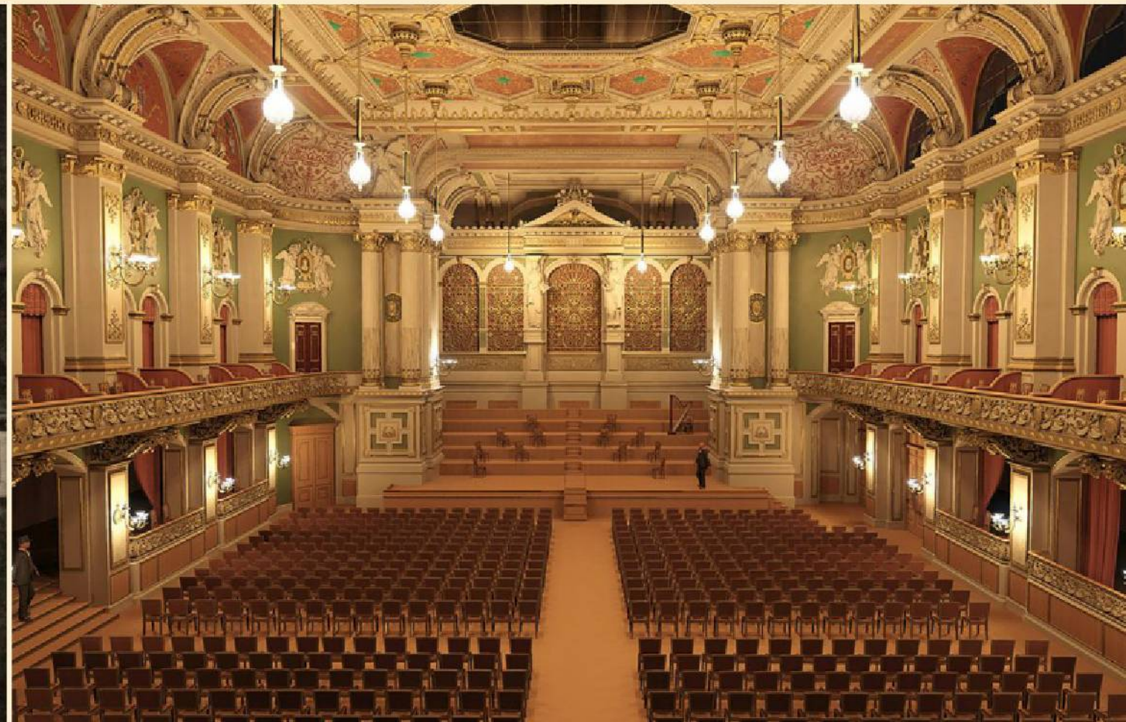
Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint by professor Anton Bruckner, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Today, professor Bruckner tells his students that the last time he heard one of his works was on January 8 : the“ Te Deum”was performed at the old“ Philharmonie ”in Berlin by the Philharmonic Choir under Siegfried Ochs.

He also mentions that he wrote to the internist and laryngologist Dr. Leopold Schrötter on October 31 to congratulate him on his silver wedding.

[October 31 is the first date, which appears at end of the Adagio score of the Ninth symphony.]

