The Bruckner Monastery Project

1942-1945

The playground of SS Reich Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Illustrated pages by

Gilles Haulle

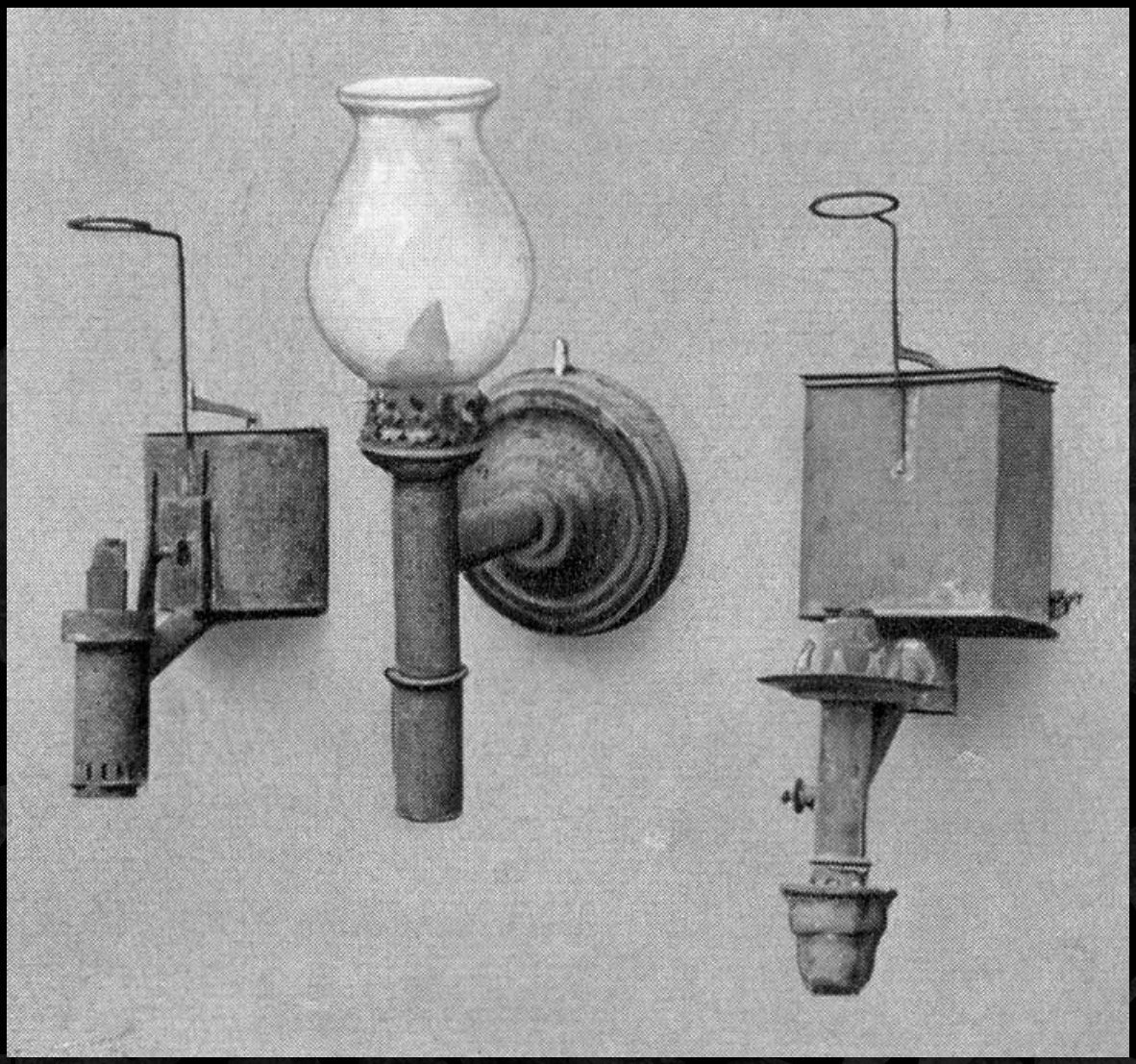
The Bruckner Mystery Report

The emblem of the Nazi-secularised « Bruckner Monastery » designed by « Reich » Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier demonstrates the brazen self-importance of the Nazi ideology. It is an idiosyncratic combination of the holy-cross (the crest of St. Florian monastery) , the « swastika » under the cover of the Imperial eagle, and the coat-of-arms of the Glasmeier family from the town of Dorsten in Westphalia, which corresponds to the Intendant's personal vanity as well as the anachronism between the feudal monastic atmosphere and the state-of-the-art broadcasting technology inherent in the « St. Florian project » .

Augustinian Abbey, Pulgarn near Steyregg

The abbey and adjoined hospital for the « poor and the sick » was founded in the hamlet of Pulgarn in 1303. The abbey was first acquired by Franz Steinhauser in 1808, and then by the monastery of St. Florian in 1836. The Bailiwick of Pulgarn was lost to the monastery with the dissolution of the manors in 1848.

Landestheater, Linz



Landestheater, Linz

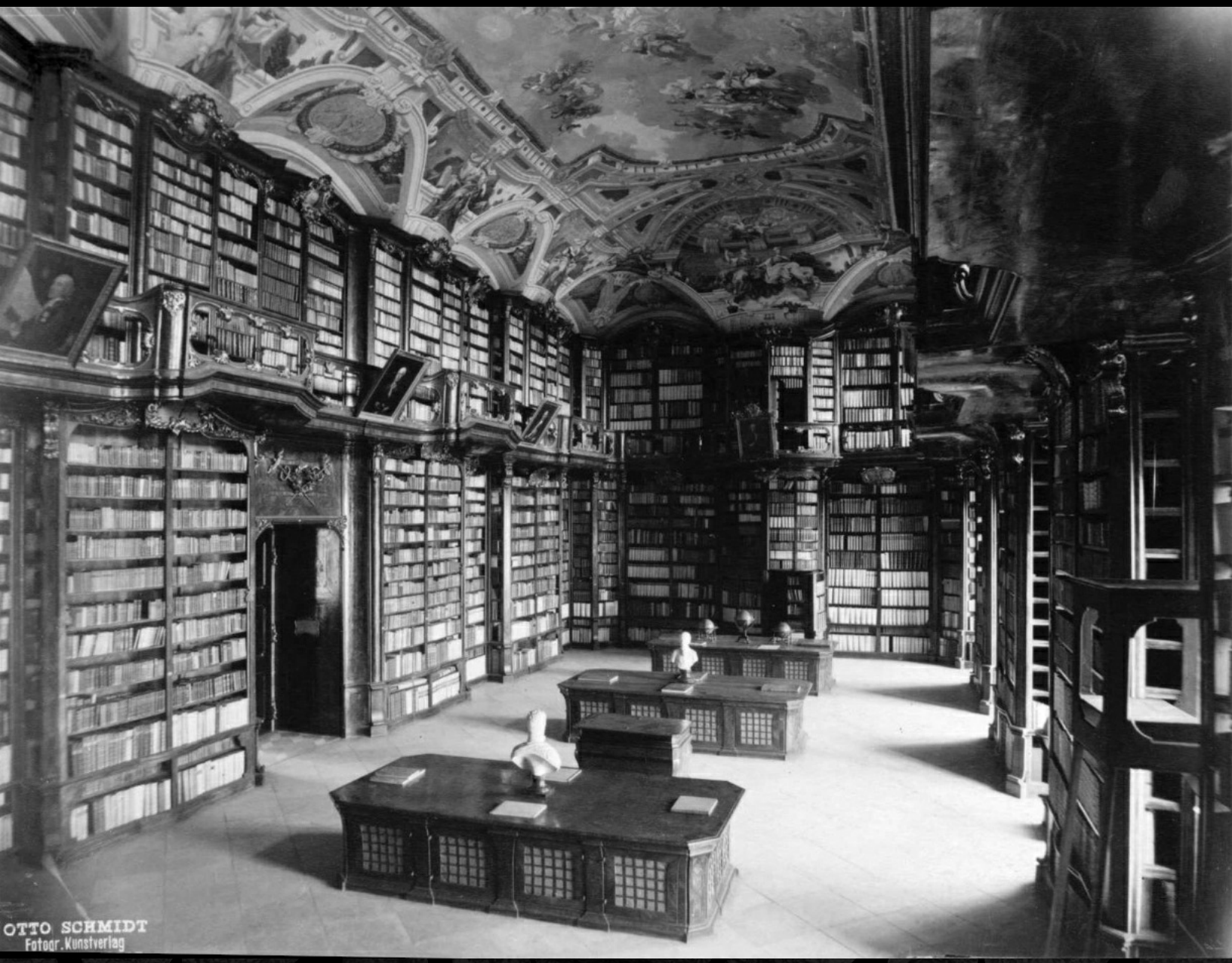
Landestheater, Linz

St. Florian Monastery

Wednesday, 14 October 1896

The special train which left the « Wien Westbahnhof » arrived at St. Florian's station with the bronze coffin of Anton Bruckner.

Stiftsbibliothek, St. Florian



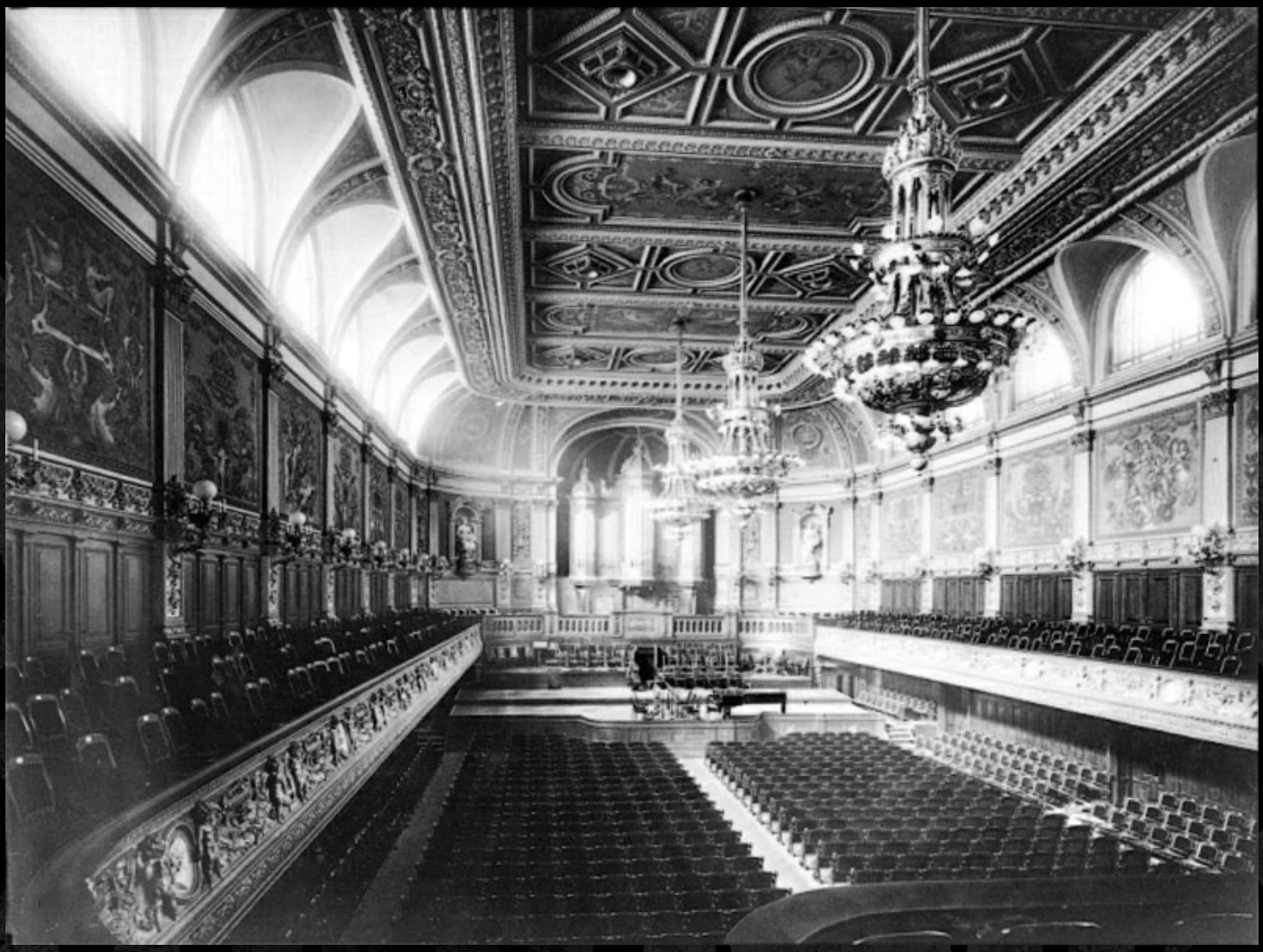
1898

Photo : Robert Haas

« Gewandhaus » , Leipzig

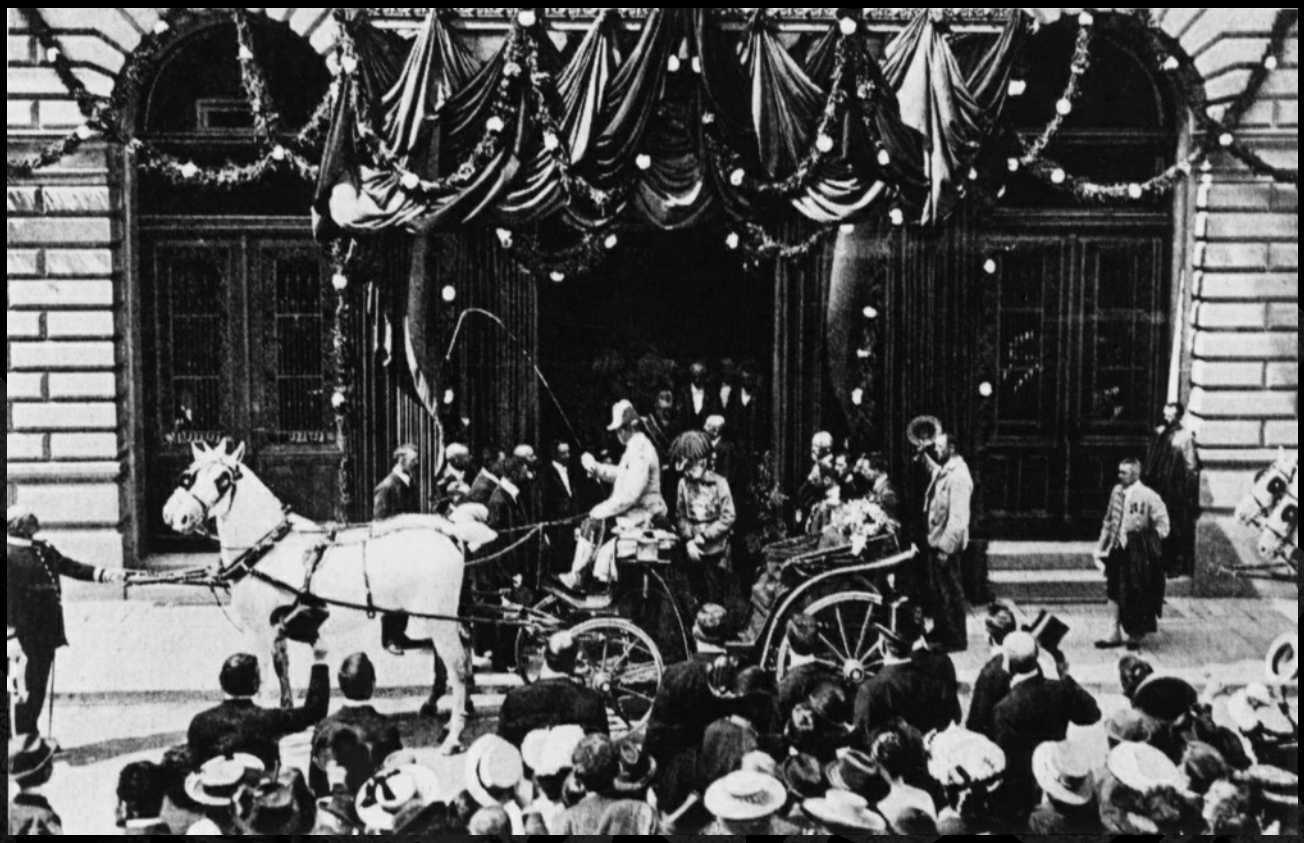
1900

« Gewandhaus » , Leipzig



1900

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »



Emperor Franz-Josef leaving the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) located in the inner-city of Linz.

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

The « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) located at « Landstraße » Number 49 (« Bismarck-Straße » Numbers 1-3) in the inner-city of Linz, designed by the architect Hermann Krackowizer, was constructed in 1898. It is often referred to by the people of Linz as the small « Hofburg » .

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

August Kubizek

« (...) The deepest impression was made on him by the contrast between the over-decorated apartments of the monastery and Bruckner's simple-room. »

(Conductor August Kubizek on his young friend Adolf Hitler.)

August Kubizek

« (...) The deepest impression was made on him by the contrast between the over-decorated apartments of the monastery and Bruckner's simple-room. »

(Conductor August Kubizek on his young friend Adolf Hitler.)

Oskar Brandstetter Printing Company

« Volksgarten » Pavilion, Linz

c.1914

Vinzenz Goller

First World War : Vinzenz Goller interrupts his service as a church musician.

May 1915 : Italy joins the Allies.
Goller registers as a volunteer for the Tyrolean « Standschützen » (Riflemen) .

Johannes Hollnsteiner

Johannes Hollnsteiner at the Augustinian Seminary in Vienna (1916) .

Heinrich Glasmeier

1922-1933

Heinrich Glasmeier works as an archivist in Velen for the Counts of Landsberg and their families.

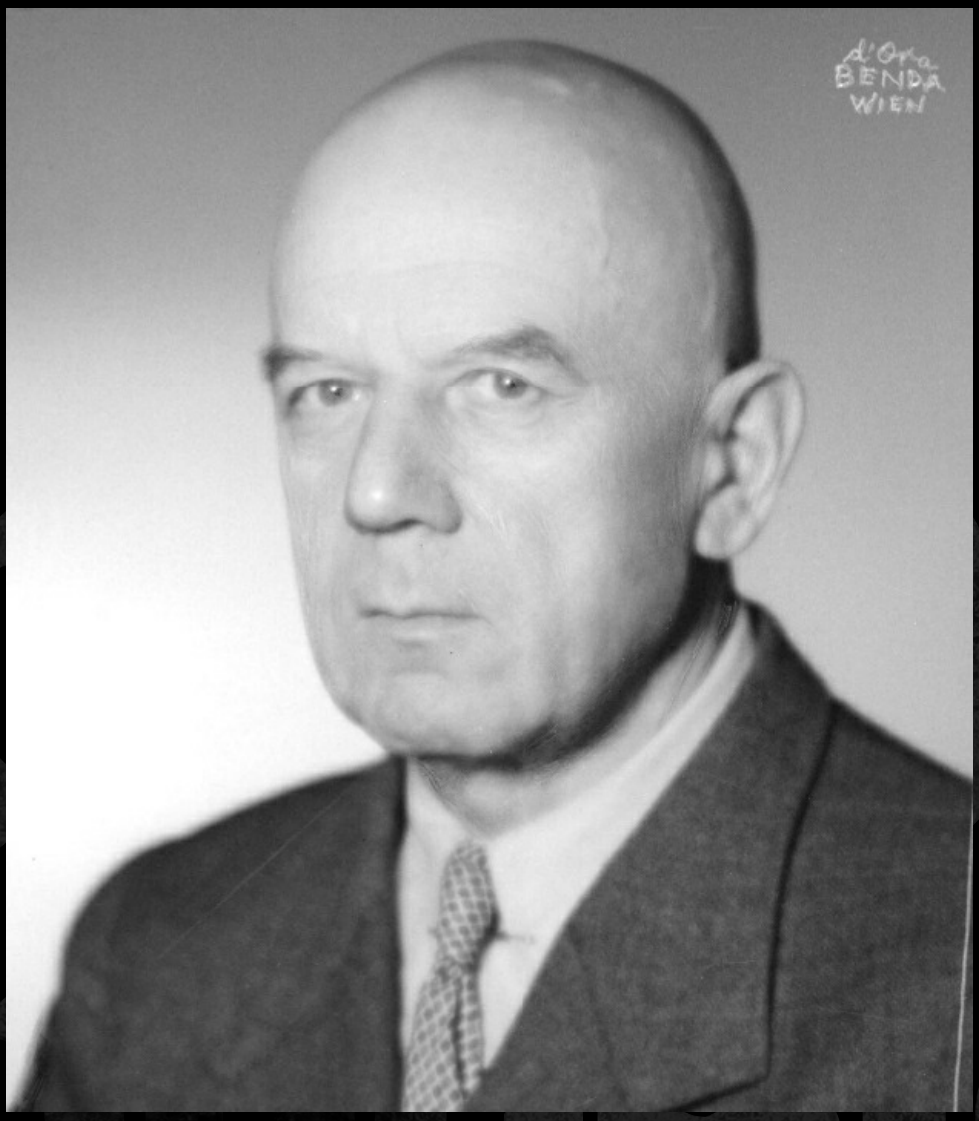
Ellinor Tordis

Photo : Martin Imboden, Vienna, circa 1923.

The Austrian dancer and dance educator Ellinor Tordis (1896-1976) worked in Vienna in the 1920's. She danced as a member of the Munich « Tanz-Drei » , and ran a dance school in Vienna, focused on coordinated mass-gymnastics, as positive expressions of social unity and public health. Tordis was a proponent of « Nackt-Kultur » , which she integrated with concepts from German physical culture and dance. The « Nackt-Kultur » (or « Frei-Korper-Kultur ») movement espoused a healthful ideal of physical beauty and vigour. Roughly translating as « free body movement » , « Frei-Korper-Kultur » was a nudist movement meant to re-align both men and women with nature and the outdoors. This movement emerged in the late-19th Century and acquired its name in 1903. « Nackt-Kultur » was associated with vegetarianism and was influenced by the physical ailments plaguing Germany's urban population. Natural outdoor healing was promoted as a way to combat the range unhealthy conditions of the cities. The movement was wide-spread in Germany but was not unified ideologically, encompassing a fairly diverse of beliefs. Among Tordis's students were dancers Gisela Taglicht and Hans Wiener (Jan Veen) , and actress Vilma Degischer. For a time, her accompanist was pianist and dancer Gertrud Kraus (5 May 1901 - 13 November 1977) , and Anne Winter who headed the gymnastics department.

Tordis's ambitions included dancing to the music of Anton Bruckner. From 1922 to 1924, she approached Janine Solane (6 January 1912 - 17 April 2006) - who danced to the music of Richard Wagner - by creating several dances using piano transcriptions for sections of the Symphony No. 7 in E major (WAB 107) . In 1924, Ellinor Tordis and her group performed at the Festival of Music and Theatre in Vienna.

Oskar Czeija



February 1924

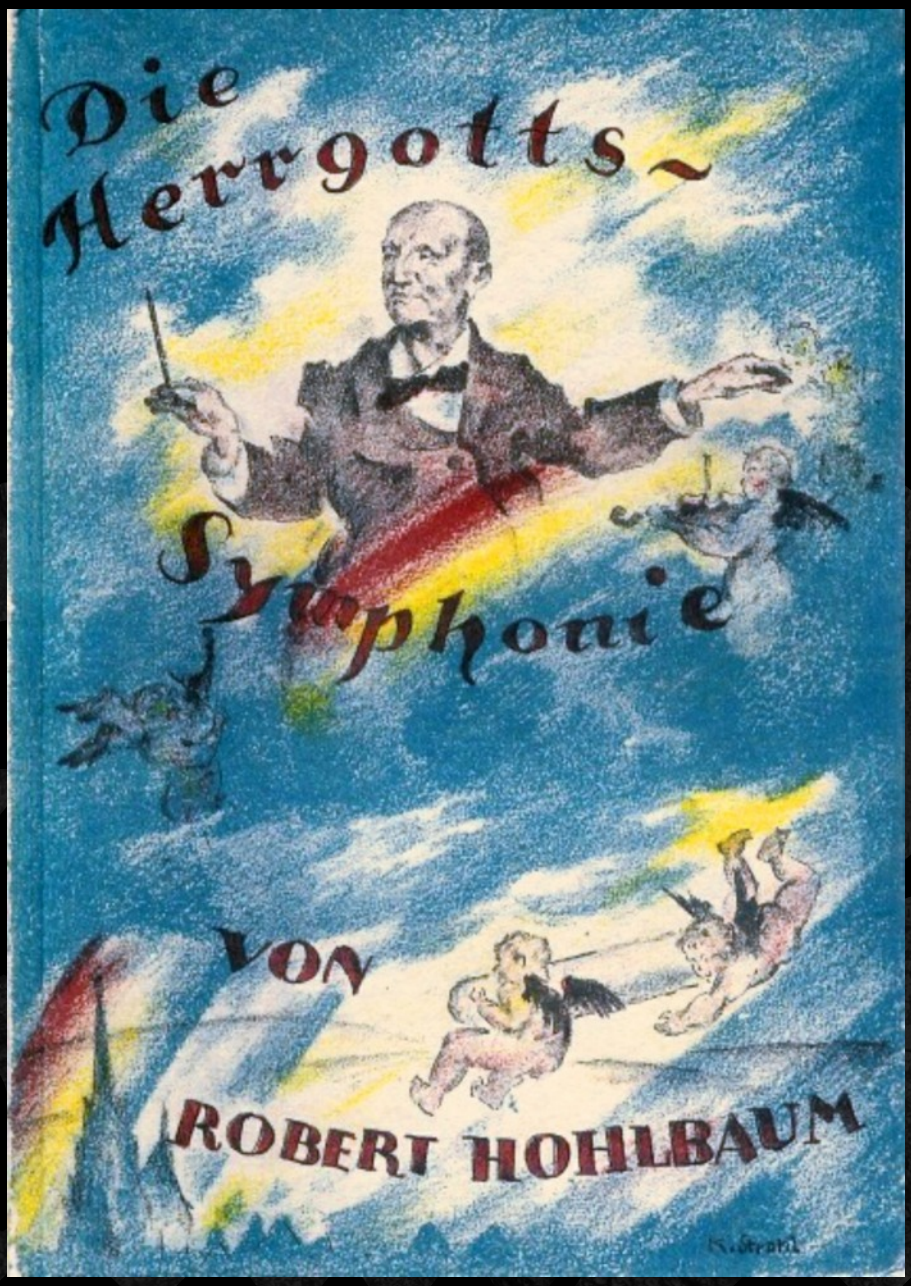
Oskar Czeija's and Gustav Adolf Schwaiger's attempts to broadcast lead to the establishment of « Radio-Verkehrs-Aktien-Gesellschaft » (RAVAG) - a joint venture of the Austrian federal government, the City of Vienna, and several banks. Czeija is appointed general director while Schwaiger is appointed head technical director. Under Schwaiger's direction, applied research work is carried out in the « RAVAG » laboratory. Results : transmissions also become possible via telephone lines. Within a short period of time, this innovation will be widely used internationally in radio technology.

