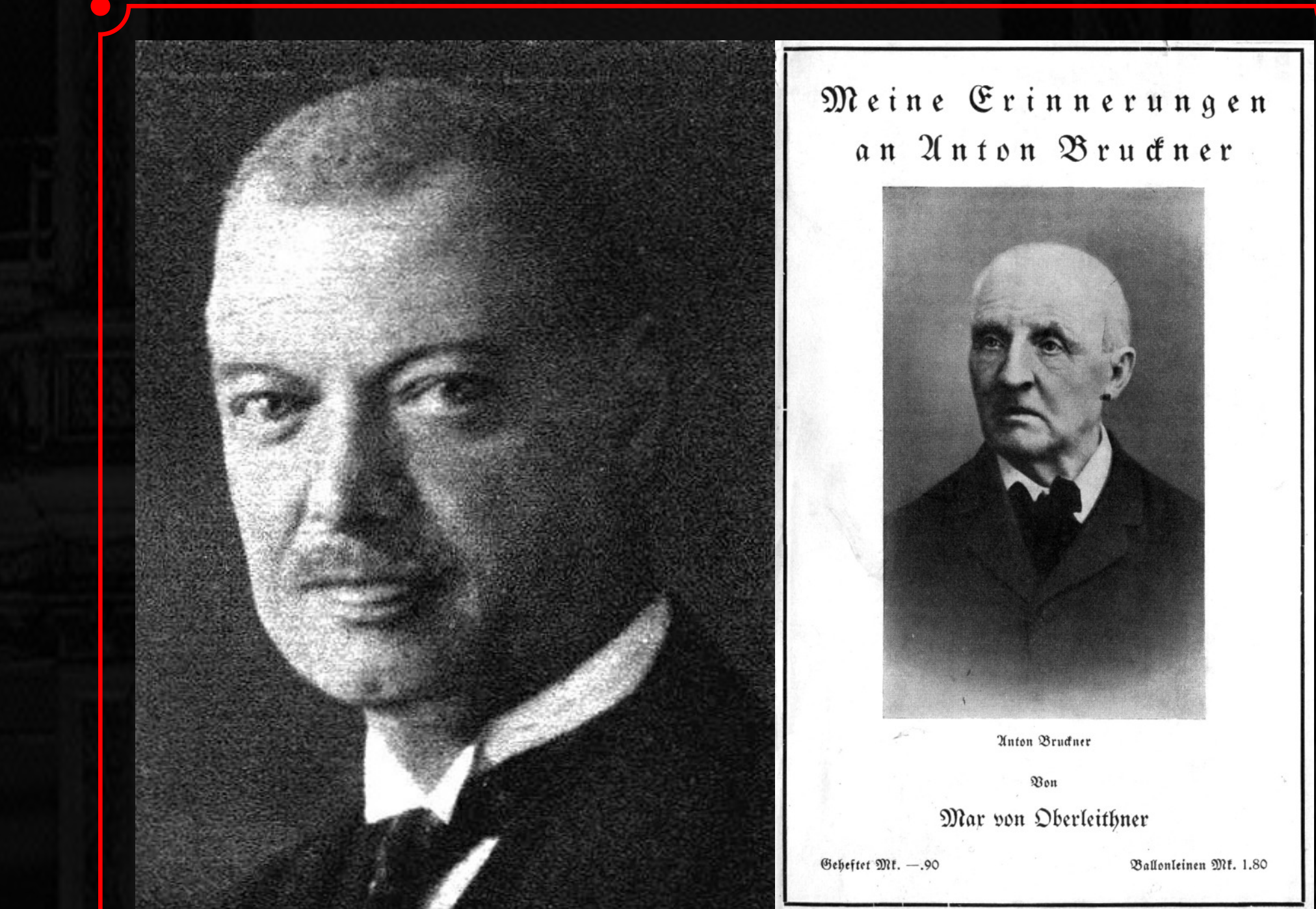




Max von Oberleithner
Meine Erinnerungen

Upon the advice of Felix Mottl, Max von Oberleithner became a private student of Anton Bruckner, undoubtedly one of the best decisions he made in regard to his education. Oberleithner was a conductor and composer who studied at the University of Vienna. He acted as « Hofkapellmeister » in Teplitz, in 1895 - advancing to the same position in Düsseldorf, in 1896 - but, in later years, he lived mostly in Vienna. He did write Symphonies and Lieder, but devoted himself mostly to composing Operas. Ever grateful to his former teacher, he was instrumental in the publication of Bruckner's Mass in D minor and the Schluß piano reduction of the 8th Symphony.

The success of Bruckner's works resulted in many invitations to future concerts (e.g. : in Troppau, Grazitz, Heidelberg, Mainz, Dresden and Brno) which he could not attend because of serious illness. His success in Bruckner is corroborated in letters written by Oberleithner.

In 1933, Oberleithner wrote memoirs about the Master : « Meine Erinnerungen an Anton Bruckner », Gustav Bosse Verlag, Regensburg (1933) ; 80 pages.



- 1) Ernst von Schuch (cirea 1900) : General Music Director of the Dresden Court Opera House.
- 2) Clemetine von Schuch-Proskau, soprano (1895) : honorary member of the Dresden Court Opera House.
- 3) Siegfried Ochs, Music Director of the Berlin Philharmonic Choir.
- 4) The Villa Salbach in Niederlößnitz, « Schulstraße » No. 19 (today : « Radebeul », « Ledenerweg » No. 39).
- 5) The luxurious « Imperial Hotel » (« Kaiserhof ») in Berlin, on « Friedrich-Engels Straße ».



« Der galante König - August der Starke », Deutschland Spielfilm (1920)