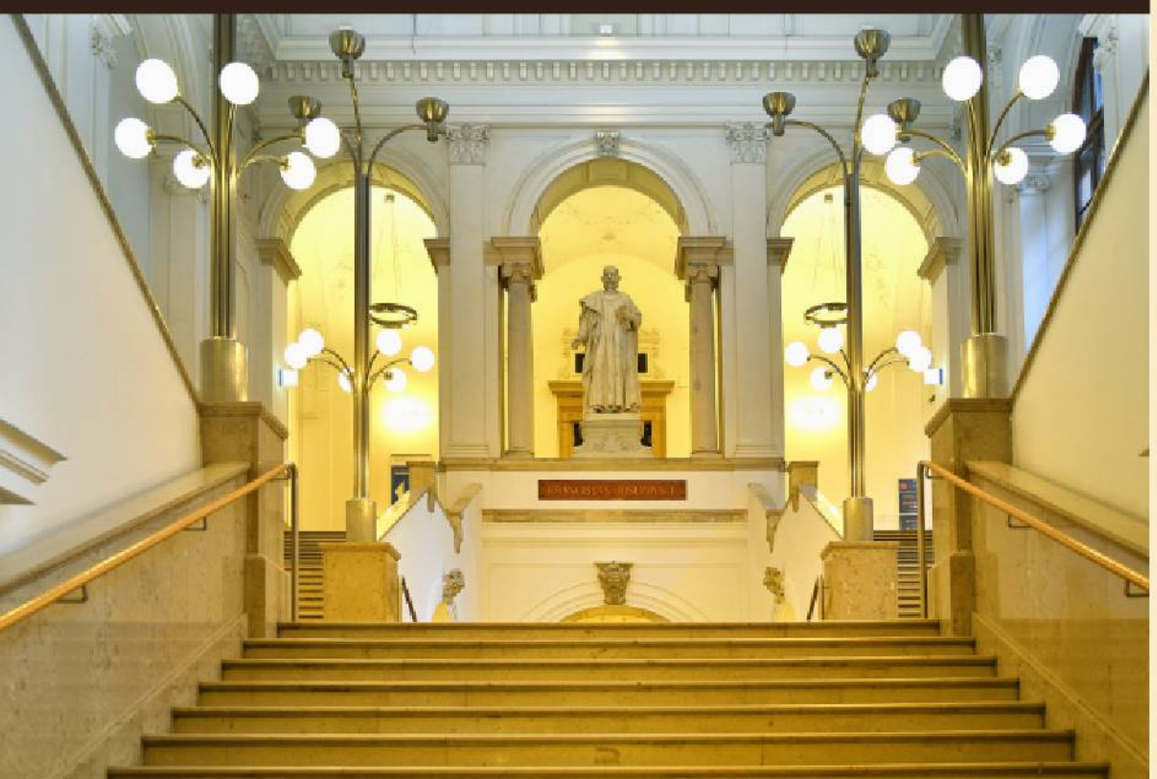






Lecture Hall n° XXXVI (36)
also called small Ceremonial Hall

Monday, 12 November 1894 : Main building of the University of Vienna



Student Ernst Schwanzara records the weekly lecture on harmony and counterpoint by professor Anton Bruckner, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Max Auer reports that house-keeper“ Frau Kathi ” Kachelmayr and the students helped professor Bruckner :

« Slowly, and with a heavy heart, he climbed the great stairs for the last time. »

(which resulted in an asthma attack)

Bruckner looked ill, and the loss of his teeth (due to advanced diabetes) made his profile more pronounced. He said farewell to the art of teaching, which had been a support, a burden and a vocation. He complained to the audience in a packed hall of “ water on the chest ” but joked that it was preferable to“ water on the brain ” his eyes were still “ friendly, good natured and spirited ”. Even today, he diligently worked in his room at the Faculty.

Schwanzara recounts with great emotion the words of his revered teacher :

« During the last quarter of his course, Bruckner came and sat gently among us on the bench, and said :

“ Three movements of my Ninth symphony are already completed, the first two are considered final, I still have to settle some details of the third. With this symphony, I have imposed myself a hard task. I should not have done that because of my advanced age and my health concerns. Especially as it will not be easy to play. The Adagio is the most beautiful I have ever written. It always deeply moves me, when I play it on the piano. If I were to die before the completion of my symphony, then we could give my ‘ Te Deum ’ as a fourth movement. It is my decision. ” »

From then on, Bruckner increasingly lost contact with the world : he sat alone in his flat on the fourth floor of the residential complex on“ Heßgasse ”... composing.

He did most of his work during the day but, occasionally, got up at night, lighted two candles (no longer using an incandescent lamp since the“ Ringtheater ” tragedy) and wrote down whatever crossed his mind.

His health had been failing since 1893. He had not held his lectures since November 1894, but continued to list them in the course catalogue until the winter semester of 1896-1897.

Perhaps, Bruckner saw it as an audacious presumption on the part of his former“ best student ” [Franz Ludwig Marschner] from the Vienna Conservatory to seek to take his place at the university - a position he had attained after a long, intensive period of training and with great effort - without facing any significant obstacles. His reaction was almost indignant, certainly unprofessional and dismissive. He reacted immediately, without much deliberation, without a thorough examination of the facts and the submitted documents.

Bruckner’s lectures continued to be advertised in the university printed course catalog.



Max Auer



Franz Marschner

University of Vienna : lecture hall in the main building (1904)