RAVAG, Vienna

Wednesday, 27 August 1924

A new radio transmitter, which was installed in a makeshift studio inside the building of the old Imperial and Royal Ministry of War (« Kaiserlich und Königlich Kriegsminister ») on the « Ringstraße » , goes into operation.

Robert Hohlbaum



1925

Robert Hohlbaum publishes « Die Herrgotts-Symphonie. Eine Bruckner-Novelle. »
(The Lord God's Symphony. A Bruckner novel.) , Verlag Fr. Kistner & C. F. W. Siegel, Leipzig.

Robert Hohlbaum

1925

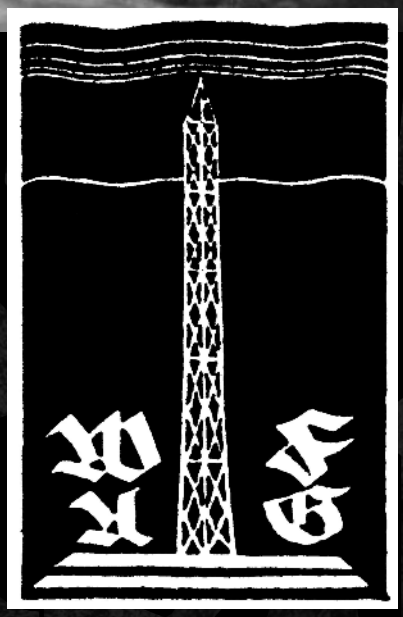
Robert Hohlbaum publishes « Die Herrgotts-Symphonie. Eine Bruckner-Novelle. »
(The Lord God's Symphony. A Bruckner novel.) , Verlag Fr. Kistner & C. F. W. Siegel, Leipzig.

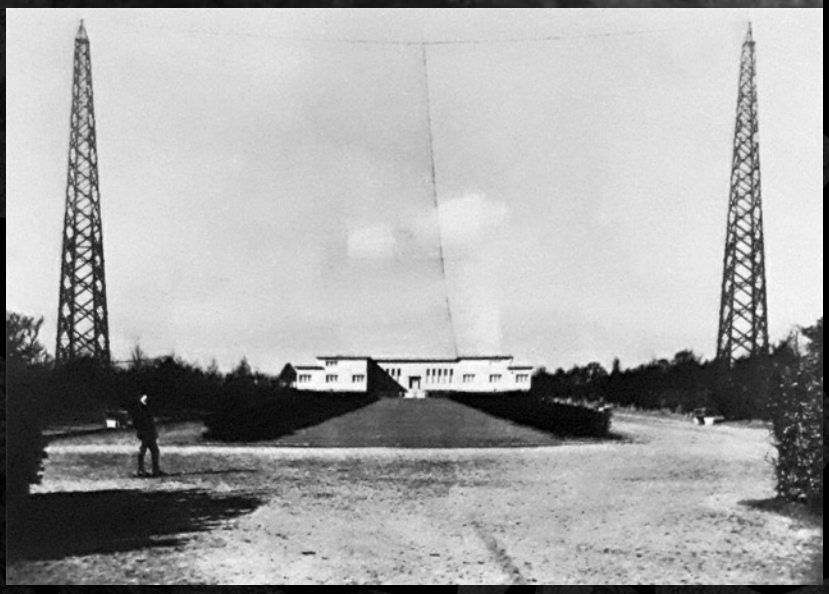
MIRAG, Leipzig

1926

The two 105 meter high transmission towers of the MIRAG « Groß-Sender » , which stand between the building of the German library and the exhibition grounds of the Technical Fair in Leipzig, are operational. The Bach Cantata performed on Sunday from St. Thomas Church is broadcast on the medium wave at 259.3.

Raderthal near Cologne





Friday, 29 October 1926

The supervisory board of the « West-Deutsche Funkstunde AG » (WEFAG) decides to relocate the transmitter station, which is located at « Hitzelerstraße » Number 125 in Raderthal, to the city of Cologne.

« Funkhaus » , Cologne

Saturday, 1 January 1927

The « West-Deutsche Funkstunde AG » (WEFAG) is renamed « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (the predecessor of the WDR) . The new facilities are located at « Dagobertstraße » Number 38 in the Kunibertsviertel district of Cologne.

Friedrich Castelle

1937

Group picture of all the employees working for the « Westdeutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG) , the predecessor of the West-German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR) , taken in the large broadcasting hall of the Cologne « Funkhaus » at « Dagobertstraße » Number 38 in the Kunibertsviertel district. Among others : Alexander Maass, Josef Kandner, Friedrich Castelle, Rudolf Rieth, Paul Korte, Paul Apel, Hanns Ulmann, Otto Julius Kühn, Ernst Hardt, Willi Schäferdiek, Albert Oettershagen, Wilhelm Strienz, Wilhelm Buschkötter, Martha Walther, Heinz Holwe (baritone) .

Johannes Hollnsteiner

Johannes Hollnsteiner

« St. Florian » (Das Chorherrenstift St. Florian) , Doktor Benno Filser Verlag (1928)

WERAG at the zoo of Cologne

The « Aktiengesellschaft » Zoological Garden of Cologne was founded in 1860. The World Wars led to a phase of stagnation. During WWII, the zoo suffered badly from Allied bombing raids. The site was definitely closed in 1944. At the end of the war, it was almost completely destroyed, with 133 bomb craters and only 23 surviving animals. The shelters were almost, without exception, badly damaged and no longer usable. Only the elephant house, built in 1863-1874, survived largely unscathed.

1929

« Gewandhaus » , Leipzig

1930

MIRAG at the « Gewandhaus »

1930

At the « Gewandhaus » (which still stood next to the « Reichs-Gericht » (State Tribunal) in the « Musicians' Quarter ») , MIRAG hired several rooms between the main auditorium and the chamber-music hall and fitted them out as a broadcasting studio. The live-broadcast of the « Gewandhaus » Orchestra's New Year Concert on January 1, 1930 proved that the new MIRAG outside broadcasting unit was fully-functional. On that evening, for the first time, listeners sitting around radio-sets all over central Germany heard the « Gewandhaus » Orchestra under its conductor Bruno Walter join « Thomas-Kirche » organist Günther Ramín at the Walcker organ of the New « Gewandhaus » in Max Reger's Organ Fantasia Opus 40, No. 1, in a concert that also included Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's motet « Exultate, jubilate » (K. 165) and Anton Bruckner's Fifth Symphony in B-flat major (WAB 105) .

The « Kolping-Haus » in Linz

The « Kolping-Haus » was commissioned in 1930 by the Kolping family. The modern cubic-shape structure is located at « Langgasse » Number 13. It was designed by the Linz architect Hans Steineder (1904-1976) , a student of Peter Behrens who was a representative of the Austrian modernism during the inter-War period. The master-builder was Friedrich Gangl. The new building replaced the world's first « Kolping-Haus » founded in 1853 by the Catholic Journeymen's Association.

The Bruckner Organ

The 1931 renovation of the « Bruckner Organ » had been unsuccessful and its condition was becoming deplorable when the German Broadcasting Corporation decided to rebuild it completely. According to the advice of the then Cantor of St. Thomas Church Professor Günther Ramín of Leipzig, the rebuilt instrument was supposed to become a 5 manual organ according to North German ideals and tradition. However, the projected rebuild suggested by Professor Josef Mertin of Vienna, an accepted authority on Baroque organs was accepted. Mertin suggested that the tonal character of the original Franz-Xaver Chrismann organ be re-created, a fourth manual be built which would contain that tonal scheme demanded by music of later periods. The contract for this restoration was awarded to Wilhelm Zika of Ottensheim, Austria. This restoration was begun in 1945 and the Positiv division was completed in June 1945.

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

Wednesday, 4 May 1932

Day four of the Upper-Austrian Bruckner festival held in Linz (and St. Florian) . 8:00 pm : Gala-concert given at the large festive hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) .

Opening speech by music-critic Max Millenkovich-Morold in the presence of the Federal President Wilhelm Miklas. Siegmund von Hausegger conducts the unified orchestras of the city of Linz.

Programme

Symphony in D minor, « Die Nullte » (WAB 100)

Symphony No. 1 in C minor, « Linz » , edited by Ludwig Doblinger in 1893 (WAB 101)

Vinzenz Goller

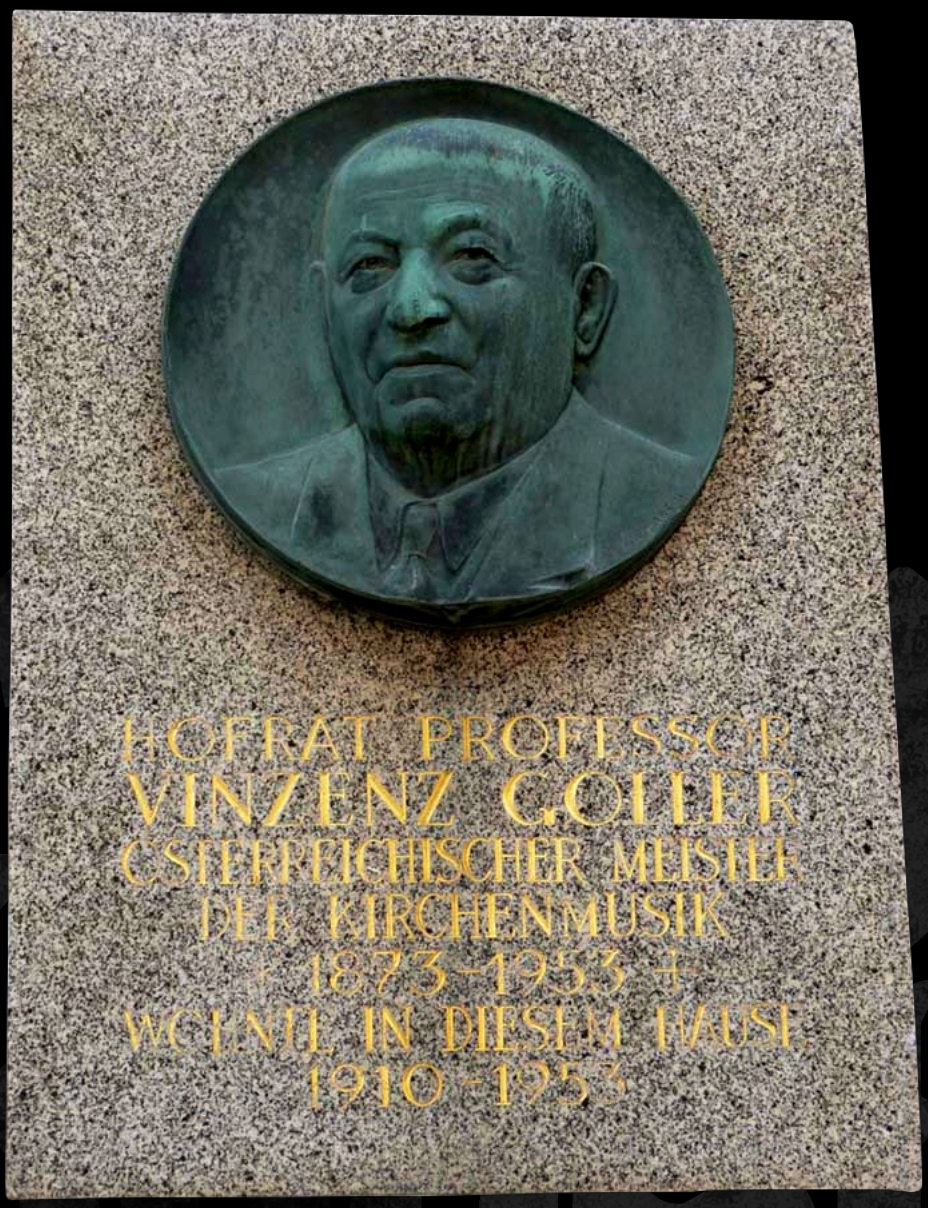
Thursday, 5 May 1932 (Ascension Day)

Day five of the Upper-Austrian Bruckner festival held in St. Florian (and Linz) .

2:30 pm : Festive fanfares for 11 wind-instruments based on Anton Bruckner's « Psalm 112 » (WAB 35) , composed by Vinzenz Goller, conducted by Professor Ludwig Daxsperger (or Franz-Xaver Müller) .

2:55 pm : Radio broadcast of the consecration ceremony of the restored « Bruckner Organ » at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

Vinzenz Goller



Thursday, 5 May 1932 (Ascension Day)

Day five of the Upper-Austrian Bruckner festival held in St. Florian (and Linz) .

2:55 pm : Radio broadcast of the consecration ceremony of the restored « Bruckner Organ » at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

4:00 pm : The composer and church musician Vinzenz Goller gives a radio lecture entitled « Restoring the " Bruckner Organ " in St. Florian » . The restoration (under his supervision) is carried out by the organ-builders Gebrüder Mauracher (from Linz) and Dreher and Flamm (from Salzburg) , according to plans by Ernst Schieß. Goller lived for the most part in Klosterneuburg near Vienna, where he was relieved of his mayoralty in 1938 by the Nazis. Two of his children then joined the Resistance.

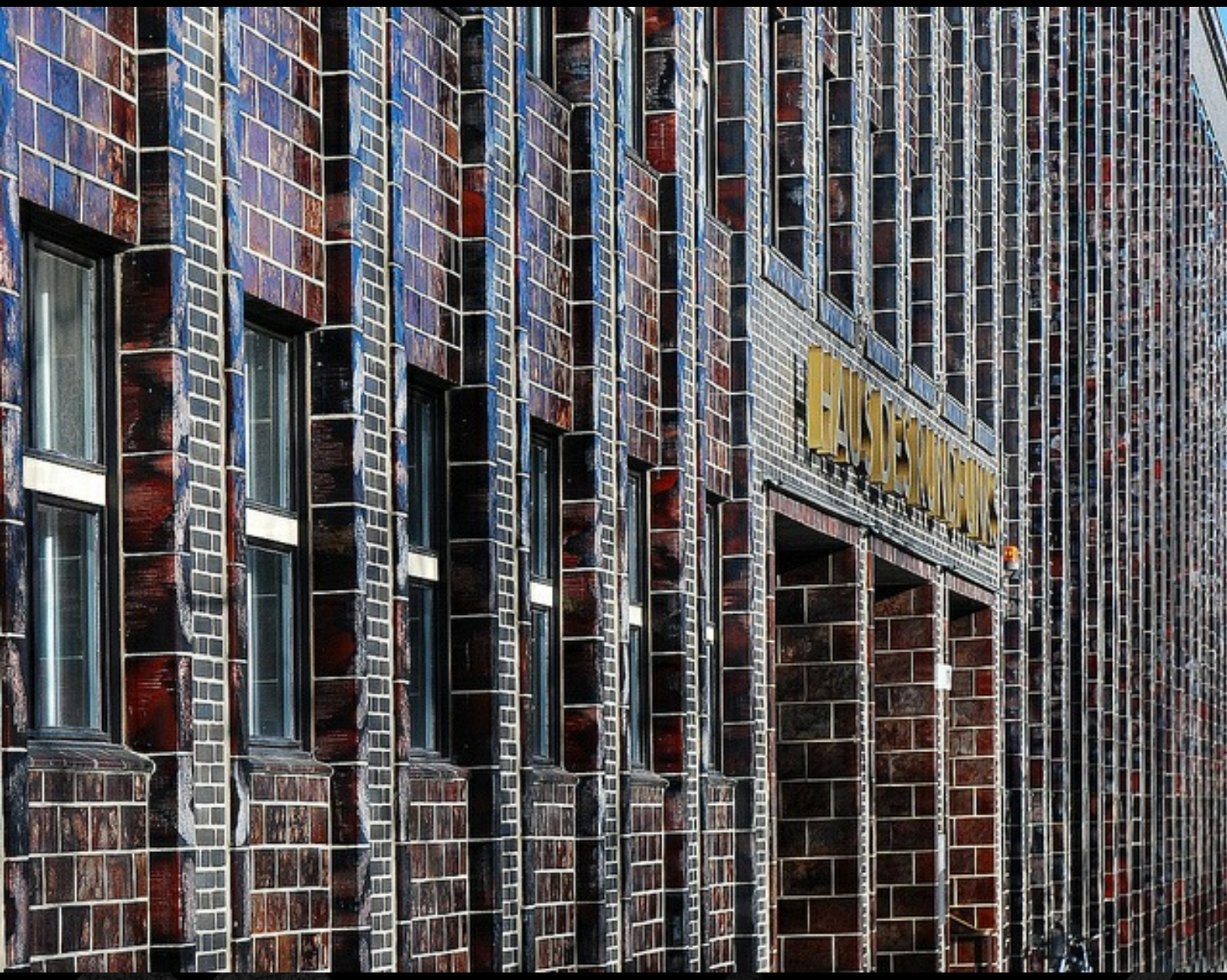
« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1932

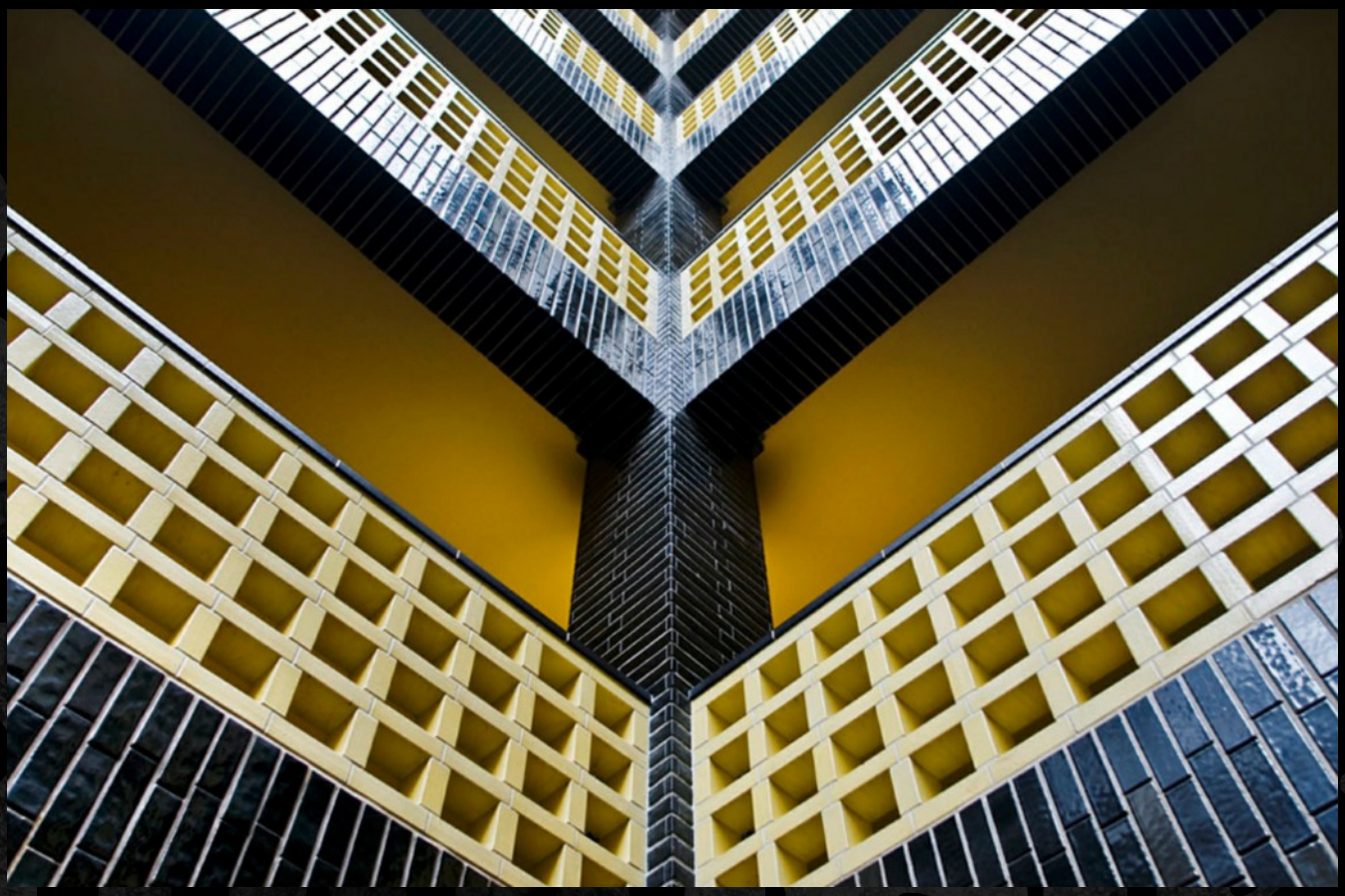
« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1932

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin



« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

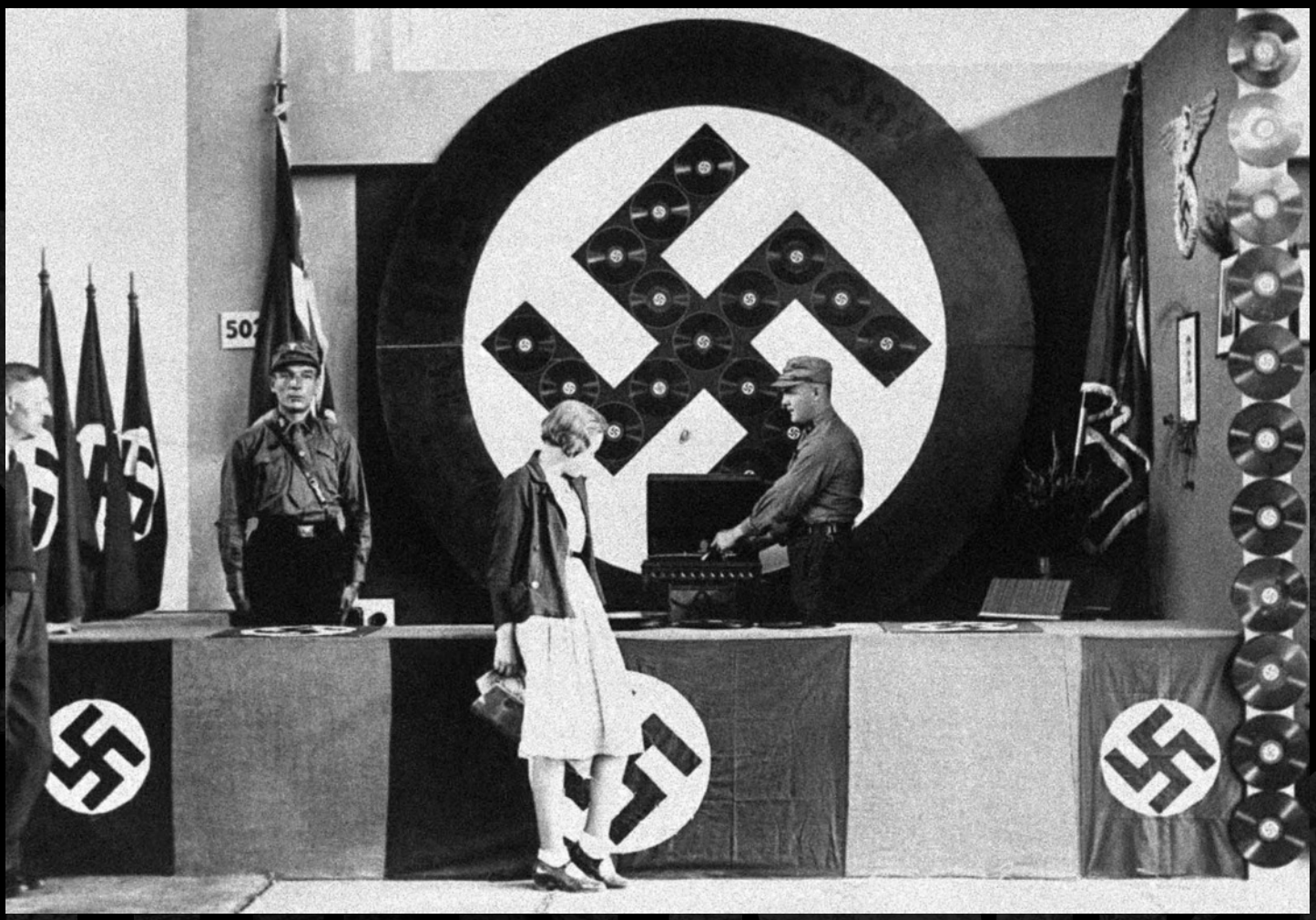


« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1933

The large, central broadcasting room of the « Haus des Rundfunks » is completed. Hans Poelzig had very few designs to emulate, yet, he was still able to develop ideas that are still used, namely placing the office and editorial rooms on the outer-areas of the building and the 3 large studios at the inner. Poelzig put a huge amount of thought into the acoustics of the rooms, even the chairs were specially designed so that they had the same sound-absorbing qualities, and the smaller recording room had 100 wall panels which could be flipped : one side of the panels absorbed sound ; the other reflected it. In this way, very different reverberation effects could be created. The area for radio-dramas also possessed a diversity of acoustic characteristics.

International Radio Exhibition, Berlin



1932

A S.A. « brown shirt » spins music records at a Nazi stand during the International Radio Exhibition in Berlin.

Martin G. Dumler

Still Life With Flowers In Vase (1926)

1932 : The « Bruckner Society of America » elects Martin George Dumler of Cincinnati, Ohio, as honorary chairman. During his tenure, the Society initiates publication of the music journal « Chord and Discord » , which offers news and scholarly essays on the music of Bruckner and Gustav Mahler. Dumler, initially a student of Martin Rettig and Richard Busebaum in Cincinnati before going on to study in New York City with Edward Potthast, is also widely known for his landscape and still-life oil paintings, which are exhibited in many American art museums.

Propaganda Minister Josef Gœbbels

Gœbbels in his office in 1936

March 1933

Adolf Hitler appoints Doctor Josef Gœbbels to be the « Reich » Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. The Palace of Prince Friedrich Leopold (« Ordens-Palais ») located on the northern corner of « Wilhelmplatz » (at Numbers 8, 9 on « Wilhelmstraße ») becomes the headquarters of the newly-formed « Reich » Ministry. Gœbbels decides to remodel the interior according to his own plans. The role of the Ministry is to centralise Nazi control of all aspects of German cultural and intellectual life. He understands the importance of quality radio programming for propaganda purposes. He quickly nationalizes all the stations under the « Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft » (or RRG) , and establishes its headquarters in Berlin.