Clara Salbach will appear in the 1920 German silent historical film, « The Gallant King » (« Der galante König », based on a novel by Alfred Hübner - pseudonym : H. Friedl), which was directed by Alfred Hübner. It parodies the reign of the 18th Century monarch, Augustus the Strong. Salbach played the role of the Dresden-actress (as historical figure).

She, like with German operas, is born, 2.10.1861 (1861) - Bremen - W. names for Adolf Schuch's only production : « Maria Elise (Berlin) », on behalf of « Universal-Film AG (Halle) ». She, during the summer (7) of 1920, in Dresden and Umgebung (Hamburg, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Schäß, Pilsen, Schäß, Nürnberg).

Music : Vincent Kallies, Otto Schuch. Costume Design : Professor Leonhard Fanta. Set Design : Jack Weller and Adolf Lindebach. Camera : Carl Dietz.

Release dates : 5 November 1920 (Berlin) ; 5 November 1920 (Dresden) ; 31 January 1921 (Frankfurt) ; 14 February 1921 (Gießen).

Dates & Events

Thursday, 21 May 1891 : Letter from Anton Bruckner (Vienna) to Doctor Richard Sternfeld, President of the Berlin Philharmonic Choir.

« Right Honourable Sir !

My thanks for the good news. Friday the 20th, I am going to be in Berlin with a friend (Max von Oberleithner). Please, where will the rehearsal be and at what time ? Also, forgive this inconvenience.

Sincerely compliments to the conductor.

With respect,

Anton Bruckner

« In Dresden, Hoffmann Number 7 »

(Sternfeld worked with conductor Siegfried Ochs. He was also involved with the local « Wagner-Verein ».)

Sunday, 31 May 1891 : Anton Bruckner and Max von Oberleithner are in Berlin to assist to the 26th General Assembly of Musicians of the « Allgemeiner Deutscher Musikverein ».

A special evening Concert by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir is given to celebrate this annual event. « Kapellmeister » Felix Weingartner will conduct the first-half.