Heinrich Glasmeier and Josef Gœbbels

WERAG

Monday, 24 April 1933

Archivist Heinrich Glasmeier is appointed without any opposition as general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne. Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, attends the inauguration ceremony which takes place at the « Funkhaus » on « Dagobert-Straße » .

Heinrich Glasmeier and Josef Gœbbels

WERAG

Monday, 24 April 1933

Archivist Heinrich Glasmeier is appointed without any opposition as general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne. Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, attends the inauguration ceremony which takes place at the « Funkhaus » on « Dagobert-Straße » .

Heinrich Glasmeier and Josef Gœbbels

Monday, 24 April 1933

Archivist Heinrich Glasmeier is appointed without any opposition as the new general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne. Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda (third from the left) , attends the inauguration ceremony which takes place at the « Funkhaus » on « Dagobertstraße » in the Kunibertsviertel district. Also in the picture : Broadcasting Commissioner Gustav Krukenberg (first from the left) and Anton (« Toni ») Winkelnkemper, the head of Propaganda (fourth from the right) .

Josef Gœbbels

Monday, 24 April 1933

Doctor Josef Gœbbels leaves the Cologne « Funkhaus » on « Dagobertstraße » after participating at the ceremony officializing Heinrich Glasmeier as the new general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » or WERAG - the predecessor of the WDR.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Monday, 24 April 1933

Heinrich Glasmeier is appointed without any opposition as the new general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne.

Heinrich Glasmeier, Cologne

Heinrich Glasmeier

Monday, 1 May 1933

Roll-call of the employees of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in front of the Cologne « Funkhaus » at « Dagobertstraße » Number 38 in the Kunibertsviertel district. Address by general manager Heinrich Glasmeier wearing his « Waffen-SS » uniform. On the left, personnel manager Doctor Otto Barlage (the adjudant of Doctor Alfred Meyer, the « Gauleiter » of North Westphalia) . On the right, Paul Korte.

Eugen Kurt Fischer

1933

Heinrich Glasmeier, the director of the West-German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR) in Cologne, names Doctor Eugen Kurt Fischer (who shows some reservations about the Nazi regime) Deputy director and acting head of broadcasting. From 1934 at the latest, Fischer only picks radio people as editors.

Volksempfänger

Friday, 18 August 1933

Ordered by Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the « Volks-Empfänger » (People's Receiver) model VE301, a readily affordable radio-set designed by Otto Griessing to be capable, as far as possible, of picking-up only the transmissions of government-controlled stations, is officially presented at the 10th International Radio Show in Berlin.

Under the supervision of the Office of Radio Technology, 100,000 of these sets bearing an Imperial eagle and a « swastika » stamped on the front (essentially produced by the leading manufacturers « Siemens » and « Telefunken ») , are sold on the first day at the low-price of 76 « Reich » Marks (roughly, 2 weeks pay) , almost half the cost of its nearest rival ! Which enable the broad masses to become instant radio consumers, and finally listen to the Nuremberg rallies.

Volksempfänger

1933

The « Volks-Empfänger » was designed to be produced as cheaply as possible, as a consequence they generally lacked short-wave bands and did not follow the practice, common at the time, of marking the approximate dial positions of major European stations on its tuning scale. Only German and Austrian stations were marked and cheaper models only listed arbitrary numbers. Sensitivity was limited to reduce production costs further, so long as the set could receive « Deutschlands-Sender » and the local « Reichs-Sender » , it was considered sensitive enough, although foreign stations could be easily received after dark with an external antenna.

1933

« The radio will be to the 20th Century what the press was to the 19th. »
(Josef Gœbbels, 1933)

Instead of regulating music on the local level in concert-halls, the « Reich » Chamber of Culture now has a centralized control of the mass-media outlet of radio.

« What does Furtwängler think he's achieving with his 2,000 listeners in the concert-hall ? »

« What we need are the millions and, with the radio, we have them. »

German Radio Exhibition, Berlin

1933

German Radio Exhibition, Berlin

1933

German Radio Exhibition, Berlin

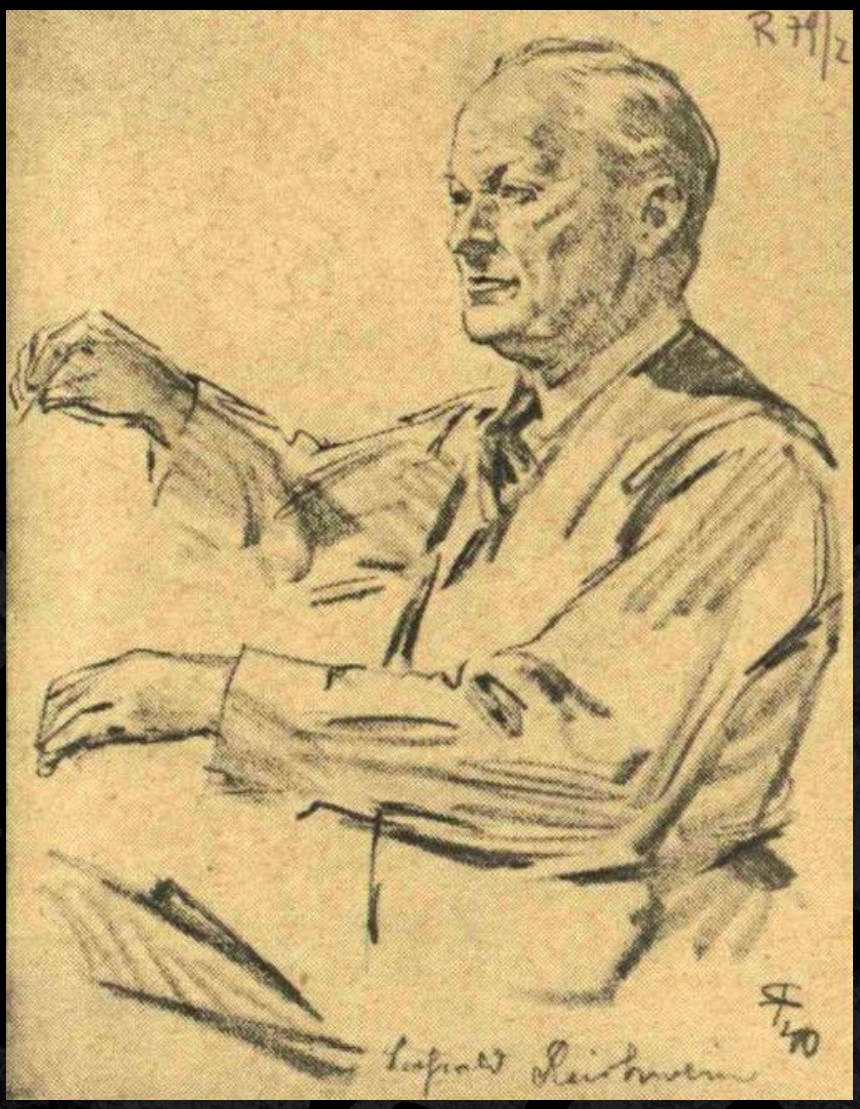
1933

Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg

1933

At the request of Hermann Göring, who has also been a fighter pilot in the First World War, Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg founds the Orchestra of the German Air Sports Association. He is considered to be the father of German Aviation music by establishing new concert programmes, new wind music repertoire, even promoting the commision of new works to living composers.

Leopold Reichwein



In compliance with the new Austrian laws, the prototypical National-Socialist conductor Leopold Reichwein (who will become a member of the « Reich » Chamber of Music) replaces in 1933 the « Kampfbund » Orchestra for German Culture (which he co-founded with Wilhelm Jerger) with the « Richard Wagner Orchestra » . In May, he also creates (in collaboration with Josef Friedrich Grögner and Robert Ernst) the National-Socialist Workers' Organisation Orchestra. Immediately after the « Anschluß » , he makes a triumphant return to the Austrian capital : conducting the Vienna Philharmonic, conducting at Vienna State Opera, and heading the conducting and opera classes at the State Academy of Music and the Performing Arts. The « Wagner Orchestra » is renamed in 1937 the National-Socialist Vienna « Tonkünstler » Orchestra. Despite its Nazi patronage, the « Tonkünstler » will not play a central role in Viennese concert life. In this respect, the most active orchestra, from 1938 to the end of the War, is the Vienna Symphony. On the orders of the « Reich » Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in Berlin, it is designated as the « official city orchestra » . Professor Reichwein will conduct, on a regular basis, Bruckner concerts with this ensemble (1921-1943) . Richard Strauß deemed him average, a mere « cobbler » as a musician. After allegations of collaboration with the Nazis, Reichwein choses to commit suicide on Sunday, 8 April 1945, in the town of Kirchstetten, Lower-Austria (on the same day as the Austrian lyric poet, narrative writer and essayist Josef Weinheber) .

Bruckner Festival, Munich

Monday, 23 to Monday, 30 October 1933

Second Bruckner festival organized by the « International Bruckner Society » in Munich.
The event is placed under the double patronage of Lord Mayor Karl Fiehler and the
« Reich » governor of Munich, Franz Xaver Ritter von Epp.

Siegmund von Hausegger conducts the Choir of the Cathedral and the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mass No. 3 in F minor for soloists (SATB) , mixed-choir, orchestra and organ « ad libitum » (WAB 28)
« Te Deum » for soloists (SATB) , mixed-choir, orchestra and organ « ad libitum » (WAB 45)

Franz Kinzl

May 1933 : Franz Kinzl joins the N.S.D.A.P (membership card-number : 1.619.526) .

1934 : As a result of disciplinary proceedings, he is transferred to the Upper-Austrian town of Hirschbach near Freistadt. There, he established an illegal local branch of the N.S.D.A.P. , and becomes a board-member.

1935-1938 : He is consultant for the Linz radio station, for which he designs various programs.

1937 : He joins the National-Socialist Teachers' Association of the « Gau » of Upper-Austria - founded in 1931 by his brother, Friedrich.

June 1938 : At the suggestion of Josef (Sepp) Wolkerstorfer, the Lord Mayor of Linz, he is appointed Music Commissioner for the city by the President of the « Reich » Chamber of Music.

1945 : He works for the reconstruction of the disbanded Linz Municipal Symphony Orchestra.

Propaganda Minister Gœbbels

Gœbbels in his office in 1937

1934

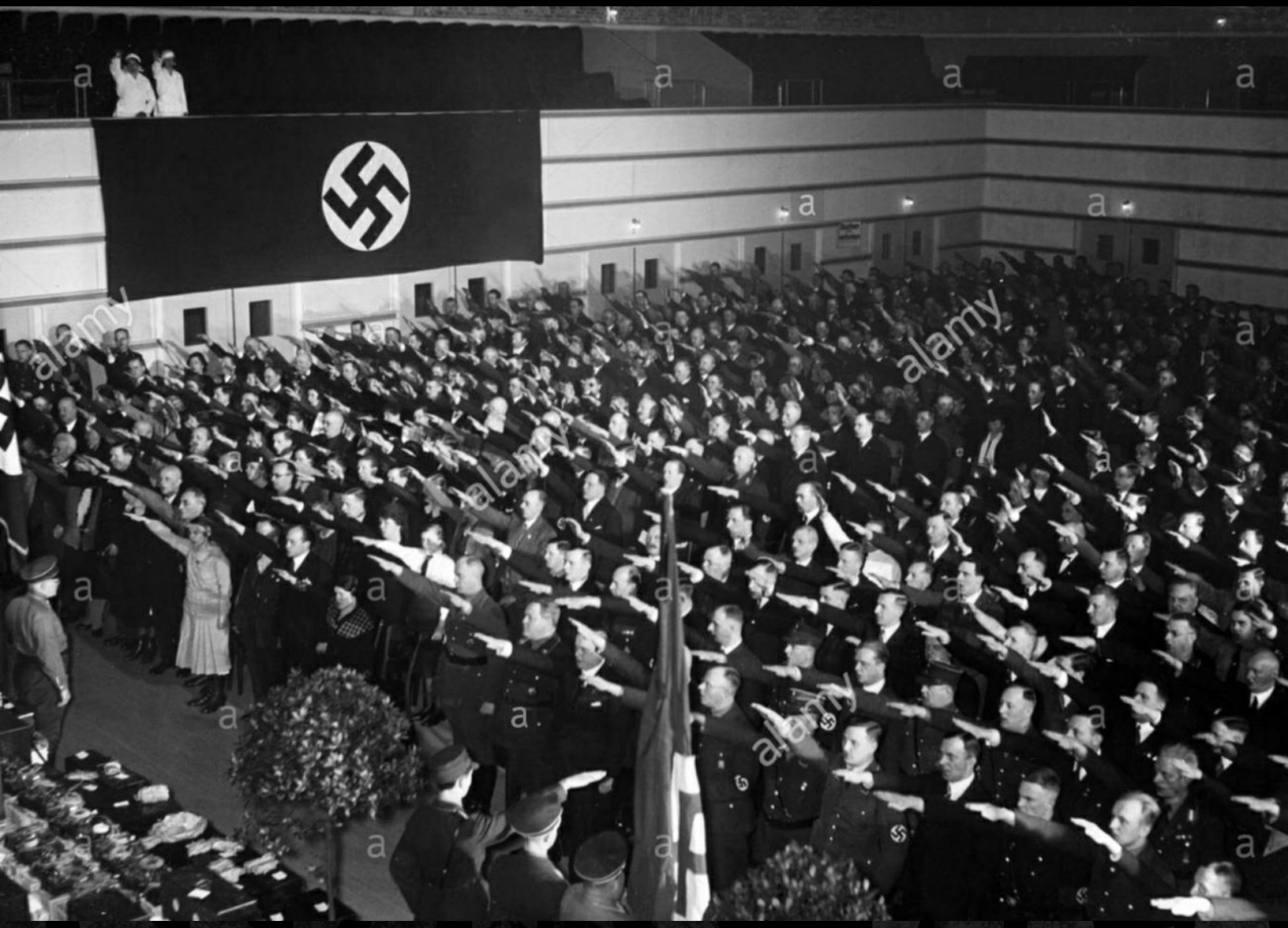
Expansion of the « Reich » Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda (old Palace of Prince Friedrich Leopold) on « Wilhelmstraße » . A first new office building is built in a north-south direction. The « Reich » Chamber of Culture now consists of 7 departments. The high-degree of organization indicates that the Chamber is not free to set its own course in the arts.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1934

A Hitler Youth parade in front of the « Haus des Rundfunks » on « Masuren-Allee » in Berlin.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin



1934

The audience sings the « Horst-Wessel-Lied » during a partisan event held at the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin.

Volksempfänger

Christmas 1934

Distribution at the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin of radio sets (People's Receivers or « Volksempfängern ») manufactured by Telefunken as holiday gifts to the public in attendance.

Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg

1934

The Orchestra of the German Air Sports Association becomes the « Reich » Orchestra of the German Aviation (« Luftwaffe ») . This wind ensemble, consisting of young, excellent but initially inexperienced musicians, performs with its founder, the conductor Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg, in a kind of fancy uniform. The well-known Schulz-Dornburg is referred to in the media as the « flying musician » or « flying captain » . The orchestra, which is used for Nazi propaganda purposes, performs throughout the country, sometimes several times a day.

Reichs Rundfunk Gesellschaft

1934

The « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG : the predecessor of the WDR) becomes part of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (« Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft ») .

Friedrich Castelle, Heinrich Glasmeier

Friday, 8 June 1934

Photo published in the Westfalian « Landes-Zeitung » . From left to right :

(1) Litterary advisor Doctor Friedrich Castelle, (2) Münster City Councilor L. Klug (the director of the local « Reichs-Sender ») , (3) Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier (the director of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne) , (4) Doctor Alfred Meyer (the « Gauleiter » of North Westphalia) , (5) who is accompanied by his adjudant, the personnel manager Doctor Otto Barlage.

Professor Peter Raabe

1935

Professor Peter Raabe replaces Richard Strauß as the head of the « Reich » Chamber of Music.

Hermann Stange

Early 1935

After the resignation of Wilhelm Furtwängler as vice-President of the « Reich » Chamber of Music, Heinz Ihlert, himself, with Gustav Havemann's help, aspires to the position, a post that Richard Strauß defiantly handed to his ally, Hermann Stange. It is Stange who now beares the brunt of further attacks, with Strauß himself simply staying put in Garmisch.

« Reichs-Sender » , Cologne

WERAG

1935

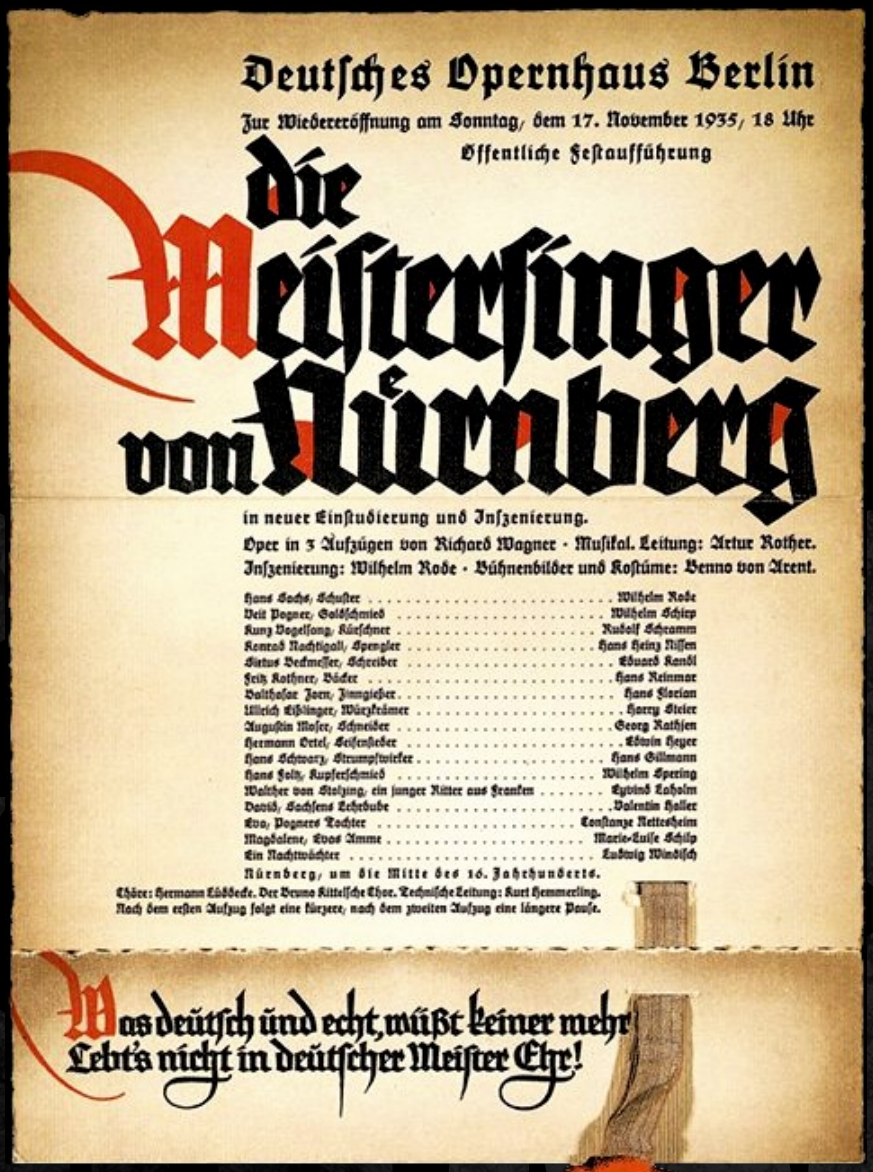
Recording session in the « Großen Sende-Saal » of the Cologne « Funkhaus »
located at « Dagobertstraße » Number 38 in the Kunibertsviertel district.

Bruckner Festival

Friday, 26 to Sunday 28 July 1935

A Bruckner festival is organized in Linz, St. Florian and Steyr. It is intended as a supplement and prelude to the Salzburg Festival. The guests-of-honour are the State Secretary Doctor Hans Pernter, the Governor of Upper-Austria Doctor Heinrich Gleißner, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Linz Johannes Maria Gföllner. A commemorative medal is designed by Josef Tautenhayn junior for the occasion.

The Hitler - von Arent's production



Deutsches Opernhaus Berlin

Zur Wiedereröffnung am Sonntag, dem 17. November 1935, 18 Uhr

Öffentliche Festaufführung

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

in neuer Einstudierung und Inszenierung.

Oper in 3 Aufzügen von Richard Wagner · Musikal. Leitung: Artur Rother.

Inszenierung: Wilhelm Rode · Bühnenbilder und Kostüme: Benno von Arent.

Hans Sachs, Schuster . . . . . Wilhelm Rode
Veit Pogner, Goldschmied . . . . . Wilhelm Schirp
Kunz Vogelsang, Kürschner . . . . . Rudolf Schramm
Konrad Nachtigall, Spengler . . . . . Hans Heinz Nissen
Fictus Beckmesser, Schreiber . . . . . Eduard Kandl
Fritz Kothner, Bäcker . . . . . Hans Reinmar
Balthasar Zorn, Zinngießer . . . . . Hans Florian
Ulrich Eißlinger, Würzkrämer . . . . . Harry Steier
Augustin Moser, Schneider . . . . . Georg Rathjen
Hermann Ortel, Seifensieder . . . . . Edwin Heyer
Hans Schwarz, Strumpfwirker . . . . . Hans Gillmann
Hans Foltz, Kupferschmied . . . . . Wilhelm Spering
Walther von Stolzing, ein junger Ritter aus Franken . . . . . Sydney Labalm
David, Sachsens Lehrbube . . . . . Valentin Haller
Eva, Pogners Tochter . . . . . Constanze Nettesheim
Magdalene, Evas Amme . . . . . Marie-Luise Schilp
Ein Nachtwächter . . . . . Ludwig Windisch

Nürnberg, um die Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts.

Chöre: Hermann Lübbecke. Der Bruno Kittelsche Chor. Technische Leitung: Kurt Hemmerling.
Nach dem ersten Aufzug folgt eine kürzere, nach dem zweiten Aufzug eine längere Pause.

Was deutsch und echt, müßt keiner mehr
Lebt's nicht in deutscher Meister Ehr!

Sunday, 17 November 1935

The Hitler - von Arent joint production of Richard Wagner's « Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg » is programmed for the re-opening of the German Opera House (« Deutsches Opernhaus ») in Berlin.

St. Florian Monastery

1936

Photo : Robert Haas

St. Florian Monastery

1936

Photo : Robert Haas

St. Florian Monastery

1936

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

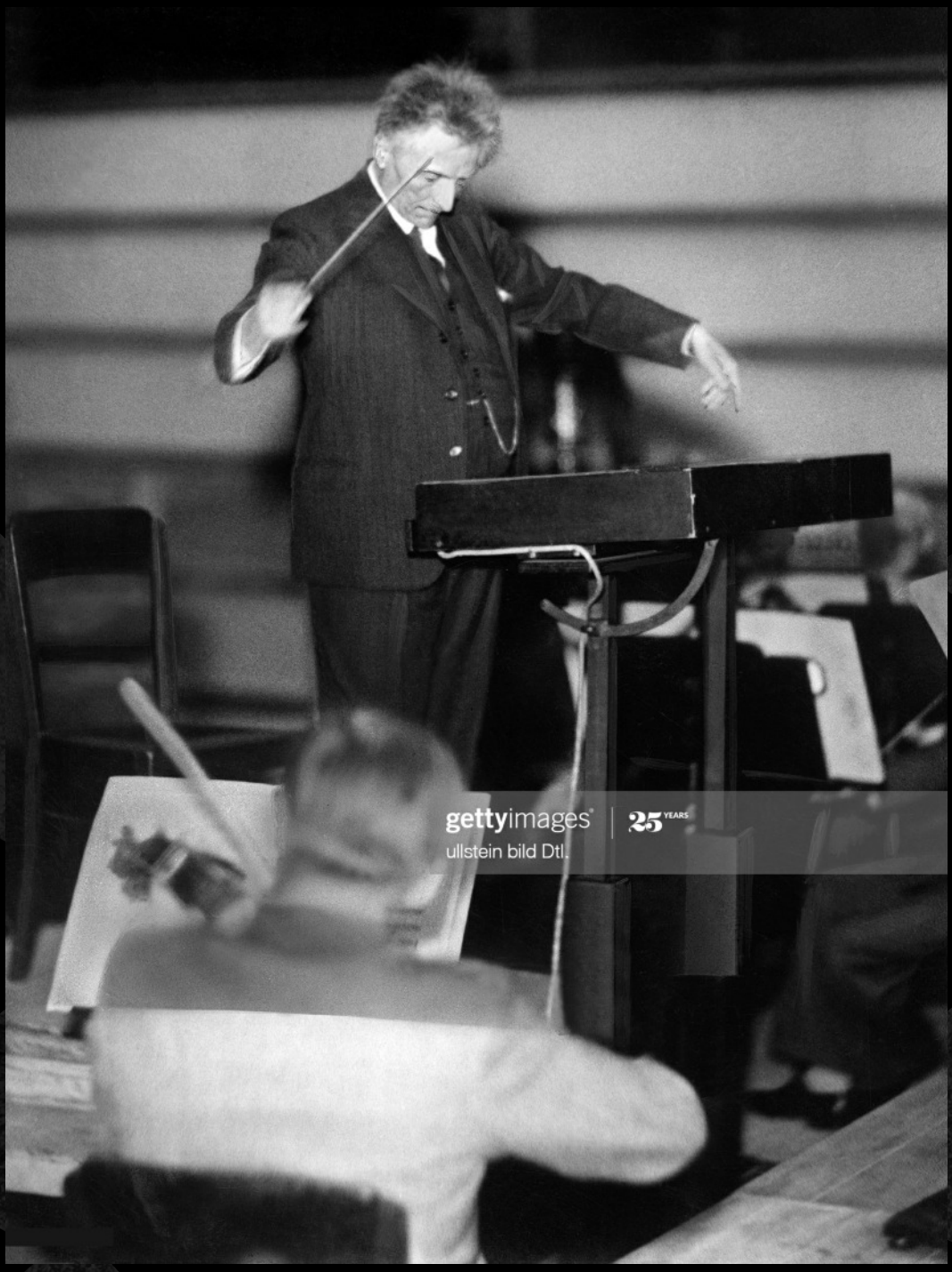
Photo : Robert Haas

Peter Raabe, Eugen Hadamovsky

March 1936

Professor Peter Raabe, President of the « Reich » Chamber of Music (right) , and Eugen Hadamovsky, Vice-President of the broadcasting department at the « Reich » Chamber of Culture (left) , are attending a conference at the old Philharmonie in Berlin.

Professor Peter Raabe



1936

Professor Peter Raabe conducting the « Reichs-Sender » Orchestra at the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin. Raabe, one of the most influential person in the German music world, will appear very often as a speaker, proclaiming the basic lines of National-Socialist music policy. He is particularly interested in Anton Bruckner, who is so much loved by Adolf Hitler.

« Reichs-Sender » in Berlin

1936

Heinrich Glasmeier in Cologne

WERAG

1936

Heinrich Glasmeier, the general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » in Cologne, surrounded by his artistic and commercial directors.

Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg

1936

Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg conducts the Symphony Orchestra of the « Reichs-Sender » in Cologne.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Summer 1936

The « Reich » Ministry of Propaganda in Berlin is asking for more space : 100 offices, rooms for archives and meetings, as well as a canteen. Doctor Josef Gœbbels plans to expand the Palace of Prince Friedrich Leopold (« Ordens-Palais ») in the style of National-Socialist architecture according to designs by architect Karl Reichle. In the planning, Reichle moved the building line on « Mauerstraße » opposite the « Kleisthaus » 5 metres back, in accordance with the monumental design which Adolf Hitler preferred, both inside and outside, in order to highlight the headquarters of a supreme « Reich » authority. The plot of land at « Wilhelmstraße » Number 62, the old Colonial Ministry, is also included in the construction project. This plot reaches from « Wilhelmstraße » (Number 62) to « Mauerstraße » (Number 45) . This makes it possible to plan a wing with office space along the boundary of the plot in an east-west direction. A long 2 storey façade is created on « Wilhelmstraße » in Karl Friedrich Schinkel's architectural style. The core of the interior rooms on the « Wilhelmstraße » side is formed by the new theatre and film projection room.

The « Cathedral Sparrows »

Tuesday, 28 July 1936

The " Cathedral Sparrows " (Regensburg Boys' Choir) and their choir-master Professor Theobald Schrems pay a visit to Adolf Hitler at the « Berghof » in Obersalzberg.

The « Führer » spurns the rival Vienna Boys' Choir of his Austrian homeland in favour of becoming a paying patron of the Bavarian ensemble founded in 975, which he invites twice to sing at his nearby mountain-top home. The choir will perform 5 times for him personally between 1933 and 1945. There are also plans to have the boys sing at the bombastic Nuremberg Party rallies where the pomp and circumstance of Nazi strength is displayed in torchlit parades. Hitler also gives the choir 12,000 « Reich » Marks (from his private fortune) to embark on a world-tour in 1937.

The « Cathedral Sparrows »

Tuesday, 28 July 1936

The " Cathedral Sparrows " (Regensburg Boys' Choir) and their choir-master Professor Theobald Schrems with Adolf Hitler at the « Berghof » in Obersalzberg.

October 1933

The Regensburg Cathedral Boys' Choir falls completely under the spell of the Nazi state when Adolf Hitler visits the medieval town for the first time as « Reich » Chancellor. Bishop Michael Buchberger offers his ensemble to participate at the official reception which takes place at the city's historical Imperial Hall. The « Führer » is so enthusiastic that he will give an annual grant of 12,000 « Reich » Marks to the choir until 1945. The money comes from Hitler's private fortune.

« Walhalla » ceremony

Wednesday, 29 July 1936

Letter from Siegmund von Hausegger to Professor Max Auer, the President of the « International Bruckner Society » :

« When the veil falls off Bruckner's bust, triumphal Bruckner sounds must be played. The " non confundar " from the Seventh would be appropriate, but it would not work musically. What would also work is the grandiose entry of the final theme of the Eighth in the recapitulation, up to the C major chord with the cymbal crash, and, from there, jumping to the C major intensification near the end with the climax unifying all the themes, as a true " Walhalla " sound. »

German Broadcasting Exhibition

Broadcasting Exhibition, Berlin

Friday, 28 August 1936

Eugen Hadamovsky of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation and Doctor Josef Gœbbels listens to Engineer Dr. Paul Goerz, the Head of Section for broadcasting in the electrical industry.

Propaganda Minister Josef Gœbbels

Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the « Reich » Minister of Propaganda, is silencing a soprano singer to make an important announcement during the radio broadcast of a recital.

8th Nazi Party Congress

Tuesday, 8 to Monday, 14 September 1936

The 8th Party Congress known as the « Rally of Honour » (« Reichs-Partei-Tag der Ehre ») takes place at the rally-grounds in Nuremberg. Last March re-militarization of the de-militarized Rhineland constituted the restoration of German honour in the eyes of many Germans.

Professor Peter Raabe

Wednesday, 9 September 1936

Professor Peter Raabe conducts a gala-concert at the Nuremberg Opera House.

8th Nazi Party Congress

Tuesday, 8 to Monday, 14 September 1936

8th Party Congress in Nuremberg.

Professor Günther Ramín is selected to play on the new Walcker/Sauer organ (Opus 2550) installed in « Luitpold Halle » (maximum capacity : 16,000 people) during ceremonies and grandiose open-air events.

Despite the size and power of the instrument, organizers thought it was necessary to amplify the sound through the 76 loudspeakers placed around Zeppelin Field.

When Professor Ramín began to play in front of Oscar Walcker, organist Eduard Kissel, conductor Franz Adam, Doctor Robert Ley and other Nazi top-officials in attendance, and touched on the first pedal notes, Ley suddenly roared with a snort :

« He's playing with de Beene ! » said Ramín, laughing with amusement.

This was followed by a shameful silence in the hall.

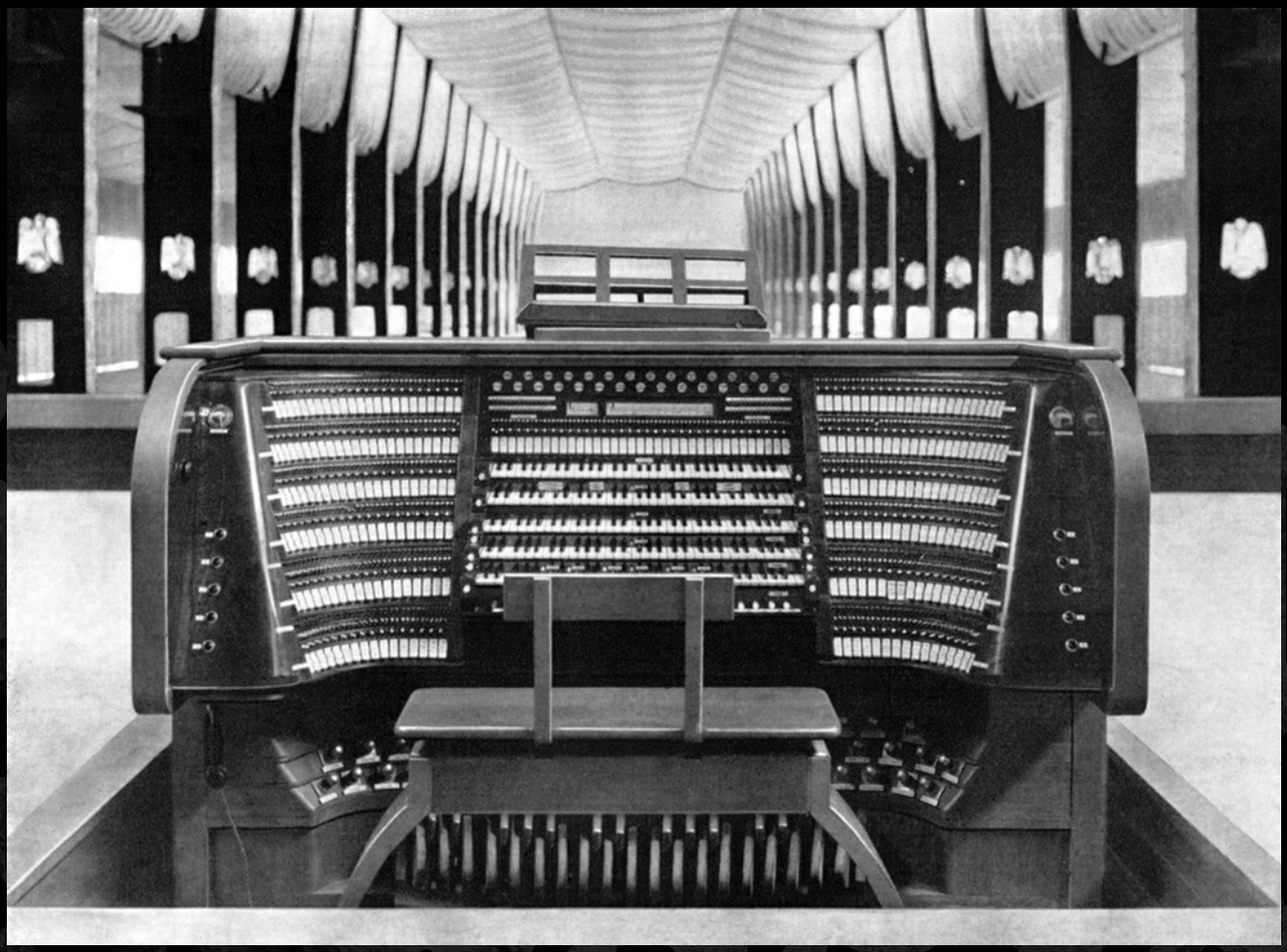
There were a few interesting technical stipluations included in the building contract. One of these forbade the organ to impress the listeners with its beauty : it should rather bring-out « the spirit of the Nazi Party » .

8th Nazi Party Congress

1936

Installation of the Opus 2550 Walcker organ in « Luitpold Halle » on the Nazi Party Rally-Grounds.

Opus 2550 Walcker organ



5 manuals, 220 ranks, 16,013 pipes.

Luitpold Halle

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Opus 2550 Walcker organ

Luitpold Halle

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Benno von Arent

From the very beginning, Doctor Josef Gœbbels had protected Benno von Arent in such a way that the « young star of the time » could be permanently installed, from 1936 onward, as « Reich » Theatrical Designer in the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. A title intended primarily to underscore Arent's exemplary position as a set-designer and outfitter. He was ultimately unable to develop his own style, partly due to the outbreak of the War, and because of competition in his field of expertise.

Bruckner festival, Vienna

Saturday, 10 October 1936

Day four of the Bruckner festival in Vienna. 12:00 :
Commemoration ceremony held in front of the Bruckner Monument in Vienna's City Park.
Welcoming words by Councillor Rudolf Holzer, board-member of the « International Bruckner Society » .
Speech by Minister Doctor Hans Pernter, Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Education.
Wreath laying ceremony.
Karl Stiegler (photo) conducts the brass-section of the Vienna Philharmonic in Vinzenz Goller's
2 Festive fanfares for 11 wind-instruments based on themes by Anton Bruckner.

Franz Andreas Weißenbäck

Tuesday, 13 October 1936

Day seven of the Bruckner festival in Vienna. Memorial Day.

A Pontifical Mass is celebrated in the morning by Provost Josef Kluger at the monastery of Klosterneuburg.

Franz Andreas Weißenbäck conducts the choir of the Augustinian monks, the Vienna Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

Programme

Anton Bruckner : « Missa solemnis » in B-flat minor, for mixed-choir, soloists, orchestra and organ (WAB 29)

Josef Gœbbels and Josef Reiter

Tuesday, 19 January 1937

« Reich » Propaganda Ministry in Berlin. The President of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, Doctor Josef Gœbbels, awards the Austrian composer Josef Reiter with the Gœthe Medal and reads out a telegram by Adolf Hitler. Reiter composed his « Gœthe Symphony » , Opus 152 (dedicated to Adolf Hitler) in 1931. Professor Peter Raabe, the President of the « Reich » Chamber of Music, suggests that Reiter be appointed to the Senate of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture.

Josef Reiter

Wednesday, 20 January 1937

Special concert held in the old Philharmonie in Berlin celebrating the 75th birthday of the Austrian composer Josef Reiter.

Reichssender, Leipzig

1937

Reichs Rundfunk Gesellschaft

Friday, 19 March 1937

Again with Adolf Hitler's blessing, Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier is promoted to « Reich » Director of German Broadcasting and General-Director of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (« Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft ») . His successor in Cologne is the Nazi activist Anton (« Toni ») Winkelnkemper.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1937

Heinrich Glasmeier, the general manager of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG) , is posing with his colleagues in front of the local Nazi Party office of the « Gau » of Cologne-Aachen.

Friedrich Castelle

1937

With the support of Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier and the « Gauleiter » of North Westphalia, Doctor Alfred Meyer, Friedrich Castelle is appointed Director of the « Reichs-Sender » in Cologne. Castelle proudly wears his Party uniform at the inaugural ceremony. He will hold this position until 1940.

Eugen Hadamovsky

1937

In order to put Doctor Josef Gœbbels' directive into operation, the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation is re-organized in line with his concept, and new staff are appointed. The new office of « Reich » director is created, to be filled by Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier, who concurrently becomes general-director of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation, and thus, Eugen Hadamovsky's superior. With this re-organization, Gœbbels ensures that the « executive control of broadcasting » can be exerted efficiently by his Ministry, while the administrative work is in the hands of Hadamovsky and the various radio directors.

Götz Otto Stoffregen

1937

Götz Otto Stoffregen is replaced by Martin Wülfing as Secretary of the « Reich » Chamber of Literature. Stoffregen then takes over the leadership of the « Reichs-Sender » in Berlin. He becomes responsible for the « Wunsch-Konzerten für die Wehrmacht » (Request Concerts for the German Armed Forces) .

St. Florian Monastery

Photo : 1928

Before 1938

The relationship between the Augustinian monks of St. Florian and National-Socialism began before Austria's annexation. This ideology was already popular before 1938. For example, a priest from a nearby village, who was also the acting advisory board-member of the « Gymnasium » of the monastery, said :

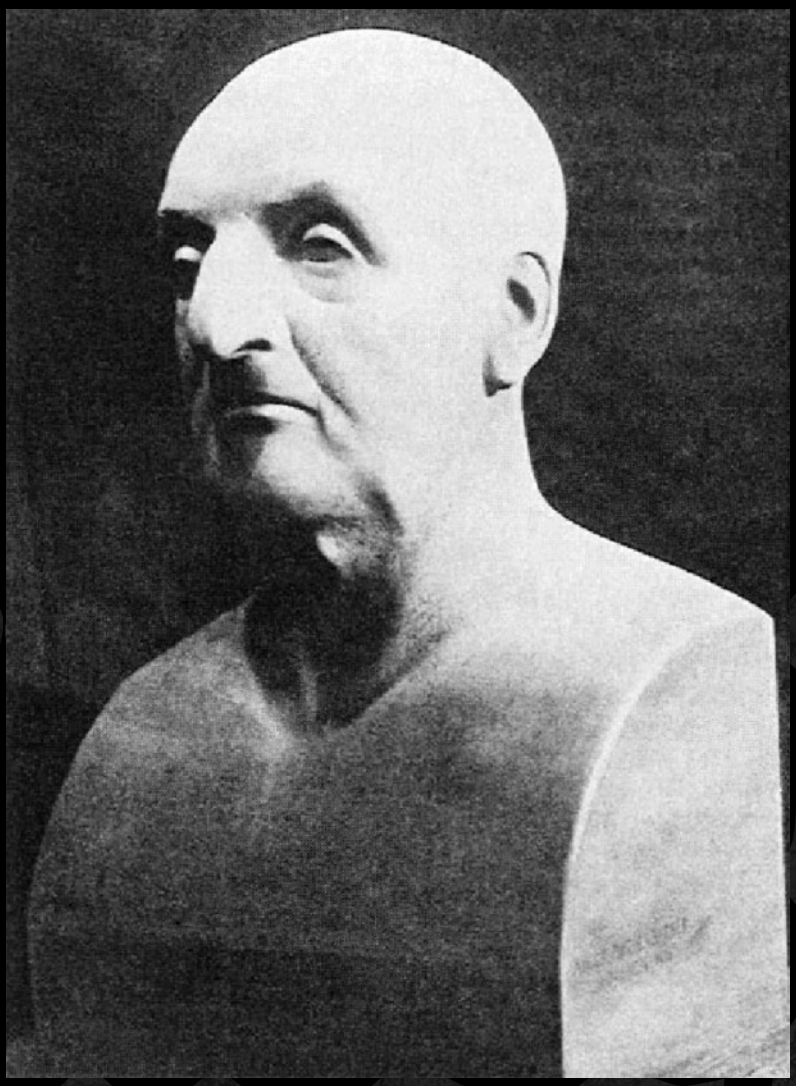
« The priests are invited to actively participate in the Great German movement.
If we do not recognize it, we will one day be without people. »

St. Florian Monastery

1937

Photo : Robert Haas

« Walhalla » ceremony



Saturday, 10 June 1933

Letter from the German pianist, composer and music-critic Wolfgang von Bartels to Professor Max Auer, the President of the « International Bruckner Society » :

Adolf Rothenburger is planning to create a marble bust of Anton Bruckner, which is to be acquired by the State of Bavaria and placed in the « Walhalla » Temple in Regensburg near Munich. If approved by the « International Bruckner Society » in Vienna, the local branch of the Society in Munich will second the initiative.

Tuesday, 25 May 1937

Letter from music-publisher Gustav Bosse from Regensburg to Professor Max Auer, the President of the « International Bruckner Society » :

The city of Regensburg itself has no great interest in the Bruckner festival. The costs would be borne entirely by the « Reich » Chamber of Culture supervised by Josef Gœbbels. Doctor Gœbbels will give an important speech at the ceremony of the Act of State. He makes a disdainful judgement on the bust of Anton Bruckner created by Adolf Rothenburger :

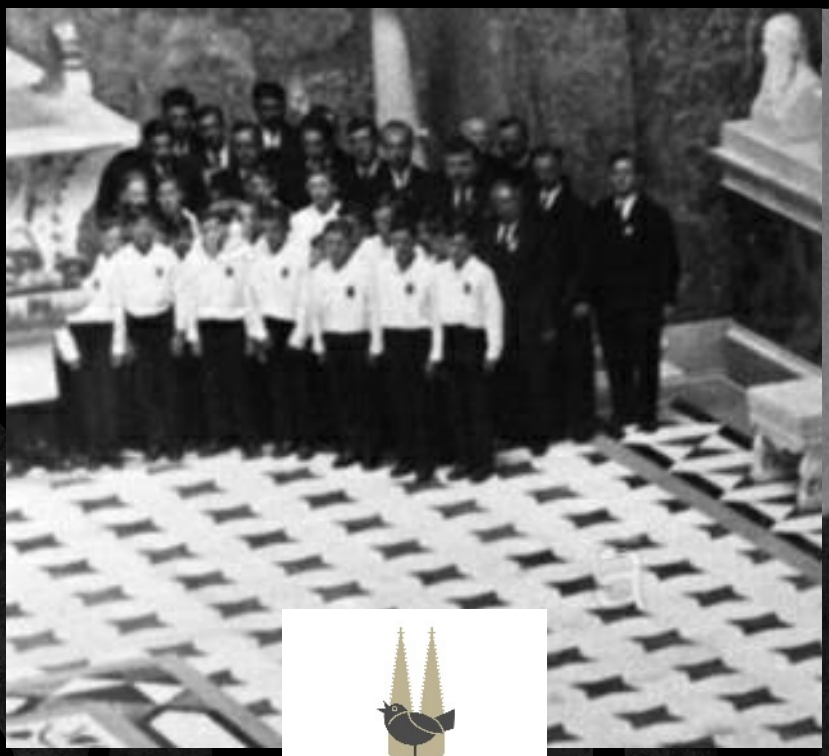
« cold stone ... nothing else. »

« Walhalla » ceremony

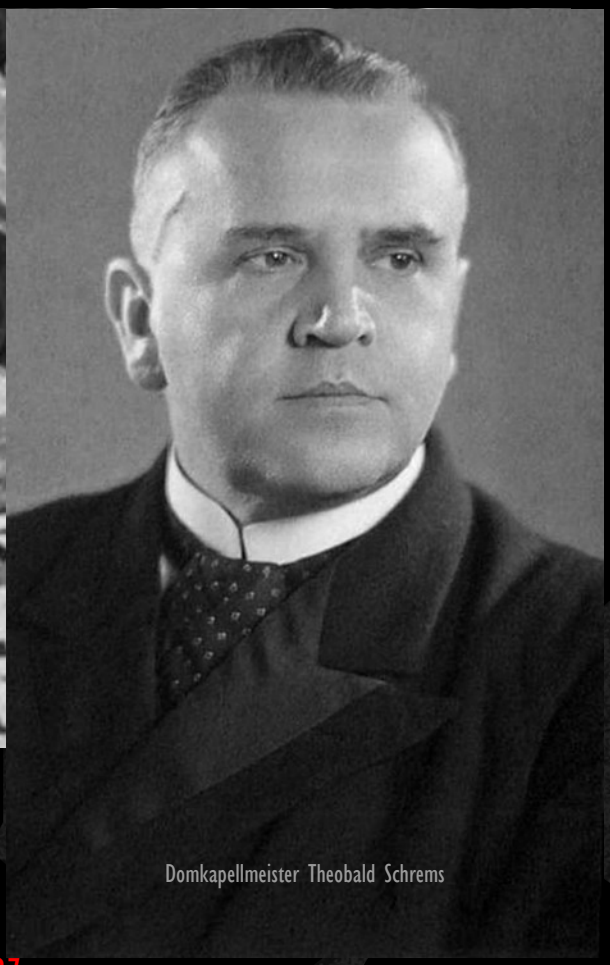
Sunday, 6 June 1937

Day two of the Bruckner festival held in the medieval town of Regensburg, Bavaria. No sooner has the « Führer » as entered the sacred shrine of the « Walhalla » , the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Honorary Doctor Siegmund von Hausegger, begins to play what Doctor Josef Gœbbels calls « the festive music » from the slow movement of Bruckner's Eighth Symphony for a rather un-monumental 2 minutes.

The « Cathedral Sparrows »



REGENSBURGER
DOMSPATZEN
SEIT 975



Domkapellmeister Theobald Schrems

Sunday, 6 June 1937

Day two of the Bruckner festival held in the medieval town of Regensburg, Bavaria. After the performance of « the festive music » from the slow movement of Bruckner's Eighth Symphony by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra under Honorary Doctor Siegmund von Hausegger, the choir-master Professor Theobald Schrems conducts the boys' choir of St. Peter's Cathedral (nicknamed the « Cathedral Sparrows ») in the « Locus iste » in C major (WAB 23) . Duration : 3 minutes.

The « Führer » proclaims :

« I ask that the bust of the great German master Anton Bruckner be unveiled. »
(« Ich bitte, die Büste des großen deutschen Meisters Anton Bruckners zu enrhüllen. »)

Gœbbels casually adds in his notes :

« Or something to that effect. »

He also writes :

« The celebration was very good and dignified. Siebert spoke, as well as myself. (...) The " Cathedral Sparrows " sang wonderfully. Bruckner was one of our greats. We now want to cultivate him more. »

« Walhalla » ceremony

Sunday, 6 June 1937

Day two of the Bruckner festival held in the medieval town of Regensburg, Bavaria.

Professor Peter Raabe unveils the marble bust of Bruckner (created by Adolf Rothenburger) , which is wrapped in a « swastika » flag. At the so-called « victory sounds » (4 minutes) from Bruckner's Eighth Symphony, an impressive laurel wreath (« laurea insignis » ; also called triumphal crown or « corona triumphalis ») is solemnly placed at the foot of the pedestal by the « Führer » .

« Walhalla » ceremony

Sunday, 6 June 1937

Day two of the Bruckner festival held in the medieval town of Regensburg, Bavaria.

As the « Führer » walks to his Mercedez-Benz W150 « cabriolet » , Vinzenz Goller's Festive fanfares for 11 wind-instruments, based on themes of the Finale of Bruckner's Symphony No. 5, are played.

Karl List

Wednesday, 30 June 1937

Conductor Karl List and members of the wind section of the « Reichs-Sender » Orchestra in Munich record fanfares based on an arrangement of a theme from the first movement of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 3 in D minor (WAB 103) . This « jingle » will be used by the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation as an intermission cue during the « Day of German Art » (« Tag der deutschen Kunst ») on July 10. Audio document number 1570018-19 (= 57 U 18/9) from the German Broadcasting Archive (« Deutsche Rundfunk-Archiv » , or DRA) .

« Kapellmeiter » List (born on 4 June 1902 in the Styrian town of Mürzzuschlag ; died on 6 November 1971 in Munich) is a real versatile artist : conductor, band-master, pianist, gambist, violoncello virtuoso, timpanist, percussion teacher, film-music composer, folk-song collector, music-editor for the Bavarian Radio. Working in Munich, Belgrade, Berlin, and Wunsiedel (Bavaria) . Senior sergeant in the propaganda division of the « Wehrmacht » Broadcaster, South-East Group (« Wehrmachts-Sender Gruppe Süd-Ost ») .

Day of German Art, Munich

Friday, 16 to Wednesday, 21 July 1937

The celebrations of the « Day of German Art » lasted 3 days and always began on a Friday. The Sunday marked the climax with the official opening of the exhibition as a large procession entitled, « 2,000 Years of German Culture » , moved through the streets of Munich. The procession illustrated German history, legends and myths and how they were linked to the Third « Reich » .

Day of German Art, Munich

The massive Nazi-organized parade celebrating « healthy » German art, opens with a fanfare from Anton Bruckner's Third Symphony. Granted, the Bruckner melody displays a certain solemn, ceremonial quality ; more importantly, it was the very theme cited by Richard Wagner himself in connection with the dedication of the Third Symphony to the Bayreuth Master.

Broadcasting Exhibition, Berlin

Tuesday, 20 July 1937

Doctor Josef Gœbbels and « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier are visiting the radio exhibition.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1937

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in the ceremony at the Tannenberg Memorial : a monument to the German soldiers of the Battle of Tannenberg (1914) , the First Battle of the Masurian Lakes and the medieval Battle of Tannenberg (1410) .

The victorious German commander, General Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, became a national hero and was later interred at the site.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1937

Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier, the newly-appointed « Reich » Director of German Broadcasting and General-Director of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation, proudly wears his Hussar uniform during the traditional Cavalry Day Parade in Düsseldorf, alongside Bernhard Ernst at the microphone of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG) .

Cavalry Day Parade, Düsseldorf

1937

Heinrich Glasmeier

1937

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in the annual winter emergency fund raising in the streets of Berlin organized by the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) .

Hans Weisbach

Sunday, 5 December 1937

Issue Number 49 of the « Journal of the Bavarian Radio » (« Bayerische Radio-Zeitung ») reports that Heinrich Glasmeier, the Director of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG) in Cologne, is planning a radiophonic Bruckner cycle (to be aired every 14 days at 9:00 pm) featuring the Large Symphony Orchestra of the « Reichs-Sender » in Berlin and the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra under conductor Hans Weisbach.

(Photo) Music director Weisbach and the Leipzig Sympnony Orchestra at the « Gewandhaus » concert-hall.