The second part of the program is dedicated to the Berlin premiere of Bruckner's symphony « Te Deum » under the powerful direction of the Philharmonic's Choir-Master, Siegfried Ochs.

The solemnity is « Frau » Emma Herzog (soprano from Nürnberg), « Fräulein » Cecile Kleinberg (alto) from Frankfurt-am-Main, « Herr » Josef Molitor (bass), Dr. Heinrich Krimm (organ).

Bruckner met the 22-year-old chamber maid, Ida Hübner, while staying at the luxurious Berlin « Imperial Hotel » (« Kaiserhof »), on « Friedrich-Engels-Straße ». Before leaving, she pressed a little love note in the palm of his hand on his departure, in which the expressed great concern for the bodily welfare of her « dear » Herr « Bruckner ». Naturally, he took a great liking to her and responded at once to the morning proposal, but finding this way a matter of disgrace with him, a good being introduced to her parents. When he said them « yes », he asked for the hand of Ida.

According to St. Florian Abbey's church organist, Josef Gerber, he allowed them a full-year to think it over, before giving their final answer. The composer will engage in an epistolary relationship. After Bruckner's death in 1896, she will become a successful (female) director.

Oberleithner informed Ferdinand Löwe of the magnificent success of the 7th Symphony, one of Bruckner's most joyful experiences :

« His work as well as his personality won him all hearts, he was received with great applause » (Letter of Monday, 1 June 1891).

Press dispatch (telegram) from Berlin, June 1 :

« Bruckner's » « Te Deum » under the excellent direction of Ochs, was performed with great success at the concert in honour of the « Tonkünstler » Meeting, yesterday. Bruckner, who had come here from Vienna, was called with many applause and received many awards ».

Tuesday, 2 June 1891 : The « Linzer Zeitung » reports that Anton Bruckner was present in Berlin at the rehearsal of the « Te Deum » on May 29, 1891.

Wednesday, 3 June 1891 : The « Linzer Zeitung » reports on page 644 that the « Te Deum » was performed in Berlin, in the presence of the composer.

Thursday, 4 June 1891 : The « Linzer Zeitung » mentions the performance of the 7th Symphony on January 31, 1887.

Friday, 5 June 1891 : After entering the morning prayers in his current pocket calendar book, Anton Bruckner adds the word « Berlin » (presumably meaning his imminent departure).

The names of Anton Bruckner and Max von Oberleithner are part of the list of travelers registered in the Police Direction of the City of Dresden. They probably met conductor Ernst von Schuch (on June 5 or 6) who gave them excellent Opera tickets.

So, on their return trip from Berlin, Bruckner and Oberleithner decide to make a stop in the magnificent cultural town of Dresden.

Saturday, 6 June 1891 : Anton Bruckner and Max von Oberleithner assist in Dresden to a performance of Richard Wagner's « Das Rheingold » - starting at 7:00 pm. The Hungarian soprano « Frau » Clemetine von Schuch-Proskau sang the role of « Fricka ». The conductor is her husband, Ernst von Schuch. Schuch-Proskau studied at the Conservatory of the « Society of Friends of Music in Vienna » with Mathilde Marchesi. Immediately thereafter, in 1873, she sang her debut role (Norma) in Giuseppe Donizetti's « Don Pasquale » as « a coloratura » soprano. She was engaged in Dresden at the Court Opera House. In 1876, she was appointed in Royal Chamber Singer, she sang in leading German Opera Theaters : Zürich « Stadt-Oper », in 1880, Berlin, in 1881 « Vienna Hof-Oper », in 1881 and 1882 - as well as in Moscow and in St. Petersburg. In 1884, at Covent Garden Opera-House, she sang the role of Eva in Richard Wagner's « Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg », and the role of Anne in Carl Maria von Weber's « Der Freischütz ».