Hans Weisbach

Sunday, 5 December 1937

Issue Number 49 of the « Journal of the Bavarian Radio » (« Bayerische Radio-Zeitung ») reports that Heinrich Glasmeier, the Director of the « West-Deutsche Rundfunk AG » (WERAG) in Cologne, is planning a radiophonic Bruckner cycle (to be aired every 14 days at 9:00 pm) featuring the Large Symphony Orchestra of the « Reichs-Sender » in Berlin and the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra under conductor Hans Weisbach.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

1937-1938

New building block of the « Reich » Propaganda Ministry, based on plans by architect Karl Reichle, erected between « Wilhelm-Platz » and « Mauerstraße » . The edifice is framed to the right and left by 2 pylons, each of which displays an imposing Imperial eagle with a « swastika » in its claws (created by sculptor Willy Meller) to emphasize the National-Socialist claim to power. The street façade is faced with shelly limestone.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Adolf Hitler, Linz Town Hall

Saturday evening, 12 March 1938

After Alfred Klimesch's refusal, the responsibility for radio broadcasting the historical event rests on Herbert Ziebland's shoulders. For hours, he stays with the microphone on the balcony of the Linz Town Hall. While all the radio stations in the « Reich » are gradually switching on, Ziebland keeps entertaining the waiting crowd with reports, slogans and interviews.

Adolf Hitler is greeted with frenzied acclaim by 250,000 Austrians. Ziebland comments enthusiastically. He tells the Austrian people in the radio broadcast that the demonstration proves that it is the wish of the entire Austrian nation to follow Germany's leadership, and proclaims the union of Austria and Germany.

The night before, the local Nazis under the command of the S.A. « Brigade-Führer » August Eigruber have managed to capture the centres of power in Linz. In the federal police headquarters, the Nazi take-over results in 4 deaths, including that of the Chief of Police, Viktor Bentz.

Adolf Hitler, Linz Town Hall

Saturday evening, 12 March 1938

Adolf Hitler : « (...) Germany also is determined to stand by you. The German soldiers who have marched in are fighters for the entire nation, for the unity of the " Reich ", for the might and greatness and glory of Germany, now and forever. Germany, " Sieg Heil " ! »

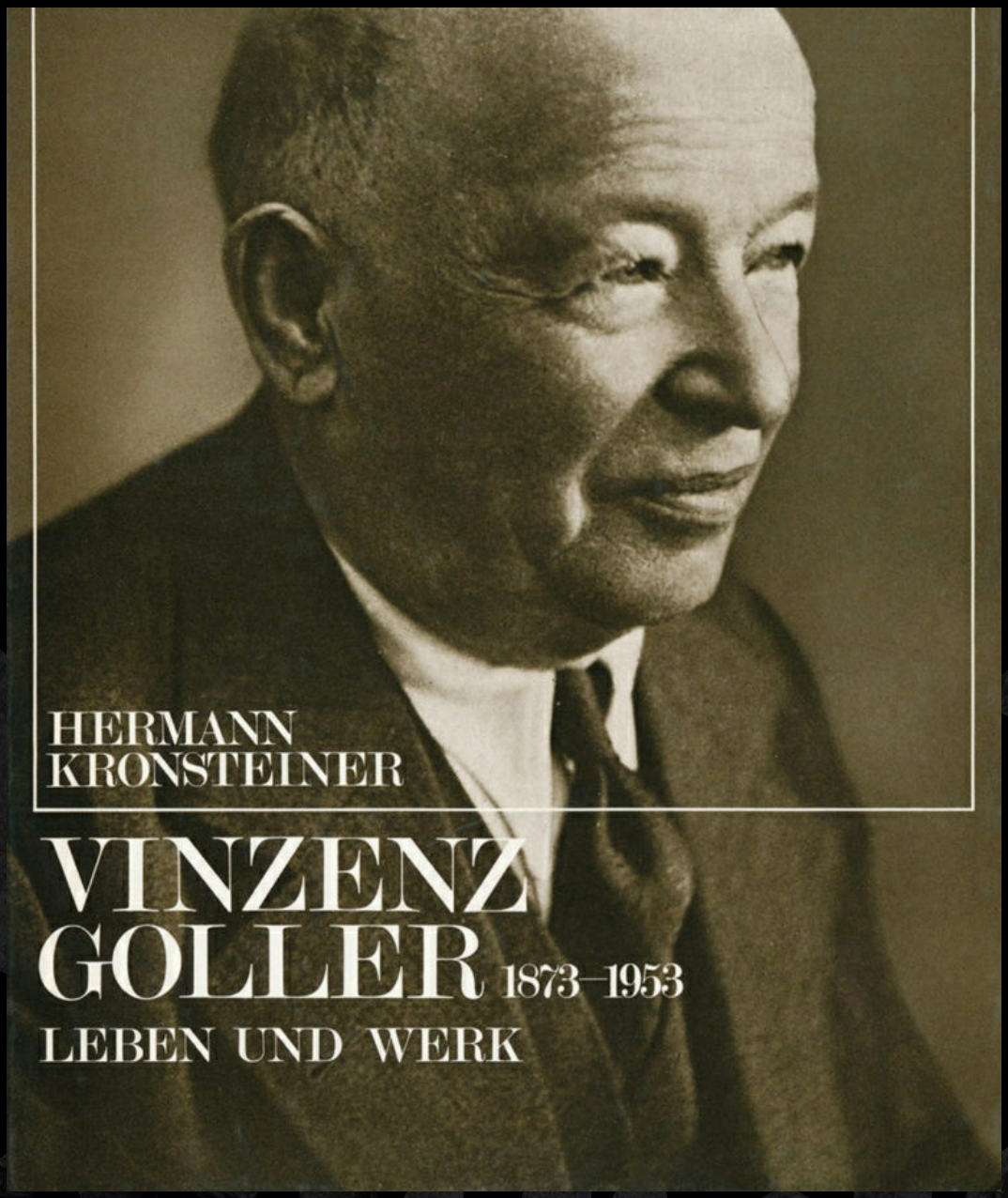
The crowd, mad with enthusiasm, breaks into a mighty chorus of « Deutschland, Deutschland über alles » , and then, the Nazi hymn, the « Horst Wessel » song. After he concluded, Hitler enters the Town Hall, but is forced to appear on the balcony, time after time, to respond to the thunderous cheers.

August Eigruber

Tuesday, 15 March 1938

The « Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Platz » in Linz is renamed « Adolf-Hitler-Platz » .

S.A. « Brigade-Führer » August Eigruber forms the new state government, making him the youngest « Gauleiter » on the former Austrian territory.



March 1938

Vinzenz Goller, the Lord Mayor of Klosterneuburg near Vienna, is removed from office by the National-Socialists. 2 of his 7 children who are members of one of the first resistance groups, the « Scholz Group » (which consists of a few dozen militants) , are imprisoned. (The Austrian author and Augustinian canon regular at the monastery of Klosterneuburg, Roman Karl Scholz, became a resistance activist after attending a Nuremberg Rally in 1936.) Goller's daughter becomes almost blind as a result of the mistreatment during her detention. The youngest son, Hubert, is sentenced to death for « betrayal of the people » . Fortunately, a close Nazi Party friend of Adolf Hitler, whom Goller had once saved in the First War, is able to reduce the sentence to only serving time in a penal colony. Goller's wife, Maria Josefa, will never fully-recover from these traumatic events.

« Gestapo » Control Centre, Linz

« In memory of those victims who were subjected here, at the former headquarters of the GESTAPO, to inhumane methods of interrogation and torture, which led many to death or to being sent to concentration-camps. The city of Linz. »

« Gestapo » Control Centre, Linz

After the 1938 « Anschluß » , Doctor Rudolf Mildner becomes Deputy-Chief of the « Gestapo » in Linz. The modern cubic-shape building called « Kolping-Haus » (commissioned in 1930 by the Kolping family) located at « Langgasse » Number 13 (« Gesellenhaus-Straße » Number 1) is confiscated. From now on, it will be housed by the Control Centre : the hub for the persecution of the political and religious opposition.

Linz after the « Anschluß »

St. Florian Monastery

Tuesday, 15 March 1938

Raids by the « Gestapo » and the S.A. forces in St. Florian. The house searches are primarily intended to provide evidence on the basis of the reported suspicion of illegal weapons. But the joint forces are only able to confiscate a few harmless stilettos from students attending the private « Gymnasium » (Grammar School) - which were returned.

August Eigruber, the S.A. « Brigade-Führer » of the Upper-Danube region, will inform Adolf Hitler by saying :

« We found home-defense weapons during the house searches. »

This affirmation will even surprised the « Führer » to some extent.

St. Florian Monastery, « Anschluß »

Friday, 18 March 1938

About 160 men from the German « Wehrmacht » are quartered in the monastery of St. Florian. Space must be created for 600 displaced Germans from Bessarabia and 400 displaced Germans from Bukovina.

The Nazi leisure organization « Kraft durch Freude » offers reduced admission prices to see the famous art-collections of the monastery.

The « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works » requires 2 farm lands from the site of the monastery for resettlement purposes from the originally planned area located in the District of Linz - St. Peter.

The « Hitler Youth » claims 7 home rooms in the monastery. Their gatherings are greatly disrupting the monastic life.

The welfare service for war victims takes over the accommodation which was used by the (now dissolved) Catholic Journeymen's Association.

Linz after the « Anschluß »

Friday, 8 April 1938

Adolf Hitler visits the « Landesmuseum » (Museum Franscisco-Carolinum) in Linz.

Landestheater, Linz

Since the « Anschluß » , the « Oberösterreichisches Landestheater » of Linz distinguishes itself as an National-Socialist stage of special political reliability and submissiveness. Staff and repertoire are aligned to the new regime. As a reward, the « Landestheater » is granted huge financial benefits from the « Sonder-Fonds L » or Special Fund L(inz) , available for the cities' upgrade as « Führer-Metropole » . Thus, the theatre can afford architectonic and technical improvements and, beyond that, is given huge extra-budgetary sums for « Führer-Ausstattungen » (scenographies of the « Führer ») , concerning operas, musical comedies and dramas, which are considered and gladly accepted as personal gifts of Adolf Hitler. This special financial and propagandistic position of the « Landestheater » of Linz can be kept throughout all difficulties caused by the War, until « Total War » restricts and finally stops the continuation of the theatre enterprise in the season of 1944-1945.

Josef Bürckel

Saturday, 23 April 1938 to Sunday, 31 March 1940

Josef Bürckel works as « Reich » Commissioner for the union of Austria with the German « Reich » , in charge of fully integrating it as the « Ostmark » politically, economically and culturally into the latter.

Hermann Göring Steel Works, Linz

Friday, 13 May 1938

Inauguration ceremony of the armament factories called « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works »
located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz.

Hermann Göring Steel Works, Linz

Friday, 13 May 1938

Inauguration ceremony of the armament factories called « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works »
located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz.

Hermann Göring Steel Works, Linz

Friday, 13 May 1938

Inauguration ceremony of the armament factories called « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works »
located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz.

Josef (Sepp) Wolkerstorfer

Friday, 27 May 1938

Josef (Sepp) Wolkerstorfer is officially appointed Lord Mayor of Linz.

Broadcasting Exhibition, Berlin

Friday, 5 August 1938

Doctor Josef Gœbbels and Engineer Dr. Paul Goerz, the Head of Section for broadcasting in the electrical industry.

Herbert von Karajan

1938

Herbert von Karajan and the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » during a recording session at the DGG studios located in the old « Carl-Theater » on « Alte Jakobstraße » . Recordings are made with 2 machines running simultaneously, juste to be safe.

Josef Bürckel

Friday, 9 September 1938

Despite the immediate interventions by the Provost Vinzenz Hartl with the « Reich » Commissioner Josef Bürckel in Vienna, underscored by the statement : « how much the " Führer " loves the arts, and especially the music of Bruckner » , the School Council of the Upper-Danube informs the monastery of St. Florian that their private « Gymnasium » (Grammar School) did not meet the conditions required by National-Socialism. Hartl wants to leave no stone unturned, and decides to write to Adolf Hitler personally.

Photo : Wilhelm Furtwängler and Josef Bürckel in Vienna, 1939.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Heinrich Glasmeier's Nazi Party brooch and medal from the 1938 Nuremberg Rally.

Heinrich Glasmeier, Toni Winkelnkemper

1938

Anton (« Toni ») Winkelnkemper, the successor of Henrich Glasmeier as « Reichs-Sender » Intendant in Cologne, becomes a member of the « Waffen-SS » (membership card-number : 310.379) . Winkelnkemper will hold this position until 1941.

Volksempfänger

Saturday, 29 October 1938

On the birthday of Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the « Gau » propaganda leader Werner Wächter distributes at the « Haus des Rundfunks » 500 new small radio sets (People's Receivers or « Volksempfängern ») to needy Berliners.

Volksempfänger

Saturday, 29 October 1938

On the birthday of Doctor Josef Gœbbels, the « Gau » propaganda leader Werner Wächter distributes at the « Haus des Rundfunks » 500 new small radio sets (People's Receivers or « Volksempfängern ») to needy Berliners.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1938

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in the annual winter emergency fund raising in the streets of Berlin organized by the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) .

Heinrich Glasmeier

1938

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in the annual winter emergency fund raising in the streets of Berlin organized by the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) .

Heinrich Glasmeier

1938

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in the annual winter emergency fund raising in the streets of Berlin organized by the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) .

Heinz Drewes

Tuesday, 1 November 1938

Letter from Doctor Heinz Drewes, the Director of the « Reich » Music Examination Office (Department 10) , to the « Reich » Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda :

Doctor Drewes informs the « Reich » Ministry that the loan fees imposed by the House of the « Musicological Publishers » in Vienna on the orchestral scores of Bruckner Symphonies are much too expensive in the long run. Therefore, he recommends instead to purchase the material.

Funkhaus, Vienna

Construction between 1935 and 1938 of the new « Radio-Kultur-Haus » , now called « Funkhaus » , near the « Theresianum » Academy begins on « Argentinier-Straße » in Vienna's 4th District. It will be completed by the Nazis right after the « Anschluß » .

Funkhaus, Vienna

1938

Funkhaus, Vienna

1938

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

« Great German » Bruckner festival

Saturday, 1 July 1939

Day two of the « Great German » Bruckner festival held in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna.

Morning : Welcome ceremony held in the Festive Hall of the Upper-Danube Parliament.

Speeches are given by Doctor Friedrich Werner (the administrator of the « German Bruckner Society ») , August Eigruber (the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region) , Josef (Sepp) Wolkersdorfer (the Nazi Lord Mayor of Linz) and Doctor Rudolf Lenk (the Intendant of the State School Council and State Council for Education, Culture and People's Education in Upper-Danube) .

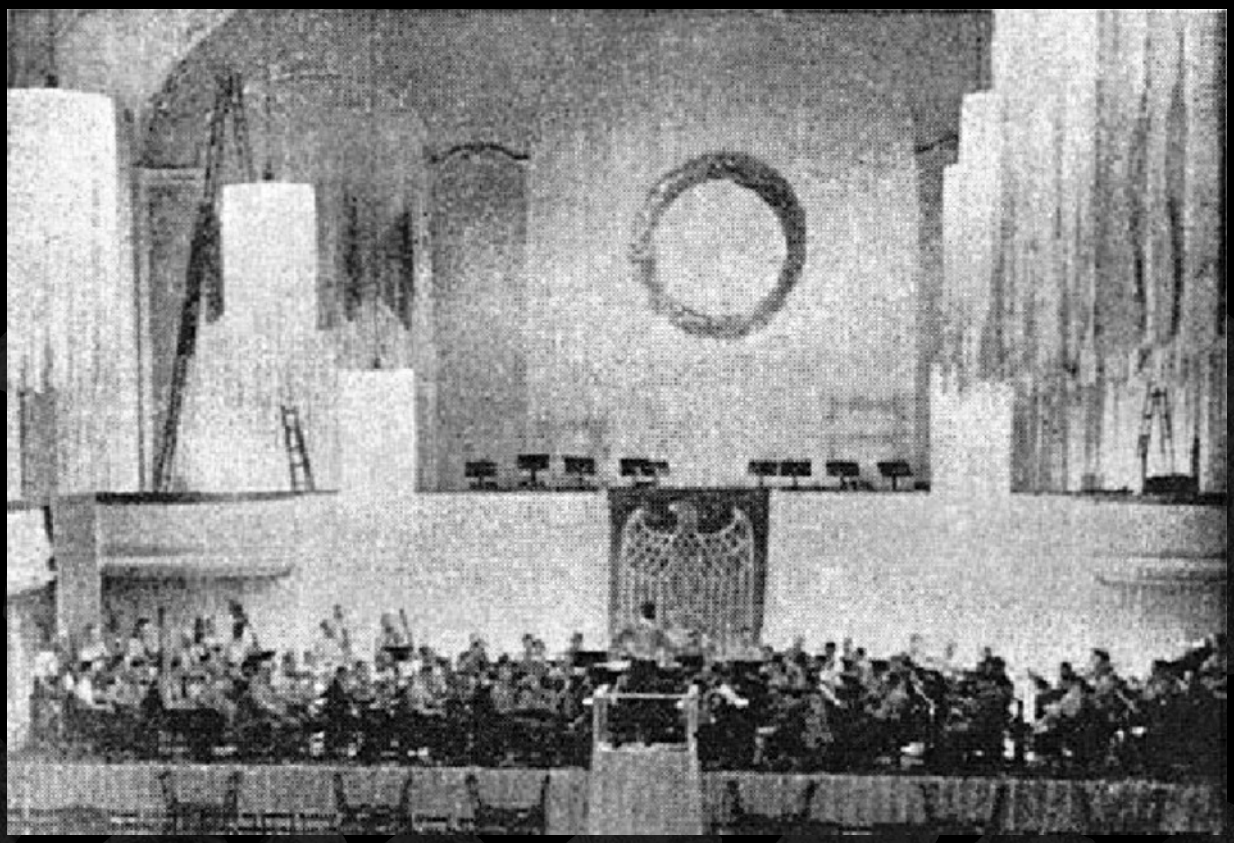
Eugen Pabst

Friday, 30 June to Wednesday, 5 July 1939

First « Great German » Bruckner festival (« Groß-Deutsches Brucknerfest ») of the « German Bruckner Society » (Vienna) held in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna under the supervision of the City Councilor of Linz, Othmar Heide, who is also the cultural advisor of the Propaganda Office of the « Reich-Gau » of the Upper-Danube.

Heide is highly-praised, above all, for having made the wise decision to invite renowned guest-orchestras and guest-conductors like Siegmund von Hausegger, Eugen Pabst and Eugen Jochum.

First « Great German » Bruckner Festival



Friday, 30 June to Wednesday, 5 July 1939

First « Great German » Bruckner festival (« Groß-Deutsches Brucknerfest ») of the « German Bruckner Society » (Vienna) held in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna under the supervision of the City Councilor of Linz, Othmar Heide, who is also the cultural advisor of the Propaganda Office of the « Reich-Gau » of the Upper-Danube. Heide is highly-praised, above all, for having made the wise decision to invite renowned guest-orchestras and guest-conductors including Siegmund von Hausegger, Eugen Pabst and Eugen Jochum.

First « Great German » Bruckner Festival

Friday, 30 June to Wednesday, 5 July 1939

First « Great German » Bruckner festival (« Groß-Deutsches Brucknerfest ») of the « German Bruckner Society » (Vienna) held in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna under the supervision of the City Councilor of Linz, Othmar Heide, who is also the cultural advisor of the Propaganda Office of the « Reich-Gau » of the Upper-Danube. Heide is highly-praised, above all, for having made the wise decision to invite renowned guest-orchestras and guest-conductors including Siegmund von Hausegger, Eugen Pabst and Eugen Jochum.

First « Great German » Bruckner Festival

Friday, 30 June 1939

Day one of the first « Great German » Bruckner festival (« Groß-Deutsches Brucknerfest ») in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna.

12:00 : Inaugural concert given at the large concert-hall (1,370 seats) of the city-park pavilion (« Volksgarten-Konzertsaal » built in 1903) near « Landstraße » .

Siegmund von Hausegger conducts the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Programme

Overture in G minor for orchestra (WAB 98)
Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, original version of 1878 edited by Robert Haas in 1935 (WAB 105)

Arthur Seyß-Inquart

Friday, 7 July 1939

The Bruckner festival is over. Report in the « Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung » :

« “ Reich ” Minister (Bernhard) Rust was warmly welcomed in the great hall of the “ Musikverein ” on the occasion of the first “ Great German ” Bruckner festival of 1939. The numerous Bruckner communities also warmly welcomed the first honorary member of the society, “ Reich ” Minister Doctor (Arthur) Seyß-Inquart. Like so much other young people, Seyß-Inquart described how he reacted when he heard Bruckner's music for the first time in his native province (he comes from the Moravian village of Stannern, near the town of Iglau) and then, he never missed one of his symphonies standing on the parterre of the “ Musikverein ”. From now on, perhaps every 3 years, such a “ Great German ” Bruckner festival will be held in Linz, St. Florian and Vienna - places where the great composer worked. The Minister called upon the participants to promote Bruckner into all the “ Gaue ”, whom the entire German people, as well as the one from “ Ostmark ”, should considered as “ the musical expression of the heroism of the German soul ”. (...) »

Josef Weinheber

In the poetry collection published in 1939 by Josef Weinheber, which was intended for chamber music, the poem entitled « Organ » bears the meaningful sub-title : « the Manes of Anton Bruckner »

Already in the first line, the « Creator » is called upon :

« Let it raise, Creator, according to your will ! »

In other words, the « pregnant » first note « comes up from below » , whereby the contrast between heavenly and earthly spheres is marked for the first time. All human « strife and pain » stand opposite the « wings and flutes » of the angels. In this sense, the text stands constantly between the inexpressible, the divine, the inexplicable and, on the other hand, the questioning, the pleading and the (sometimes in vain) search for words.

« Gau » Symphony Orchestra of Lower-Austria

1942

1939

The National-Socialist Vienna « Tonkünstler » Orchestra is renamed the « Gau » Symphony Orchestra of Lower-Austria (« Gau-Symphonieorchester Niederdonau ») . The ensemble will give concerts throughout the War, mostly promoting the « Kraft durch Freude » organization and committed to caring for soldiers of the « Wehrmacht » .

Funkhaus, « großer Sende-Saal »

Wien

Funkhaus, « großer Sende-Saal »

Wien

« Gewandhaus » , Leipzig

1939

August Eigruber

1939

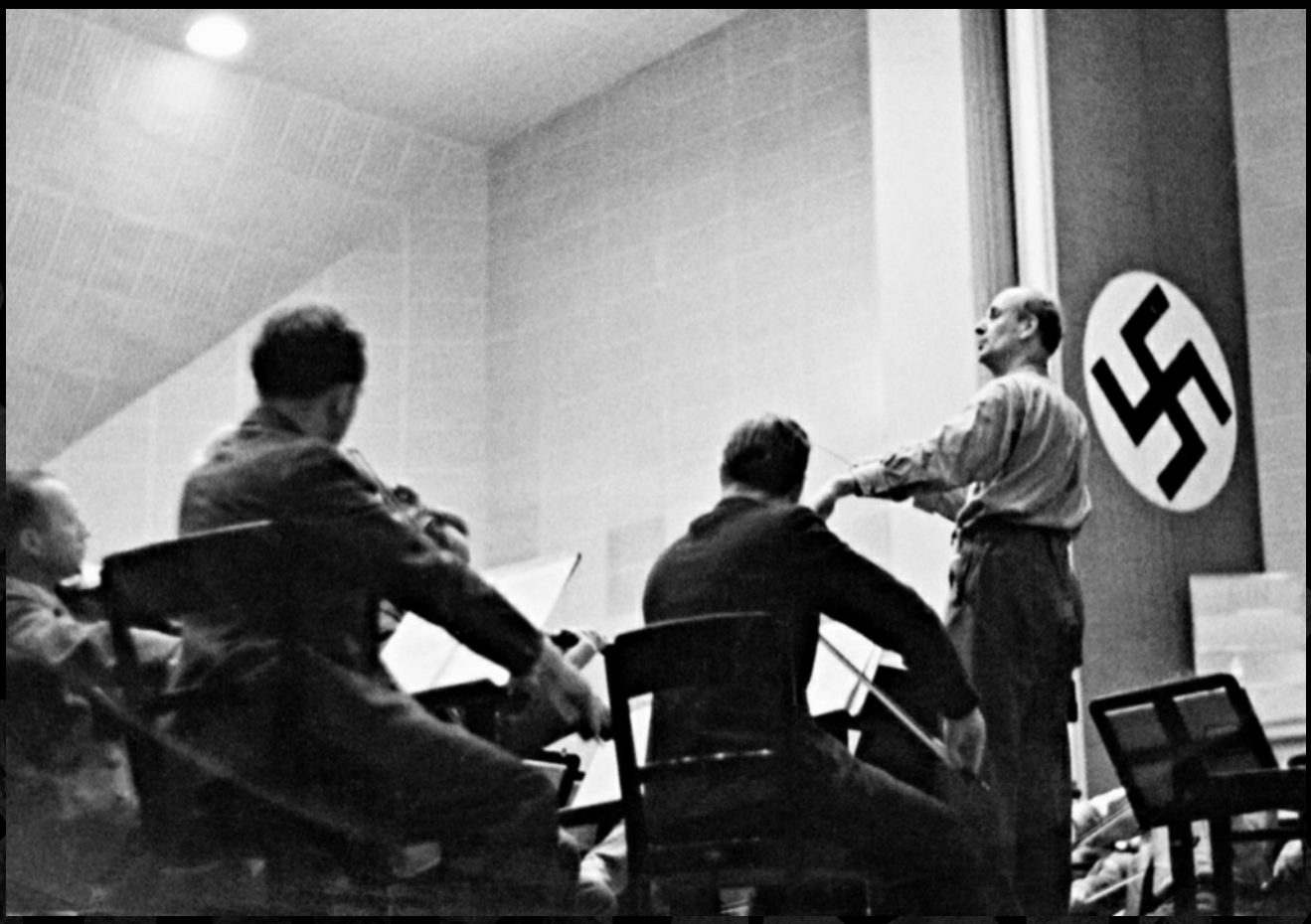
August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, takes part in the Nazi Party Day Parade in Salzburg.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

« Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier participates in a groundbreaking ceremony.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin



1939

Wilhelm Furtwängler and the Berlin Philharmonic rehearse at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » .

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1939

Wilhelm Furtwängler and the Berlin Philharmonic rehearse at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » .

Wilhelm Furtwängler

1939

Wilhelm Furtwängler leaves the « Haus des Rundfunks » on « Masuren-Allee » in Berlin, the headquarters of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany (« Zentrale des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks ») .

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

Sound control room of the « Großer Sende-Saal » at the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

The « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin has an important influence on the development of stereophonic sound and its adoption by radio broadcasting. Some radio programming will continue during the War, notably the « Wunsch-Konzert für die Wehrmacht » (Request Concert for the Armed Forces) , broadcast from the « Haus des Rundfunks » on Sunday afternoons from 1939 to 1941.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

Annual meeting of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) . Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier gives the opening speech before a symphonic concert which is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

Annual meeting of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) . Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier gives the opening speech before a symphonic concert which is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

Symphonic concert of the annual meeting of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation (RRG) which is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin. Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier is sitting between Eugen Hadamovsky (left) and Leopold Gutterer (right) .

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the Spanish « Rundfunk » General Gonzalo Queipo de Llano. An official reception is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin in honour of the General.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the Spanish « Rundfunk » General Gonzalo Queipo de Llano. An official reception is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin in honour of the General.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

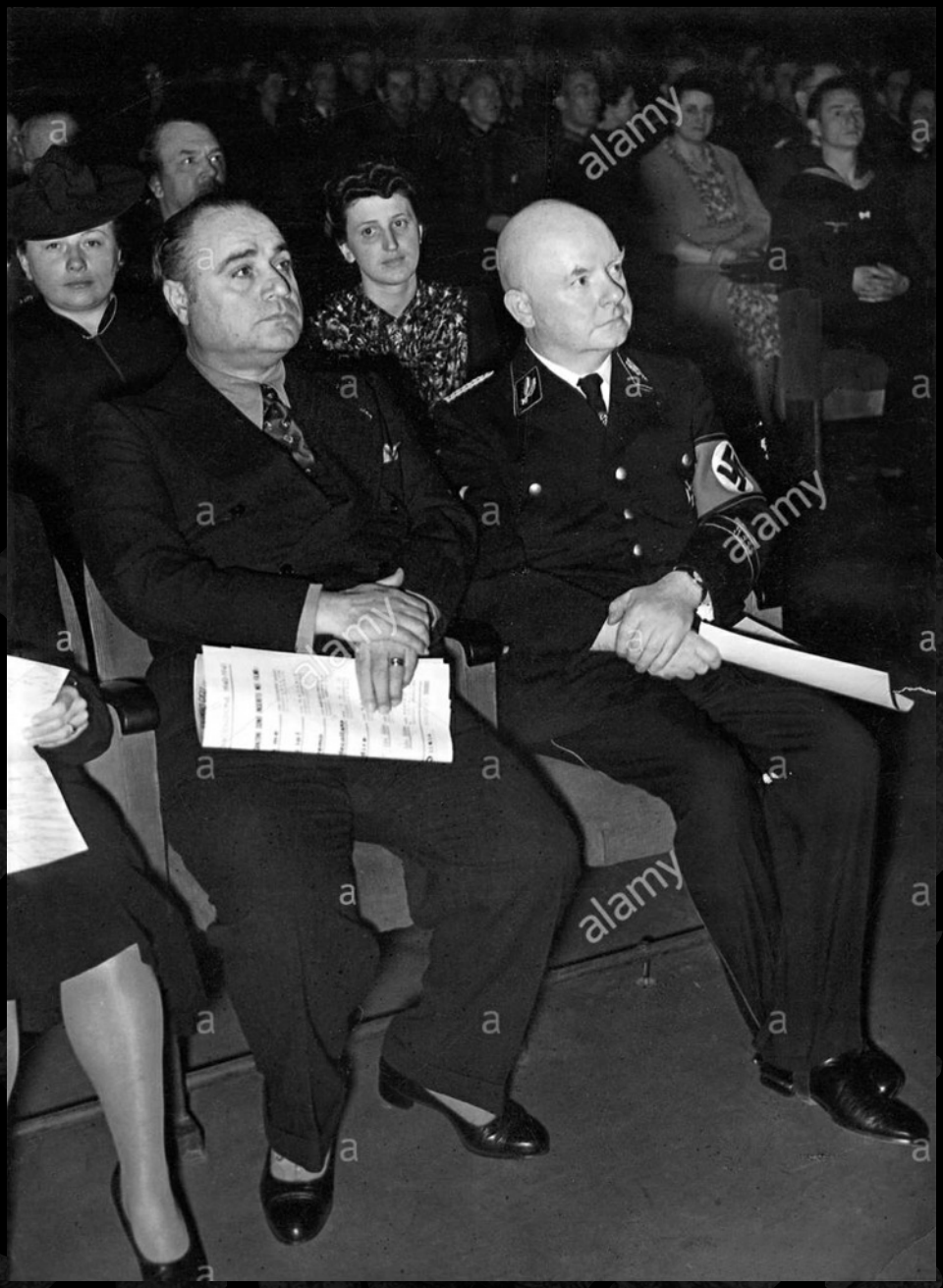
The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the Spanish « Rundfunk » General Gonzalo Queipo de Llano. An official reception is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin in honour of the General.

Heinrich Glasmeier

1939

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the Spanish « Rundfunk » General Gonzalo Queipo de Llano. An official reception is held at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin in honour of the General.

Gigli and Glasmeier



1939

« Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier sitting beside the Italian opera tenor Beniamino Gigli at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin. The singer was criticised for being a favourite singer of the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, having recorded the Fascist anthem « Giovinezza » in 1937.

Broadcasting Exhibition, Berlin

August 1939

A few days before the start of the Second World War, Doctor Josef Gœbbels and « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier are visiting the radio exhibition. The 1938 People's Receiver (« Volksempfänger ») has received the nickname « Gœbbels' Snout » (« Gœbbels-Schnauze ») from the ordinary people. On the right, Engineer Dr. Paul Goerz, Head of Section for broadcasting in the electrical industry.

Strub String Quartet

String Quintet in F major (WAB 112) , Electrola 78rpm (October 1939 ?)

The Request Concerts

Sunday, 12 November 1939

The « Haus des Rundfunks » (« Zentrale des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks ») in Berlin has an important influence on the development of stereophonic sound and its adoption by radio broadcasting. Some programs will continue to air during the War, notably the « Request Concerts for the German Armed Forces » (« Wunsch-Konzerten für die Wehrmacht ») , performed on Sunday afternoons at the large broadcasting hall (« Großer Sende-Saal ») from 1939 to 1941.

The Bruckner Monastery Project

January 1940

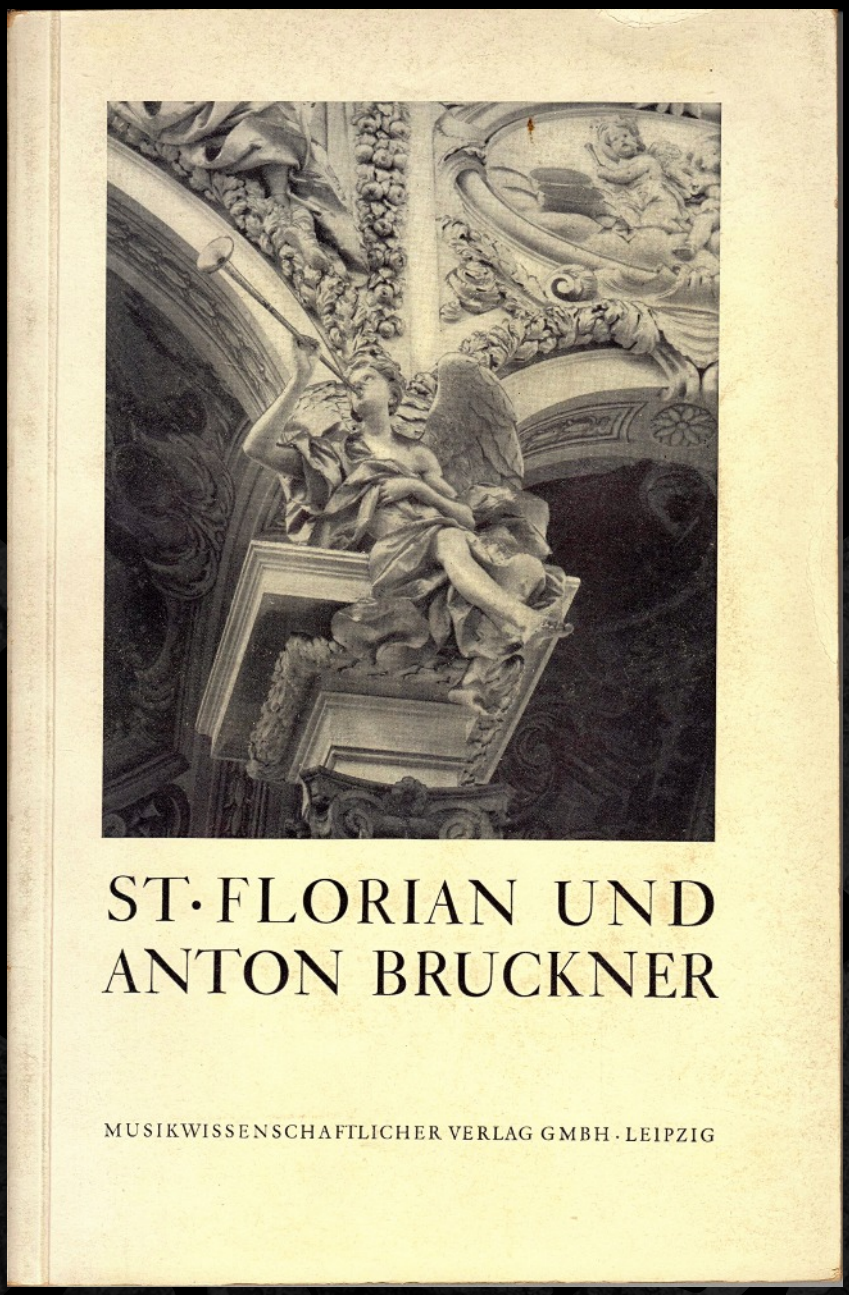
Eugen Jochum

Monday, 1 April 1940

According to the statutes of the « German Bruckner Society » (« Deutschen Bruckner-Gesellschaft ») of Leipzig, several Bruckner associations and communities are established.

The Bruckner community of Hamburg is placed under the supervision of general music-director Eugen Jochum with Doctor H. Rehwoldt as secretary.

Johannes Hollnsteiner



Sunday, 21 April 1940

Date of Father Johannes Hollnsteiner's Preface to his book entitled « St. Florian and Anton Bruckner » .

« Das Stift St. Florian und Anton Bruckner Bilder zur deutschen Kultur- und Kunst-Geschichte » (The Monastery of St. Florian and Anton Bruckner - on German culture and art history) edited by the « Musicological Publishers » , Leipzig.
Hardcover : 56 pages, 66 images.

Landestheater, Linz

The concert-hall of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

1940

Landestheater, Linz

The concert-hall of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

1940

Landestheater, Linz

The concert-hall of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

1940

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

In addition to the State Theatre (« Landestheater ») , the large festival hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) , located at « Landstraße » Number 49 in the inner-city of Linz, holds symphonic concerts under music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum.

Lord Mayor Leo Sturma

Sunday, 16 June 1940

Doctor Leopold Sturma takes office as the new Lord Mayor of Linz, succeeding Josef (Sepp) Wolkerstorfer who is re-assigned as Deputy Mayor until December 31, when he is appointed as authorized representative of the « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works » located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz.

Bruckner Festival, Leipzig

Thursday, 10 to Sunday, 13 October 1940

Second Leipzig Bruckner Festival, organized by the Leipzig Bruckner community in conjunction with the National-Socialist community « Kraft durch Freude » , the « Gewandhaus » of Leipzig and the « Reichs-Sender » Leipzig.

« Zweites Leipziger Bruckner-Fest, veranstaltet von der Leipziger Bruckner-Gemeinschaft in Verbindung mit der NS-Gemeinschaft Kraft durch Freude, dem Gewandhaus zu Leipzig und dem Reichs-Sender Leipzig. »

Bruckner Festival, Leipzig

Thursday, 10 October 1940

Day one of the second Bruckner festival in Leipzig. 7:30 pm : Concert-hall of the « Gewandhaus » .
Hermann Abendroth conducts the combined forces of the Leipzig Municipal Orchestra and the « Gewandhaus » Orchestra.

Programme

Johann Sebastian Bach : Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major (BWV 1048)
Ludwig van Beethoven : Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Opus 37. Soloist : Edwin Fischer, from Berlin.

Intermission

Anton Bruckner : Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, original version of 1878 edited by Robert Haas in 1935 (WAB 105)

Strub String Quartet

Sunday, 13 October 1940

Day four of the second Bruckner festival in Leipzig. 11:00 am : Concert given at the collegiate hall of the State Conservatory located at « Grassistraße » Number 8. Address given by Doctor Erich Schwebsch, from Dresden.

Programme

Franz Schubert : Quartet Movement in C minor (D. 703) .

Anton Bruckner : 2 Trios (in F and in F-sharp major) for the Scherzo of the Ninth Symphony - world-premiere study performance.

Anton Bruckner : String Quintet in F major (WAB 112) - first performance of the original version.

Performers : The Strub Quartet, from Berlin. Professor Max Strub (first violin) , Hermann Hubl (second violin) , Hermann Hirschfelder (first viola) , Emil Seiler (second viola) , Professor Hans Münch-Holland (violoncello) .

The Austrian composer Johann Nepomuk David is the director of the Leipzig Conservatory from 1939 until 1945. The institution will remained closed in 1944 due to the War.

Strub String Quartet

Max Strub (first violin)

Emil Seiler (second viola)

Hermann Stange

Thursday, 19 December 1940

Doctor Josef Gœbbels writes in his morning dairies :

« (...) Before the war, the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany was forced by contract to use general music-director (Hermann) Stange mainly for symphonic concerts. After the outbreak of the war, the radio programming of the Corporation has undergone drastic changes, which significantly reduced the proportion of symphonic concerts in the overall schedule. Stange, who will continue to receive his salary on the express instruction of the Minister, has now filed a lawsuit before a Labour Court.

He has argued that, according to his contract, he wants to be employed in symphonic concerts.

In this regard, the Minister states that, in principle, it is not appropriate for a judicial body to try to prevent necessary political decisions from having an effect based on the stubborn interpretation of a signed contract. Broadcasting is a political instrument that shapes its program schedule according to political context. (...) The Minister instructed the Ministerial Director (Alfred-Ingemar) Berndt (the head of the radio department) and the " Reich " Intendant Glasmeier to appeal against the verdict of District judge Doctor Riese. He also pressed the Ministerial Director (Leopold) Gutterer to give his opinion on the subject to the Ministry of Justice. (...) »

August Eigruber

Sunday, 12 January 1941

« Gauleiter » August Eigruber gives a fiery speech to a National-Socialist partisan audience of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube.

Gerhard Bast

Sunday, 21 January 1941

The Bishop of the Diocese of Linz, Johannes Maria Gföllner, writes to Vinzenz Hartl, the Provost of the monastery of St. Florian, expressing the hope that his monastery will « be spared the fate of other monasteries (including Kremsmünster, Schlägl and Wilhering) » . But the same day, the site is raided by approximately 50 officers of the « Gestapo » for the benefit of the « Reich » administrative regions (« Gaues ») of the « Ostmark » , under the circumstances known from other monasteries (house searches, individual interrogations, strict surveillance, prohibition to communicate between the Canons Regular, etc.) . The confiscation ordinance of the entire property, signed by the Austrian lawyer Doctor Gerhard Bast, is handed over to Provost Hartl. On behalf of the SS Austrian jurist Humbert Achamer-Pifrader, Bast will lead the Control Centre of the « Gestapo » in Linz, from January to June 1941.

G-L Jochum conducts Meistersinger

Saturday, 8 March 1941

Linz premiere of the 1934 Nuremberg production of Richard Wagner's « Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg » under general music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducting the Linz Theatre Orchestra, staged by the renowned autodidact theatrical designer Benno von Arent (not the usual house stage-designer Walter Storm) , which takes place at the State Theatre (« Landestheater ») .

The « Führer » commissioned and paid for this realistic opulent production with his private funds ; he also approved the sets (based on his preliminary sketches) and costumes. Hitler described Arent as one of the greatest stage-designers. The main trait of the Hitler - von Arent style was, as Albert Speer phrased it, « smashing effects » . This collaboration is obvious from a National-Socialist perspective. The linkage between opera and rally was emphasized when Hitler ordered that « Meistersinger » be performed at every Nuremberg Party Congress ... forever ! It is not clear how the multiple use of the Hitler - von Arent sets was conceived.

G-L Jochum conducts Meistersinger

Saturday, 8 March 1941

Linz premiere of the 1934 Nuremberg production of Richard Wagner's « Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg » under general music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducting the Linz Theatre Orchestra, staged by the renowned autodidact theatrical designer Benno von Arent (not the usual house stage-designer Walter Storm) , which takes place at the State Theatre (« Landestheater ») .

This joint-production (a kind of teacher-student relationship) was premiered on Wednesday, 5 September 1934, at the Nuremberg Opera House with the « Führer » along with numerous Party officials in attendance, which concluded the inaugural day of the 6th Party Congress entitled « Congress of Unity and Strength » (« Parteitag der Einheit und Stärke » , held from September 5 to 10) , which was attended by about 700,000 supporters. It culminated in a third Act « meadow scene » staged in the manner of a Nuremberg Party rally, with massed banners and martial choruses.

At some performances, Hitler and his entourage would arrive for the third Act after a torchlit procession, and the audience and cast were instructed to stand and turn to him in salute at the climax.

Gœbbels visits the Collegiate Church

Wednesday, 12 March 1941

Accompanied by August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, and SS member Julius Schmidt, Doctor Josef Gœbbels visits the monastery of St. Florian and officially announces, among other things, that the general headquarters of the « German Bruckner Society » (« Deutschen Bruckner-Gesellschaft ») in Leipzig will be re-located here in the near future. The cost estimate for re-designing of the monastery is handed over to him. Gœbbels probably has the chance to ear an organ recital played by Hermann Haböck at the Collegiate Church. In the evening, Adolf Hitler arrives in Linz to attend the ceremony commemorating the Liberation of Austria (« Anschluß ») which happened to the day in 1938.

Gœbbels visits the Collegiate Library

Wednesday, 12 March 1941

Accompanied by August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, and SS member Julius Schmidt, Doctor Josef Gœbbels visits the monastery of St. Florian and officially announces, among other things, that the general headquarters of the « German Bruckner Society » (« Deutschen Bruckner-Gesellschaft ») in Leipzig will be re-located here in the near future. The cost estimate for re-designing of the monastery is handed over to him. Gœbbels probably has the chance to ear an organ recital played by Hermann Haböck at the Collegiate Church. In the evening, Adolf Hitler arrives in Linz to attend the ceremony commemorating the Liberation of Austria (« Anschluß ») which happened to the day in 1938.

Mauthausen Camp near Linz

April 1941

« SS Reichs-Führer » Heinrich Himmler visits the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration-camp with August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region.

Lord Mayor Leo Sturma

Thursday, 29 May 1941

Letter from Doctor Friedrich Werner, the administrator of the « German Bruckner Society » , to the « Reich » Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in Berlin (attented to Councillor Doctor Wilhelm Leinveber ?) :

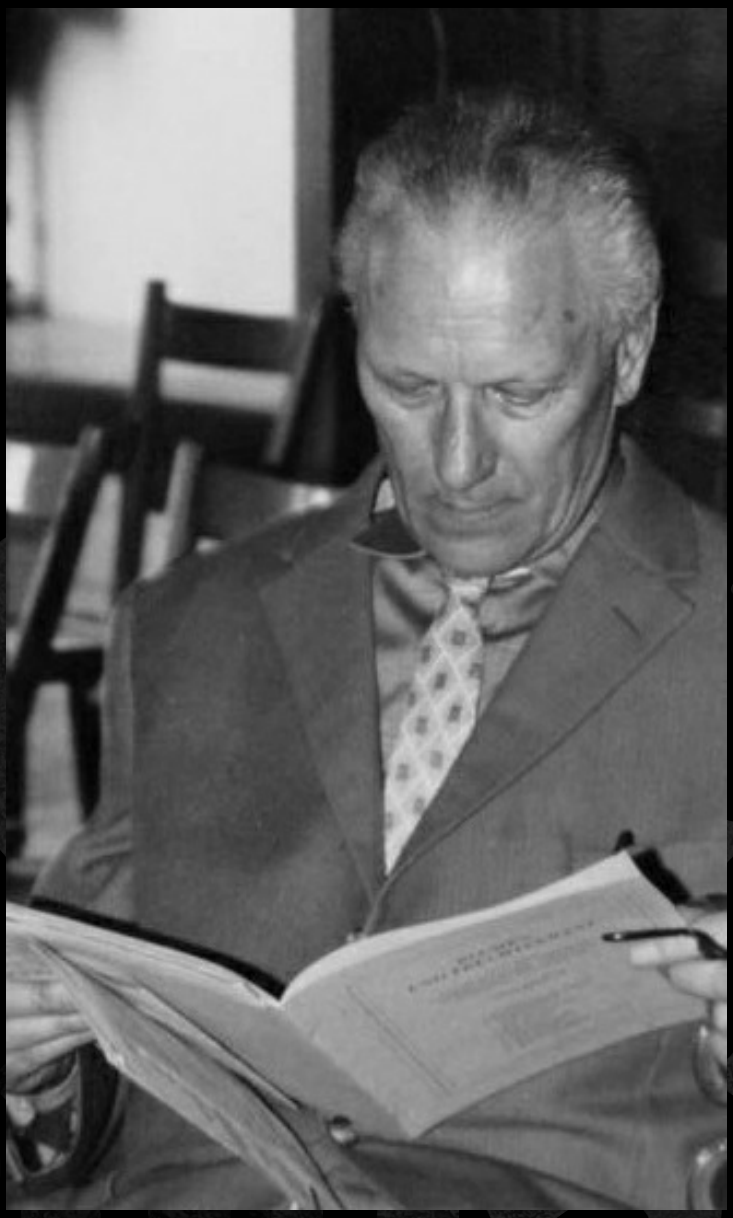
The city of Linz and the Upper-Danube region (including St. Florian) are preparing to stage the « Bruckner festival Days » without consulting the « German Bruckner Society » (« Deutschen Bruckner-Gesellschaft ») in Leipzig. The (Nazi) Lord Mayor of Linz, Doctor Leopold Sturma, invites Friedrich Werner (but not Wilhelm Furtwängler) to attend Saturday's opening ceremony.

(Doctor Sturma will be Lord Mayor from June 15, 1940, to December 31, 1943, and then, he will occupy the post of President of the Higher Regional Court of Linz from January 30, 1944, until the end of the War.)

Otto Jochum

Music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum is strongly supported by his older brother Otto, the music-director of the Choral Society of Augsburg.

Otto Jochum



Saturday, 31 May (before Pentecost Sunday) to Tuesday 3 June 1941

The « Bruckner festival Days » under the supervision of Georg-Ludwig Jochum are held in St. Florian and Linz.
Consequently, 1,200 German resettlers from the East had to vacate the monastery within 2 days.
Hermann Kronsteiner will emerge as the winner of the International Organ Competition.

Professor Otto Jochum said of the participating organists :

« (...) Your new path is to be Bruckner's successor in the best sense (...) . »

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

1941

Herbert von Karajan

1941

Herbert von Karajan conducts a rehearsal with a Berlin Orchestra (the « Philarmoniker » ? the « Preußische Staatskapelle » ?) at the « Großer Sende-Saal » of the « Haus des Rundfunks » .

Leopold Gutterer

« SS-Brigade-Führer » Leopold Gutterer

The State Secretary at the Propaganda Ministry of Doctor Josef Gœbbels.

Eugen Hadamovsky

Wednesday, 4 June 1941

Letter from Eugen Hadamovsky, the head of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany (« Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk ») to Wilhelm Furtwängler :

Adolf Hitler shares his view with Furtwängler about the future of the German Bruckner Society (« Deutschen Bruckner-Gesellschaft ») .

August Eigruber

Monday, 16 June 1941

Letter from August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, to the Lord Mayor of Linz, Doctor Leopold Sturma :

Despite pressure from Wilhelm Furtwängler and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Adolf Hitler still wishes to reserve the designation « " Reich " Bruckner Orchestra » for the Municipal Symphony Orchestra of Linz.

Tuesday, 24 June 1941

(Picture) « Gauleiter » August Eigruber speaks to « Reich » Railway workers in Linz.

Heinrich Anacker

Wednesday, 25 June 1941

Doctor Josef Gœbbels notes in his diary :

« Yesterday (June 24) : (...)

Glasmeier had (Heinrich) Anacker write a song about Russia. But still quite inadequate. »

Willy Wickenhäuser

Although the efforts to replace Georg-Ludwig Jochum with another conductor never completely disappeared, it must be said that the man had character and authority. It was not easy for Jochum to meet the cultural functionaries of the « Gaus » and the city of Linz (including the Lord Mayor and the « Gaulieters » themselves) , all fighting over policies and directorship of the Municipal and Theatre orchestras. Assistant « Kapellmeister » Willy Wickenhäuser, who had to bear the main burden of the rehearsals, contributed to Jochum's relief at the « Landestheater » . The 2 men were also responsible for conducting subscription-concerts and non subscription-concerts, including chamber concerts, recordings in the Collegiate Church of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian, performances for the « Wehrmacht » and concerts for various « Reich » celebrations. « Kapellmeister » Wickenhäuser will replace Jochum as music-director of the Linz Municipal Symphony Orchestra in 1941.