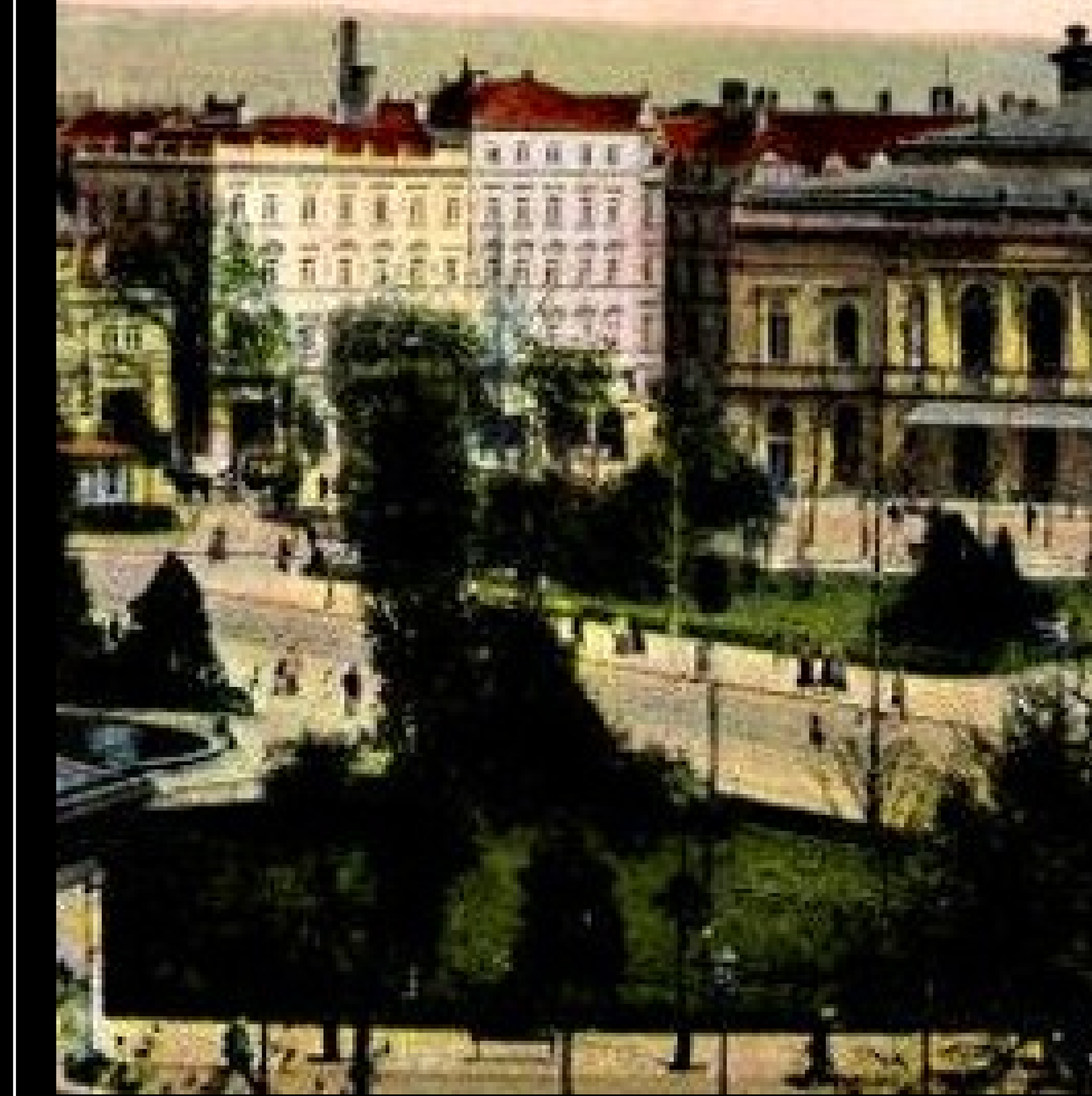
Sunday, 7 June 1891 : While in Dresden, Anton Bruckner and Max von Oberleithner attend most likely at the Albert Theatre on « Albert-Platz », which housed the « Königliches Schauspielhaus » at the time (a theatrical play (waiting at 7:00 pm) starting the German actress Clara Salbach. Bruckner has been seduced by her great « beauty » and magnificent talent since the Leipzig days - at the end of December 1884.

Saturday, December 27, 1884 : Anton Bruckner met in Leipzig Arthur Nikisch, Carl Heinrich, and possibly Hans von Bülow at the « Hotel Illyria ». He also had the honour of meeting the great stage actress Clara Salbach. Her great « beauty » will save him for years to come ! !

Tuesday, 9 June 1891 : After entering the morning prayers in his current pocket calendar book, Anton Bruckner adds the word « Dresden » (presumably meaning his imminent departure).



Königliches Schauspielhaus, Albert-Platz, Dresden.



Clara Salbach
her most faithful admirer



Portrait of Clara Salbach « Schauspielhaus » ancestral gallery, Dresden.

Biography

The Saxon Court actress Clara Salbach was born on 13 May 1861 in Berlin. She made her official debut in 1880 at the « Hoftheater » in Weimar - after a rigorous training with Minona Frieb-Blumauer. More engagements followed : she played entire seasons, first in Hanau then in Mainz (in 1881) and 1882, and went to the Leipzig « Stadttheater » from 1882 to 1889, where she became very popular. In 1882, the german actor, singer and artistic director, Max Stagemann, was appointed as Royal Prussian Chamber Singer. The year before, 1881, he was offered the opportunity to take over the reins of the Leipzig « Stadttheater » as General-Intendant. Since 1868, the institution consisted of 2 different facilities : the « Old-Theatre », which was mainly used as a stage theatre ; and the « New-Theatre », which actually served as an opera house. Stagemann began with bold artistic enthusiasm, which helped the companies in obtaining instant success. He hired excellent performers such as Clara Salbach or Fanny Moran-Olden ; and worked with both excellent opera and stage directors. Already, during her early theatrical years, the reviewers described Salbach as one of the few « truly ingenious natures among the acting women of Germany », especially « because of her Schiller's leading roles ». She was not only the « most poetic, delicate and graceful » youthful heroine, but also, an « amazing register of furious passion ». For this reason, Salbach was awarded the Golden Merit Medal for « Art and Science » by the Duke Georg II of Saxony-Meiningen. As a result of guest appearances as Goethe's « Gretchen », in 1887, she became in 1889 an official member of the « Troupe » of the Court Theatre of Dresden, where she played the great « classic » female roles, like : Gretchen, Luise, Klärchen, Cordelia, Imogen, Desdemona, Hero, Portia, Minna, Mary Stuart, « Queen of Scots », Eboli, and Joan of Arc the « Maid of Orleans ». She was named the « public's favourite actress » by the Dresdners. In 1899, she married the brilliant actor Jean Hofmann and continued her professional career as Mrs. « Hofmann-Salbach ». From 1902, at the latest, the couple lived at the Villa Salbach located at « Schulstraße » No. 19 (today : Radebeul, « Ledenerweg » No. 39 - now, a protected heritage site). Shortly after the First World War, Hofmann-Salbach moved into a city apartment near the Dresden « Great-Garden ». From 1912 onward, she essentially took over mother roles, which she played on the Dresden stage until 1931. She was appointed honorary member of the stage, at the venerable age of 71, on the occasion of her departure in 1932 from the Dresden « Stadttheater » - after an engagement of 43 years ! Her portrait can be admired at the ancestral drama gallery of the « Schauspielhaus ». Clara Hofmann-Salbach died on 30 January 1944 in Dresden, and was buried at the Urtis' Grove of the Municipal Cemetery located on Wehlener-Straße in Tolkewitz.



Clara Salbach

18 January 1919

Late-December 1884 : Her great beauty and magnificent talent will rave Bruckner for years to come !! ...