Upper-Danube Organ Competition

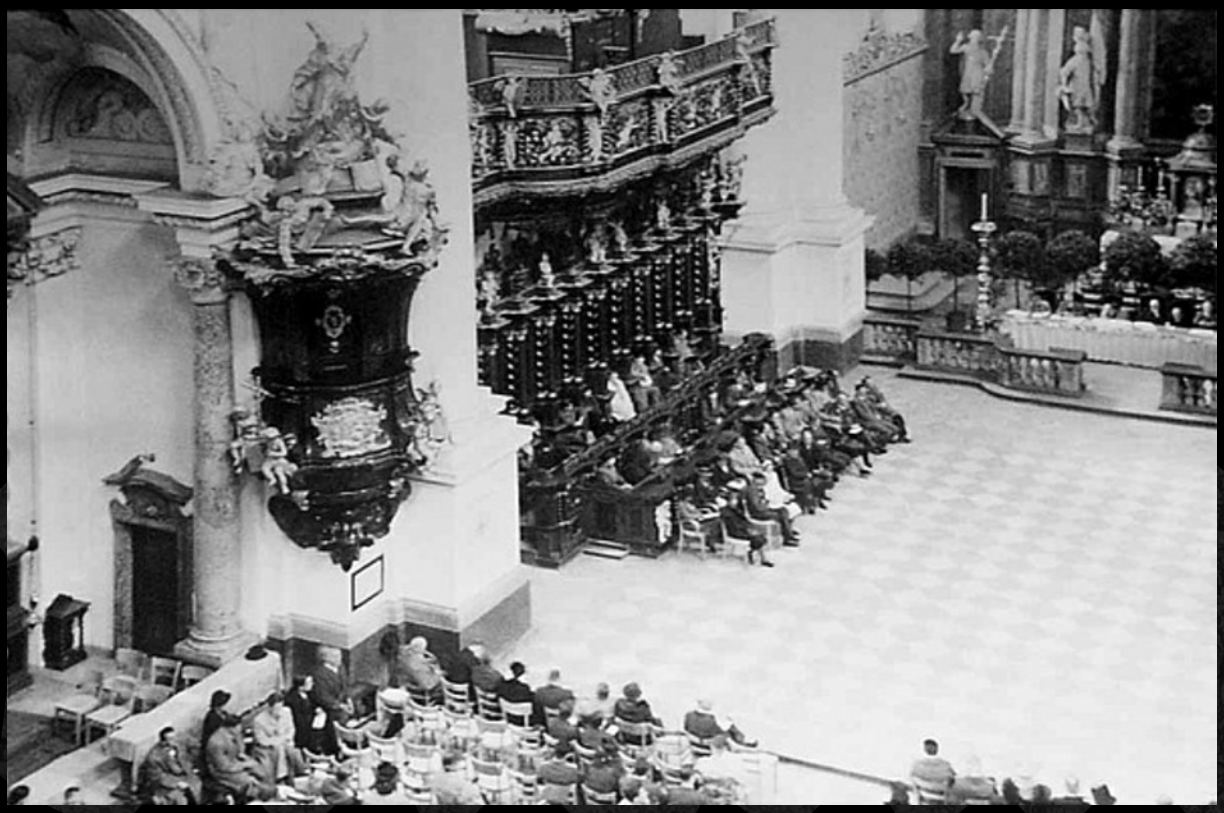
Sunday, 7 to Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube intended to promote musical « young talent » , organized by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture. The week long event takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

The improvisations played by the contestants are simultaneously recorded on wax-discs by « Reichs-Sender » Vienna, and on « sound strips » by the main radio station of the Propaganda Office of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube. These recordings will be stored in the music archives of the « Gau » for future use.

After the unveiling of the « choice of the connoisseurs » and the « choice of the music-lovers » (laypeople are also admitted to the competition as judges) , the ranking is determined. But the result of the combined vote is quite embarrassing for the Nazi « Gau » . The 26 year old autodidact and village organist Hermann Kronsteiner (from the town of Windischgarsten near Kirchdorf-an-der-Krems) is declared the grand prize winner. His brother Joseph receives the second prize. Both are priests ! living examples contrary to the deconfessionalization of the organ.

Upper-Danube Organ Competition



Sunday, 7 to Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube intended to promote musical « young talent » , organized by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture. The week long event takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

The competition, featuring 54 organists, wants to emphasize the « secularization » of the organ and the power of improvisation for use in a National-Socialist perspective.

At the well-attended public competition, the Collegiate Church is festively decorated, as are the tables of the judges in front of the high-altar. At the balcony, the proceedings are well-camouflaged behind large flower garlands, so that the organist cannot be seen even when entering and leaving.

The « Gauleiter » and « Reich » Governor August Eigruber takes a seat on the floor of the choir where chairs are placed to the right and left of the high-altar, along with leaders of the Party, authorities and the « Wehrmacht » , as well as a large number of foreign guests-of-honour and representatives of musical life from all over the « Reich » . Reporters and photographers of numerous papers are also represented.

Upper-Danube Organ Competition

Sunday, 7 to Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube intended to promote musical « young talent » , organized by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture. The week long event takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

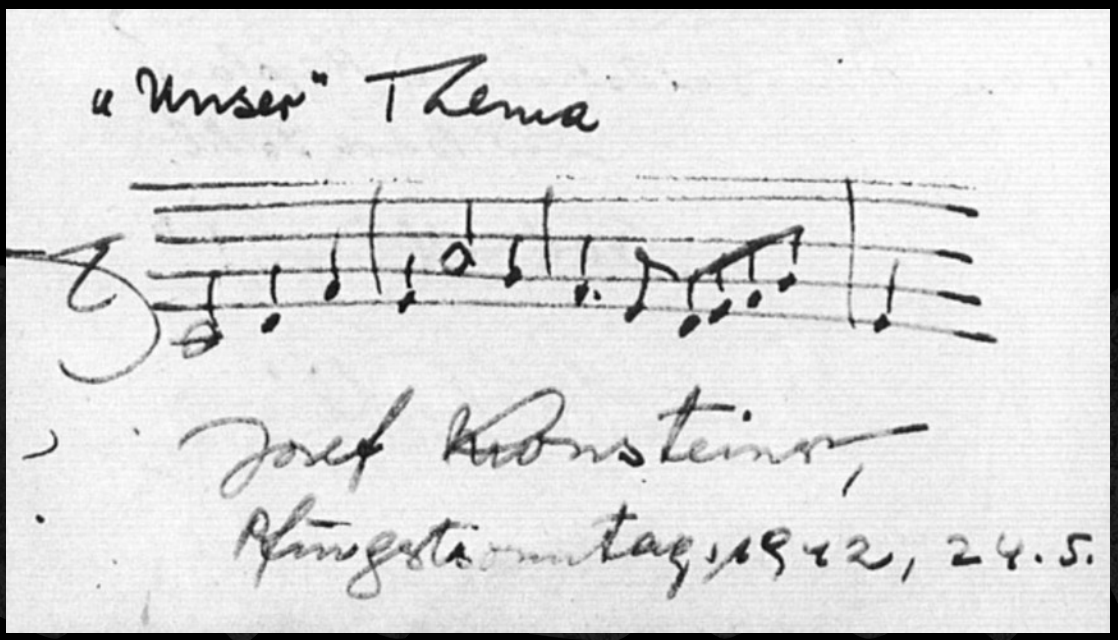
The jury (sitting right in front of the high-altar) is composed of Professor Johann Nepomuk David, Professor Josef Meßner (from Salzburg) , and Councillor Professor Max Springer (from Vienna) . The Chairman of the jury is composer Professor Joseph Haas.

Group I (the unknown talents) is composed of 36 organists. The Kronsteiner brothers (Josef and Hermann) as well as Martin Ritschel are selected as finalists. Groups II and III are composed of 18 organists ...

Group II (the composers) : Franz Kinzl, Rudolf Keldorfer and Friedrich Ziegler are selected as finalists.

Group III (the concert organists and organ teachers) : Georg Pirkmayr, Professor Ludwig Daxsperger and Adolf Trittinger are selected as finalists.

Upper-Danube Organ Competition



Sunday, 7 to Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube intended to promote musical « young talent » , organized by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture. The week long event takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

(Picture) The musical theme used during the competition :

Sketch by Josef Kronsteiner entitled « Our Theme » dated Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 1942, included in the guest-book of the house-keeper at the suburban parish of Wels.

August Eigruber

Sunday, 14 September 1941

Closing day of the First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of Upper-Danube intended to promote musical « young talent » , organized by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture.

The awards' ceremony is held at the Stone Hall (« Steinerner-Saal ») of the State Parliament in Linz.

« Gauleiter » August Eigruber gives the opening speech.

Steinerner-Saal, Landhaus, Linz

Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of the Upper-Danube, supervised by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, which takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian. The jury is made up of Johann Nepomuk David, Josef Meßner and Max Springer. Among the participants : Adolf Trittinger, Ludwig Daxsperger and the Kronsteiner brothers (priests Josef and Hermann) .

The awards' ceremony is held at the Stone Hall (« Steinerner-Saal ») of the State Parliament, which is located on « Landhaus-Platz » in Linz. « Gauleiter » August Eigruber gives the opening speech. The first-prize goes to Hermann Kronsteiner (followed by his brother Hermann) .

The ceremony concludes with a concert featuring members of the Linz Municipal Symphony Orchestra placed under the direction of music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum.

First row (from right to left) : August Eigruber, Joseph Haas, Max Springer, Josef Meßner, Johann Neopmuk David, Georg Pickmayr, Martin Ritschel.
(The empty chair next to « Gauleiter » Eigruber is probably reserved for the winner, Hermann Kronsteiner.)
Second row (on the left) : Among others, organist Professor Ludwig Daxsperger.

Steinerner-Saal, Landhaus, Linz

Sunday, 14 September 1941

First (and only) Organ Competition of the « Gau » of the Upper-Danube, supervised by Franz Kinzl, the regional head of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, which takes place at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian.

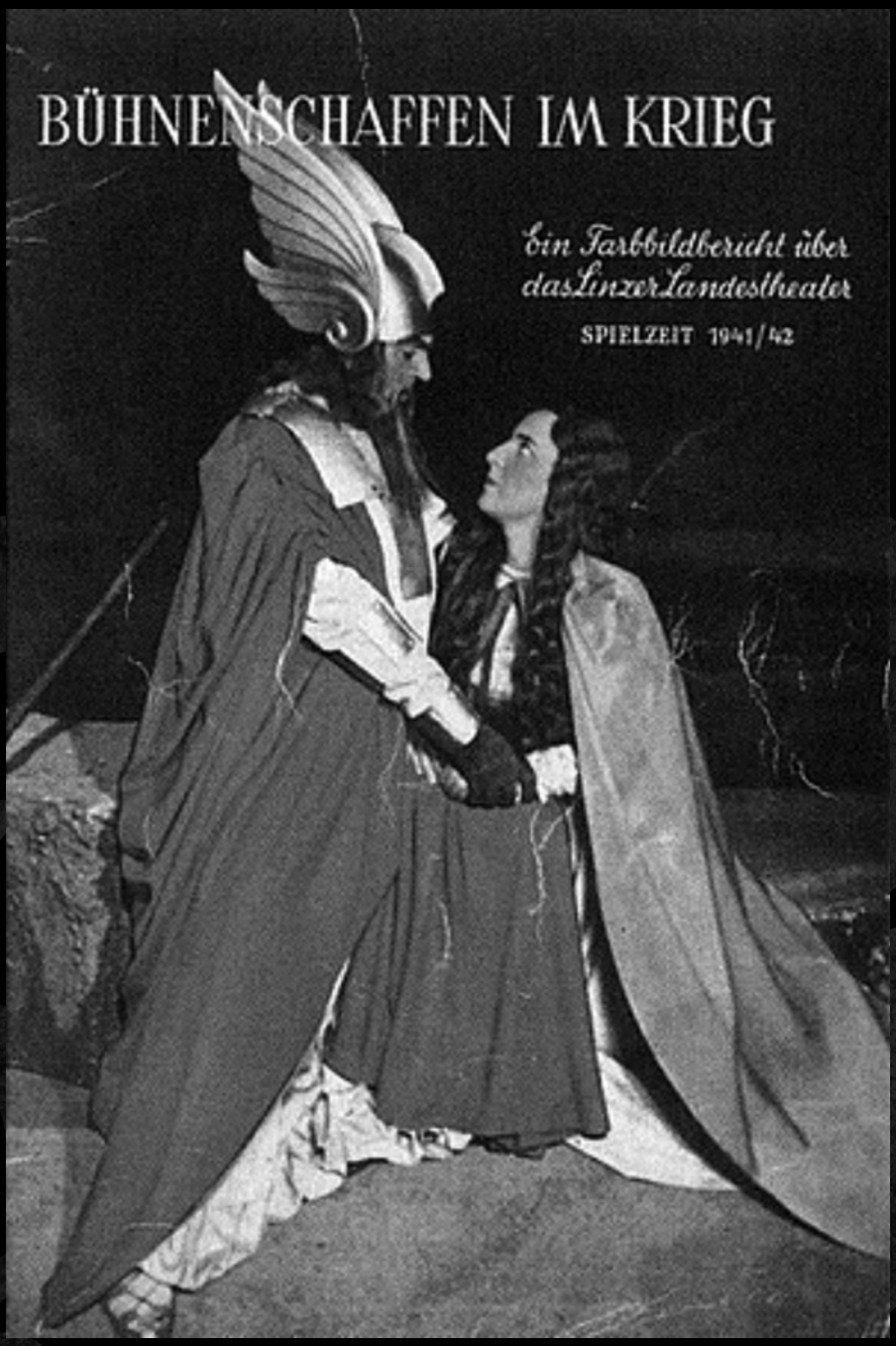
The awards' ceremony is held at the Stone Hall (« Steinerner-Saal ») of the State Parliament in Linz.
« Gauleiter » August Eigruber gives the opening speech.

The first-prize goes to Hermann Kronsteiner (followed by his brother Hermann) .
The empty chair next to « Gauleiter » Eigruber is probably reserved for the winner.

Steinerner-Saal, Landhaus, Linz

Steinerner-Saal, Landhaus, Linz

Landestheater, Linz



1941-1942 Season

placed under the sponsorship of the « Reich » Propaganda Office of the Upper-Danube

Augustinian Abbey, Pulgarn near Steyregg

Thursday, 30 October 1941

The Linz « Gestapo » grants Doctor Vinzenz Hartl, the Provost of the monastery of St. Florian, the permission to move permanently in exile to the Augustinian Abbey of the Holy Spirit Order in Pulgarn near Steyregg.

Heinrich Glasmeier

January 1942

Doctor Josef Gœbbels once again receives some complaints about the radio programming. Hans Hinkel, the secretary of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, is on vacation, so Gœbbels directly blames the head of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany, Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Thursday, 30 April 1942

75th birthday of Franz Lehár. Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier, the head of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany (« Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk ») , offers the celebrated composer a bouquet of flowers during a simple ceremony. On 12 January 1939 and 30 April 1940, Lehár personally received awards from Adolf Hitler in Berlin and Vienna, including the Gœthe Medal.

AEG Magnetophon K5

Monday, 20 April 1942

53th birthday of Adolf Hitler. Doctor Josef Gœbbels offers an « AEG K5 Magnetophon » as a personal gift to the « Führer » .

Eugen Kurt Fischer

Mid-1942

Professor Gustav Adolf Schwaiger's Deputy is Doctor Eugen Kurt Fischer (who had already worked for Heinrich Glasmeier as a broadcast director at the West-German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR) in Cologne) who overseas the library of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation, the art-collection and library of the monastery of St. Florian, but also the « Bruckner project » in general.

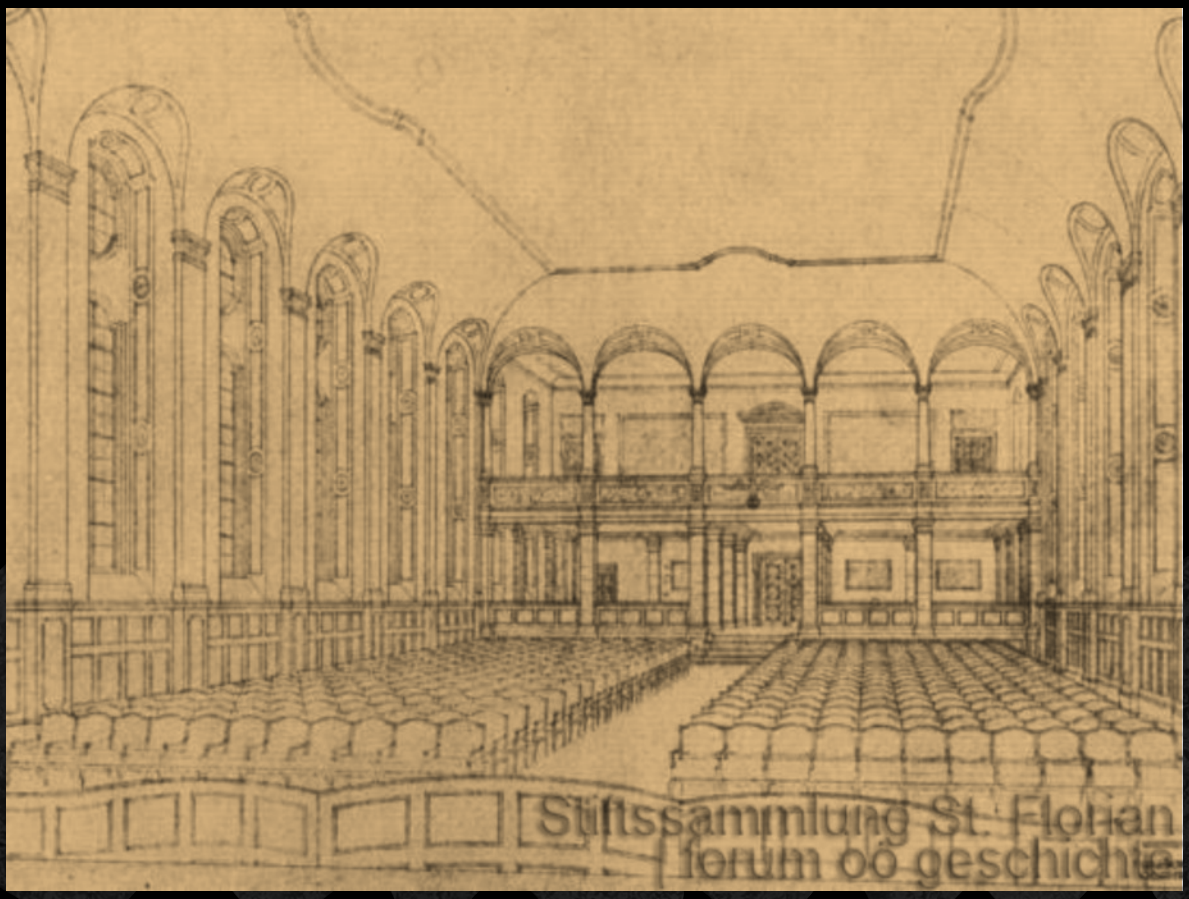
Heinrich Glasmeier

Glasmeier's personal amber box and finger ring

Tuesday, 28 July 1942

Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier asks Doctor Josef Gœbbels for 5 million « Reich » Marks from the construction reserve fund of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation, which represents a quarter of the total amount needed for the entire St. Florian project. He also asks for the release of 500,000 « Reich » Marks worth of foreign currency in order to buy furniture, tapestries and other valuable pieces of equipment abroad, especially in France and Italy. While the 5 millions are immediately approved, the foreign exchange release encounters difficulties, which Glasmeier solves by quickly establishing facts and making corresponding purchases abroad without any authorization.

Bruckner Hall, St. Florian



July 1942

Reduced to purely administrative and representative tasks at the « Funkhaus » on « Nalepa-Straße » in Berlin, « Reich » Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier fights the dismantling of the « Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk » . He prepares for Adolf Hitler (who still holds him in high-esteem) a megalomaniac project : the transformation of the Augustinian monastery of St. Florian into a Brucknerian cultural complex which includes broadcasting studios.
For the construction management, he brings to St. Florian an old acquaintance from his years as Westphalian archive director, namely the Düsseldorf architect Franz Schneider, who has already planned and built for him in 1924 the new Landsberg archive building in Velen. A variety of construction measures, mainly preserving the original buildings, are put in place immediately.

More plans for extensive renovation and expansion are also worked out :

A collegiate theatre.
A hall for prelates and monks.
A convertible hall in front of the summer refectory.
A crystal gallery.
A showcase room.

As President of the « Reich » Chamber of Radio, Doctor Josef Gœbbels' sphere of influence has greatly diminished at this point. With the War taking a turn for the worse, he believes that Glasmeier's idea is becoming more and more questionable - but the « Führer » (who as a sweet spot for the Linz region) gives its approval.

St. Florian Monastery

Der Kulturbeauftragte
des Gauleiters und Reichsstatthalters in Oberdonau

Orgelkonzert

auf der Bruckner-Orgel
in St. Florian

Sonntag, 16. August 1942, 16.30 Uhr

Professor Friedrich Högner, München

Vortragsfolge:

Georg Muffat (1645–1704) . . . Toccata XI aus dem Apparatus musico-organisticus

W. A. Mozart (1756–1791) . . . Fantasie f-moll für ein Orgelwerk in einer Uhr
Allegro maestoso – Andante – Allegro

J. Nep. David (geb. 1895) . . . Orgelbearbeitung „Veni, creator spiritus"

Freie Improvisation

Joh. Seb. Bach (1685–1750) . . . Toccata und Fuge d-moll

Eintrittspreise: RM 1.-, Soldaten und Kinder RM -.30

Bahnverbindung ab Ebelsberg 12.45, 14.09, 15.39 Uhr

Sunday, 16 August 1942

4:30 pm : Organ concert at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian placed under the cultural representative of the « Gauleiter » and « Reich » Governor in Upper-Danube Professor Friedrich Högner (from Munich) plays on the « Bruckner Organ » .

Programme

Georg Muffat : Toccata No. 11 in C minor (« Toccata undecima ») from the corpus « Apparatus Musico-Organisticus » .
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart : Organ Fantasia in F minor, « Ein Orgelstück für eine Uhr » (K. 608) .
Johann Nepomuk David : Organ variations on the hymn « Veni Creator Spiritus » .
Free improvisation.
Johann Sebastian Bach : Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565) .

The Bruckner Organ

August 1942

The monastery is to become a « House of Culture » and the great « Bruckner Organ » is to be used « in the service of the people » , meaning that it is to assist in the ritualization of Nazi Party activities.

(Adolf Hitler will agree to pay for the renovation of the instrument.)

In the words of Heinrich Kronsteiner :

« The " Bruckner Organ " in St. Florian was the prototype of all the organs in the Upper-Danube District and, indeed, in all Austria, and one saw it already becoming a secular rather than a religious instrument. »

Josef Mertin

Ensemble conductor, singer, organist, organ-builder

Correspondence on the « St. Florian Project » put forward by Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Glasmeier (1942-1944)

The 1932 renovation of the great organ of the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian had been unsuccessful and its condition was becoming deplorable when the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany decided to rebuild it completely. According to the advice of the Cantor of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Professor Günther Ramín, the rebuilt instrument was supposed to become a 5 manual organ according to North German ideals and tradition. However, the projected rebuild suggested by Professor Josef Mertin of Vienna, an accepted authority on Baroque organs was accepted. Mertin suggested that the tonal character of the original Franz-Xaver Chrismann organ be recreated, a fourth manual be built which would contain that tonal scheme demanded by music of later periods. The contract for this restoration was awarded to Wilhelm Zika of Ottensheim. This restoration was begun in 1945 and the Positiv division was completed in June.

Josef Mertin

Chamber conductor, singer, organist, organ-builder

Correspondence on the « St. Florian Project » put forward by Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Glasmeier (1942-1944)

Despite the fact that Josef Mertin was « married to a half-Jewish woman » , there were no concerns about his membership to the « Reich » Chamber of Music in 1938. This enabled himn and his family to survive in Vienna until the end of the War. He gave public organ concerts at the Collegiate Church of the monastery of St. Florian until at least 1941. Professor at the « Collegium Musicum » . An early-music pioneer, he set-up (from around 1950) the « Concentus Musicus » , the « Musica antiqua » , and the « Capella academica » .

Friedrich Castelle

August 1942

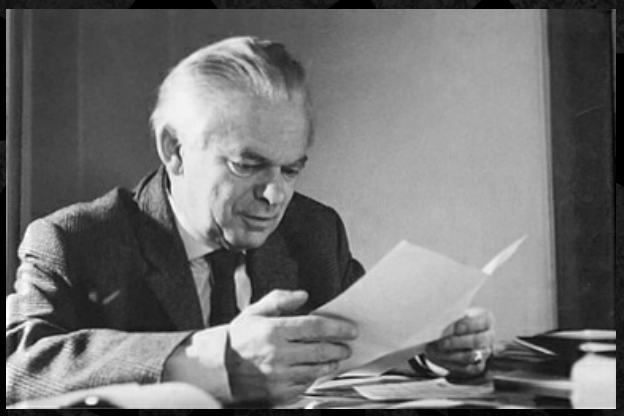
« Reich » Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier becomes the « Führer's » agent to create a « first-rate cultural complex » : the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian. Glasmeier gives Doctor Friedrich Castelle, the Intendant of the « Reichs-Sender » in Cologne, the responsibility of dealing with the life and work of Anton Bruckner.

Contributors to the St. Florian project

Hermann Reutter (1900-1985)
Composer and pianist

Hermann Unger (1886-1958)
Composer

Walter Kraft (1905-1977)
Organist, pedagogue and composer



Eberhard Preußner (1899-1964)
Music historian and pedagogue

Anton Nowakowski (1897-1969)
Organist, conductor and composer

Felix Oberborbeck

Musicologist, university teacher, conductor, composer

Correspondence on the « St. Florian Project » put forward by Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Glasmeier (1942-1944)

Gerhard Schwarz

Church musician, organist and composer

Correspondence on the « St. Florian Project » put forward by Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Glasmeier (1942-1944)

Helmut Wobisch

Trumpeter with the Vienna Philharmonic

Correspondence on the « St. Florian Project » put forward by Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Glasmeier (1942-1944)

Gustav Adolf Schwaiger

Tuesday, 1 September 1942

Almost one year after the expropriation initiated by the « Gestapo » , the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation officially takes over the monastery of St. Florian. The refugees who had been quartered there until the summer have to leave again. The technical advisor (and confidant) of Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier, Doctor Gustav Adolf Schwaiger (from the « Reichs-Sender » in Vienna) , is now in charge of the day-to-day management of the « St. Florian project » . The lease agreement and transformation contract officially comes into force.

Günther Ramín

Wednesday, 25 November 1942

Letter from Doctor Karl Andreas Wirz, the production director of the « Reichs-Sender » in Leipzig, to Professor Gustav Adolf Schwaiger, the acoustician and administrative director of the « St. Florian project » :

Professor Günther Ramín (who had agreed to rehearse the newly-formed « Bruckner Choir » in Leipzig) does not want to take over the position of organist in St. Florian. « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier suggested to find an organist originating from the cultural region of « Ostmark » (State of Austria) .

Oskar Brandstetter

Saturday, 12 December 1942

Letter from procurator Hilde Wendler of the « German Bruckner Society » (who works for the Oskar Brandstetter Printing Company and the « Musicological Publishers ») to Professor Max Auer :

« A few days ago, I also heard from " Reich " intendant Doctor Glasmeier, whom you yourself know from earlier, about the new plans for St. Florian, and I am speechless about what is going to happen there. (...) In any case, the new Linz radio orchestra is already being assembled, and the best players are being drawn from the best orchestras, because - how could it be otherwise - it is of course to become the best European orchestra. »

The Oskar Brandstetter Printing Company and « Musicological Publishers » of Leipzig will benefit from this project by supplying the music scores of Bruckner's works for the new orchestra.

Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg

Monday, 14 December 1942

Letter from Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg, program-director of the « Bruckner-Orchester St. Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » , to « Sonder-Führer » Otto Sonnen, the German artistic director of « Radio-Paris » (a pianist, member of the Nazi Party since May 1933) :

« (...) I have been on the (military) field again for almost half a year, traveling back and forth between Sicily, Crete, Africa and Tunis. Doctor Glasmeier took me on a leave of absence from work because, on the " Führer's " orders, we had to press ahead with our plans for radio broadcasting after the War, especially the expansion of the " Bruckner Monastery " of St. Florian, with a new orchestra and so on. (...) »

Günther Ramín in Leipzig

Tuesday, 2 March 1943

First meeting of the newly-founded « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » under Professor Günther Ramín (with the assistance of choir-master Johannes Rietz) which takes place in the building of the « Reichs-Sender » in Leipzig. They perform the « Kyrie » from the Mass in F minor (WAB 28) .

The « MIRAG-Haus » studios are located at the « Barthels Hof » on « Markt » Number 8.

Günther Ramín in Berlin

(Picture) The old Philharmonie concert hall.

Sunday, 14 March 1943

Professor Günther Ramín conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir
re-inforced by members of the « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » of Leipzig.

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Mass No. 3 (« The Great ») in F minor
for soloists (SATB) , mixed-choir, orchestra and organ « ad libitum » (WAB 28) .

Soloists : Anna Maria Augenstein (soprano) , Lore Fischer (alto) , Heinz Marten (tenor) , Friedrich Dalberg (bass) .

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Friedhelm Döhler

Thursday, 1 April 1943

As an orchestra trainer, Georg-Ludwig Jochum begins rehearsals in Linz with the 80 musicians of the « Bruckner-Orchester Sankt Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » . Among them, Friedhelm Döhler, the former horn player with the Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra.

St. Florian Monastery

Saturday, 3 April 1943

Solemn concert under the supervision of Heinrich Glasmeier featuring the « Bruckner-Orchester Sankt Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » and the « Reichs-Bruckner-Chor der Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft Leipzig » (choir-master : Günther Ramín) given at the Collegiate Church of the monastery. The need to ritualize Bruckner's work coincided with a fashion for performances in cathedral acoustics, St. Florian presenting itself as the ideal Bruckner space.

Programme

« " Intrada " after Anton Bruckner » , played from the church tower.

Poem entitled : « Organ : the Manes of Anton Bruckner » (« Orgel - den Manen Anton Bruckners »)

based on a text by Josef Weinheber.

« Andante » , posthumous movement for the String Quintet in F major (Intermezzo ?)

Organ improvisation by Professor Ludwig Daxsperger on themes by Bruckner.

As reported by Doctor Gustav Adolf Schwaiger, the acoustician and administrative director of the « St. Florian project » , 72 musicians from the « " Reich " Bruckner Orchestra » and members of the « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » , who are escorted by torch-bearing uniformed « Waffen-SS » men, assemble in the crypt for a special wreath-laying ceremony, at which Glasmeier personally addresses Bruckner's sarcophagus (while SS-men stand on either side with flickering torch-light playing over the thousands of skulls) , swearing allegiance to ... both « Geniuses » .

Adolf Hitler visits St. Florian

Sunday, 4 April 1943

11:00 am : The « Führer » arrives at the monastery accompanied by his Minister of Armaments, Albert Speer, and several « Gauleiter » (regional Party leaders) and army generals. The most important works of art, taken from the monastery collection, are presented to Hitler. Because the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube, August Eigruber, is unable to answer his detailed and sophisticated questions in a satisfactory manner, Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, who acts as the key-keeper, steps in and becomes « de facto » the official tour-guide of the Baroque complex for a full one and a half hours.

Adolf Hitler visits St. Florian

Sunday, 4 April 1943

11:00 am : The « Führer » arrives at the monastery accompanied by his Minister of Armaments, Albert Speer, and several « Gauleiter » (regional Party leaders) and army generals. The most important works of art, taken from the monastery collection, are presented to Hitler. Because the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube, August Eigruber, is unable to answer his detailed and sophisticated questions in a satisfactory manner, Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, who acts as the key-keeper, steps in and becomes « de facto » the official tour-guide of the Baroque complex for a full one and a half hours.

Johannes Hollnsteiner, the key-keeper

St. Florian Monastery, Library

« Reichs-Sender » in Berlin

Mid-May 1943

6 weeks after the April 3 concert featuring the « Bruckner-Orchester Sankt Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » at the Collegiate Church of the monastery, 9 other musicians arrive in St Florian.

Most of the members of the « Bruckner » Orchestra have been delegated by radio orchestras or broadcasters.

The German « Senders » alone supplied a total of 22 musicians.

The local « Reichs-Sender » in Berlin supplied 7 musicians.

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

Friday, 2 July 1943

Concert given at the large festive hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) located on « Landstraße » in the inner-city of Linz. Professor Ludwig Daxsperger conducts the Liedertafel « Frohsinn » and the Linz Municipal Symphony Orchestra.

Programmed works among others

Anton Bruckner

3 Pieces for orchestra in : E-flat major, E minor, and F major (WAB 97)

March in D minor for orchestra (WAB 96)

Overture in G minor for orchestra (WAB 98)

Edoardo (Dino) Alfieri

Saturday, 3 July 1943

Performance of the Adagio from the String Quintet in F major (WAB 112) during the official reception in honour of the Italian Ambassador to Germany, Edoardo (Dino) Alfieri, which takes place at the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian. The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier as welcomed Ambassador Alfieri by offering him a glass of wine by the gateway to the monastery.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Saturday, 3 July 1943

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the Italian Ambassador to Germany, Edoardo (Dino) Alfieri, at the gateway of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian by offering him a glass of wine.

A performance of the Adagio from the String Quintet in F major (WAB 112) will be played during the official reception given in his honour.

St. Florian Monastery

« Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier is in the habit of welcoming prominent guests with a glass of wine standing by the gateway to the monastery of St. Florian, sometimes to the sound of fanfare coming from the church tower.

Hermann Reutter

Monday, 12 July 1943

Letter from Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg, program-director of the « Bruckner-Orchester St. Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » , to Hermann Reutter, German composer and pianist :

« You have surely heard of our major plans for the establishment of a new cultural centre in the " Bruckner Monastery " of St. Florian. I am currently busy establishing the music programming. From April 1944 onwards, we want to broadcast music of all kinds, but only the best and the noblest, and, for this purpose, we are now expanding individual ensembles such as orchestras, choirs, chamber players, and organs, all of which are already making music diligently. From the Baroque splendour of the monastery, brass music in the style of the old tower music, festive calls and intrades of all sorts should should now also sound from the towers, from the church balcony and on the wide galleries of the staircases and aisles.

On behalf of the " Reich " Broadcasting Corporation, I now come to you with the heartfelt request to write us something ; at first, perhaps short music pieces instrumented for 3 or 4 trumpets, 3 trombones, bass-tuba and drums. However, we leave the choice of instrumentation to you. (...) »

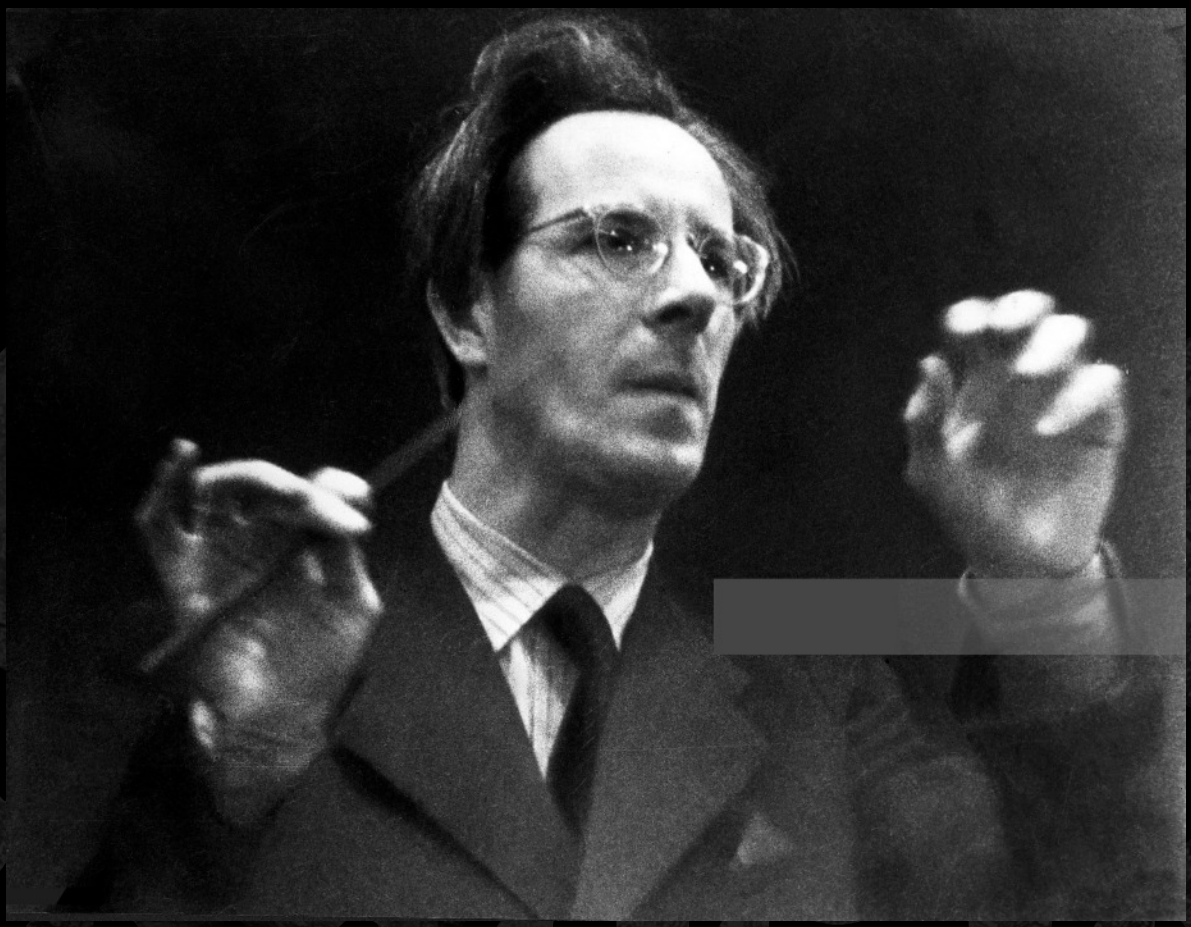
Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg

Autumn 1943

First concert-season of the « Bruckner-Orchester St. Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks »

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier appoints conductor Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg to be the orchestra's program director and his personal advisor concerning all music matters.

Eugen Jochum



Eugen Jochum, general music-director of the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

Eugen Jochum

Eugen Jochum, general music-director of the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Music director of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Music director of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

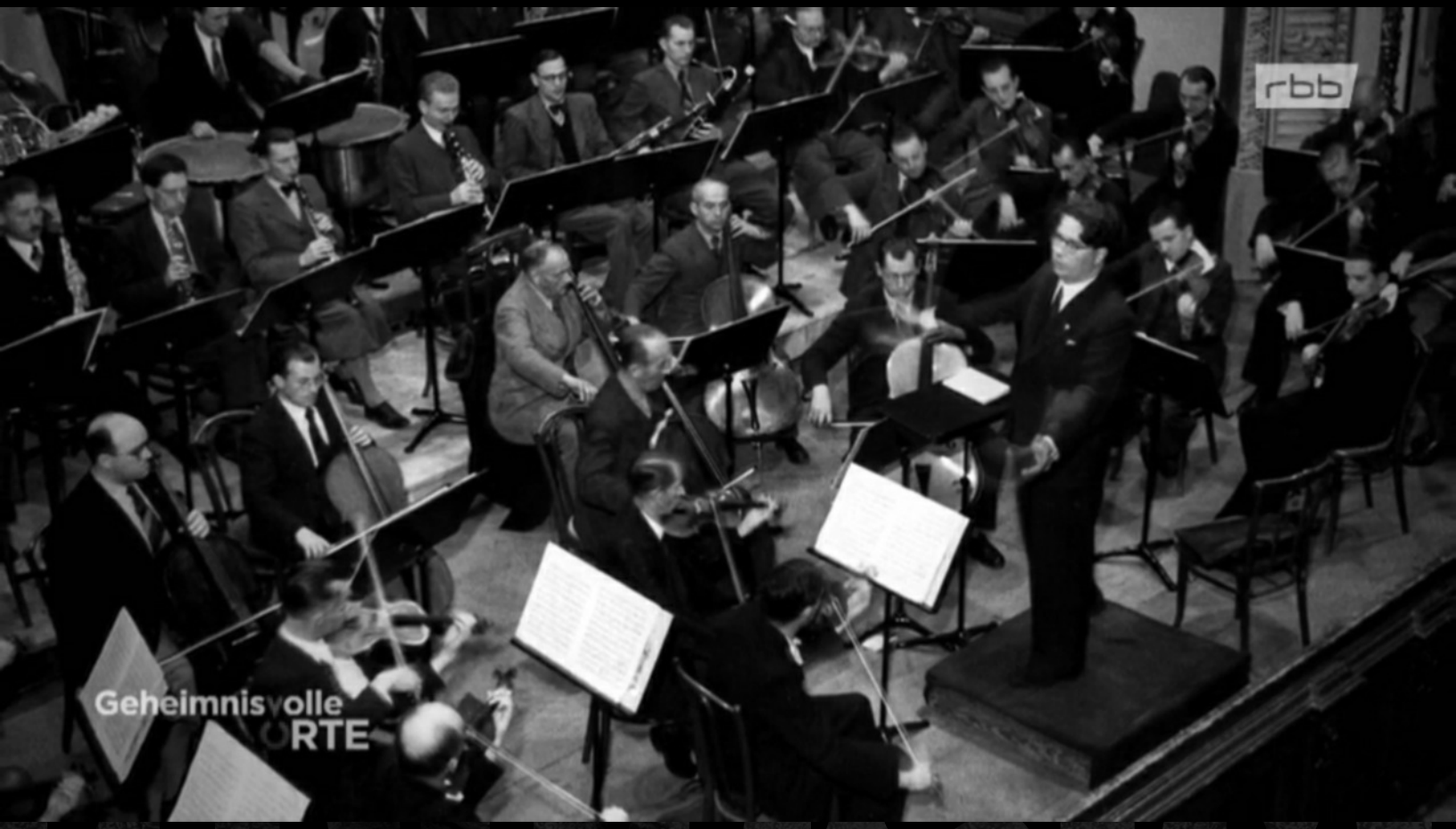
Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Music director of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Music director of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum



Music director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducts the « Reich » Bruckner Orchestra of Linz

Wilhelm Furtwängler

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

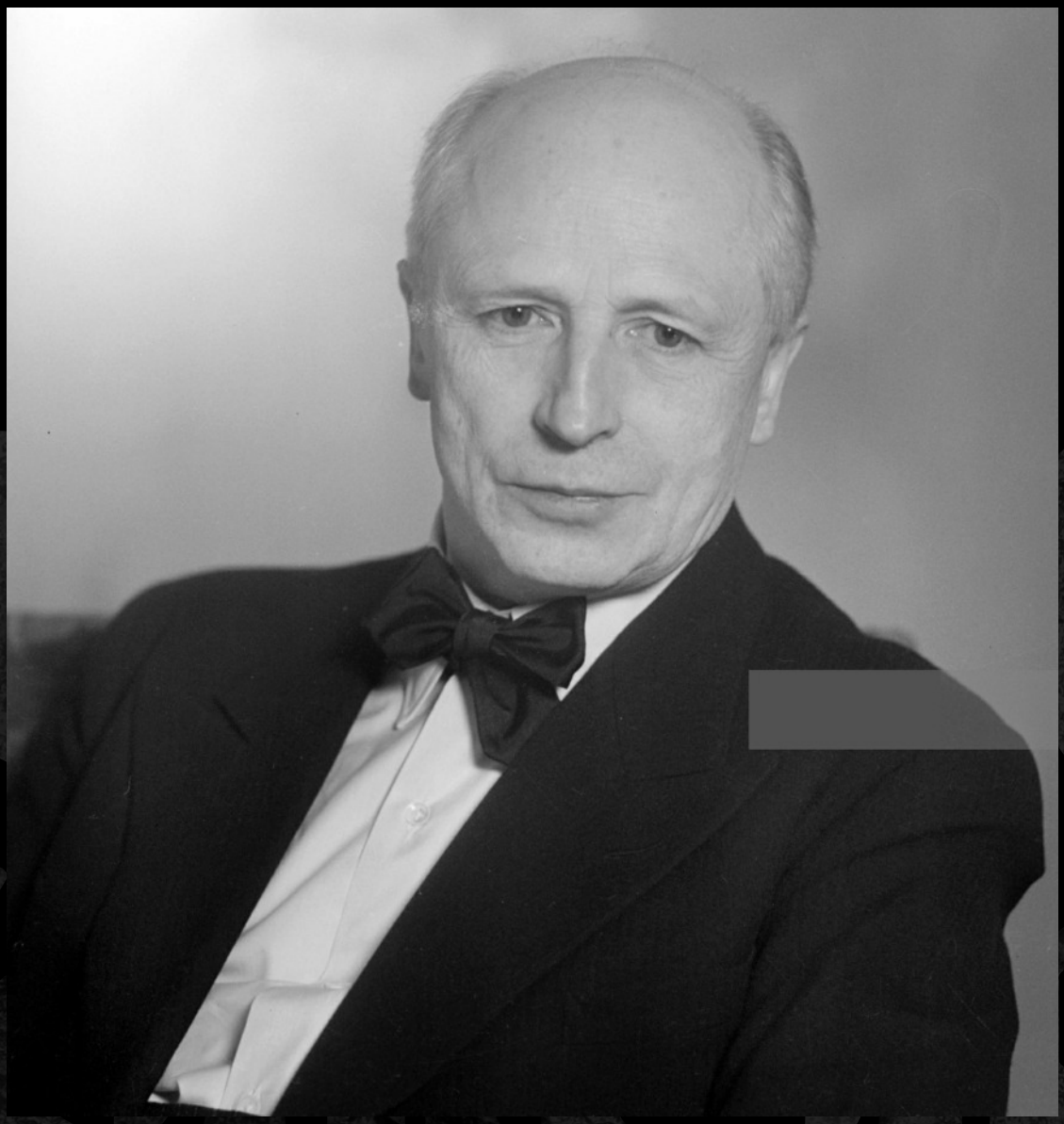
Wilhelm Furtwängler

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Hans Knappertsbusch

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Carl Schuricht



Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Oswald Kabasta

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Volkmar Andreæ

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Joseph Keilberth

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Karl Böhm

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Karl Böhm

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Herbert von Karajan

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Herbert von Karajan

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Herbert von Karajan

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

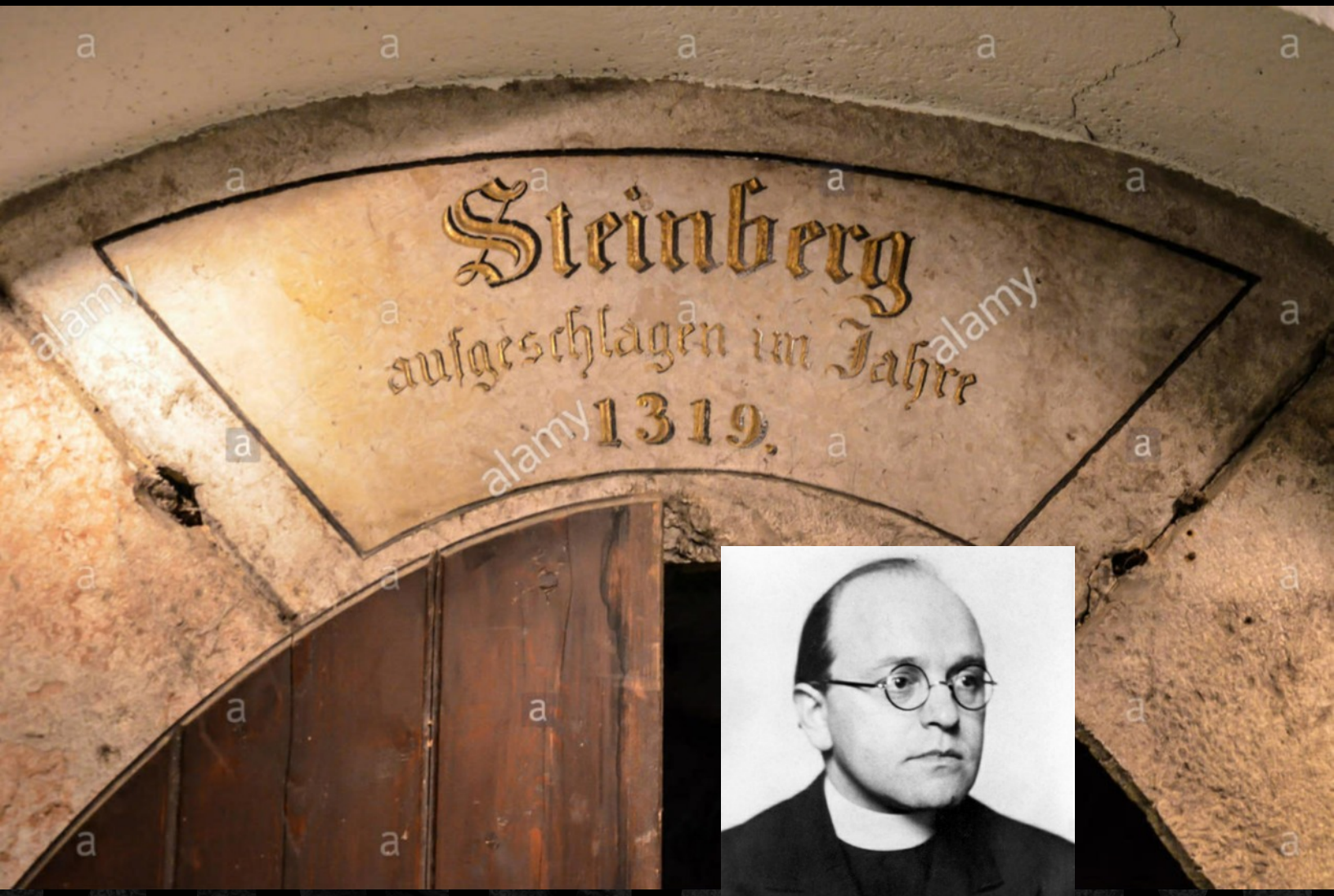
Herbert von Karajan

Guest-conductor of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

Altaussee

Altaussee

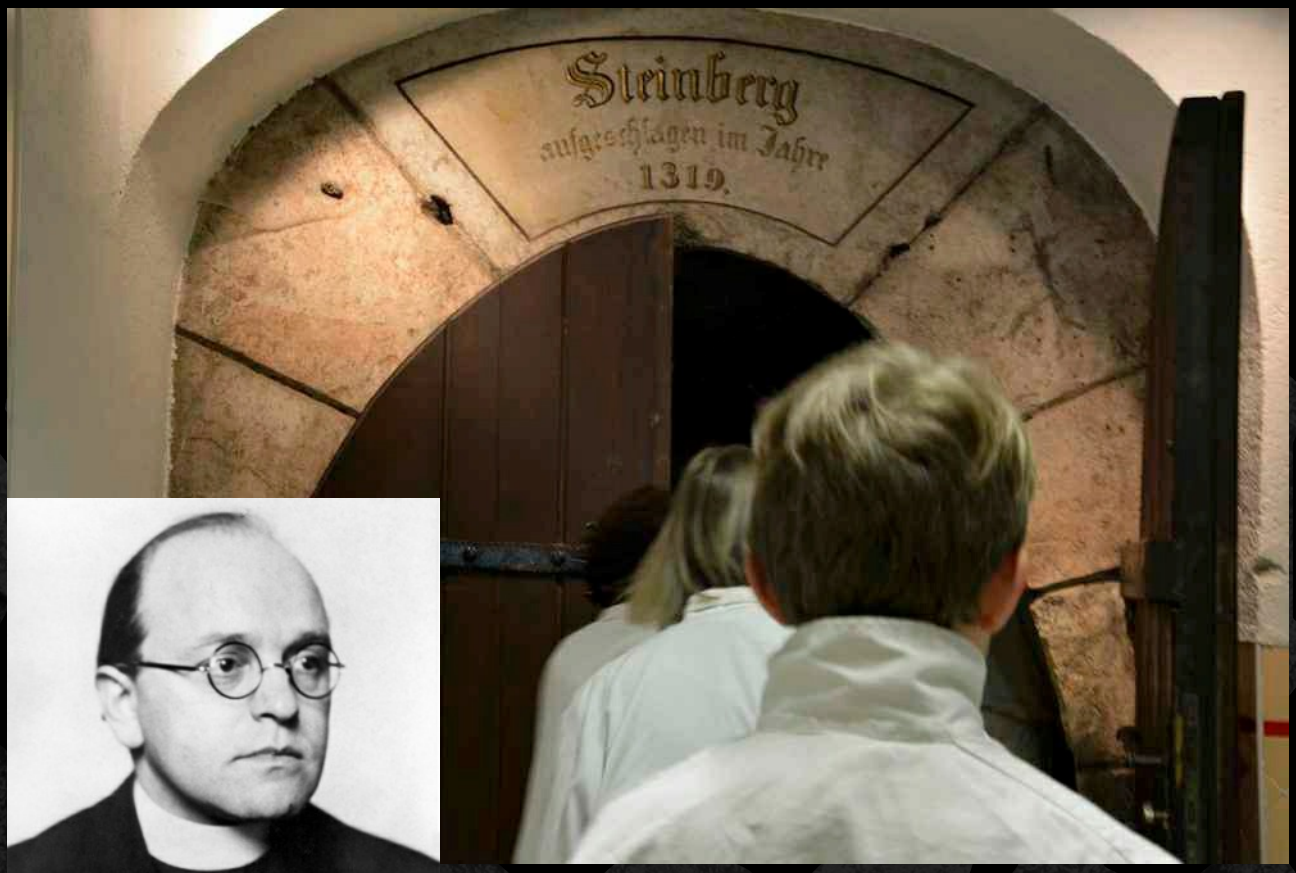
Salt mine of Steinberg in Altaussee



Wednesday, 13 October 1943

During a first salvage trip, Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, the director of the archive and art-collections, and the librarian of the former « Stiftsbibliothek » in St. Florian, brings 4 boxes of precious documents, including 2 (or 6 ?) autograph manuscripts by Anton Bruckner, to the town of Steinberg in the Styrian region of Altaussee.

Salt mine of Steinberg in Altaussee



November 1943

During a second salvage trip, Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, the director of the archive and art-collections, and the librarian of the former « Stiftsbibliothek » , brings 26 autograph manuscripts by Anton Bruckner to the town of Steinberg in the Styrian region of Altaussee.

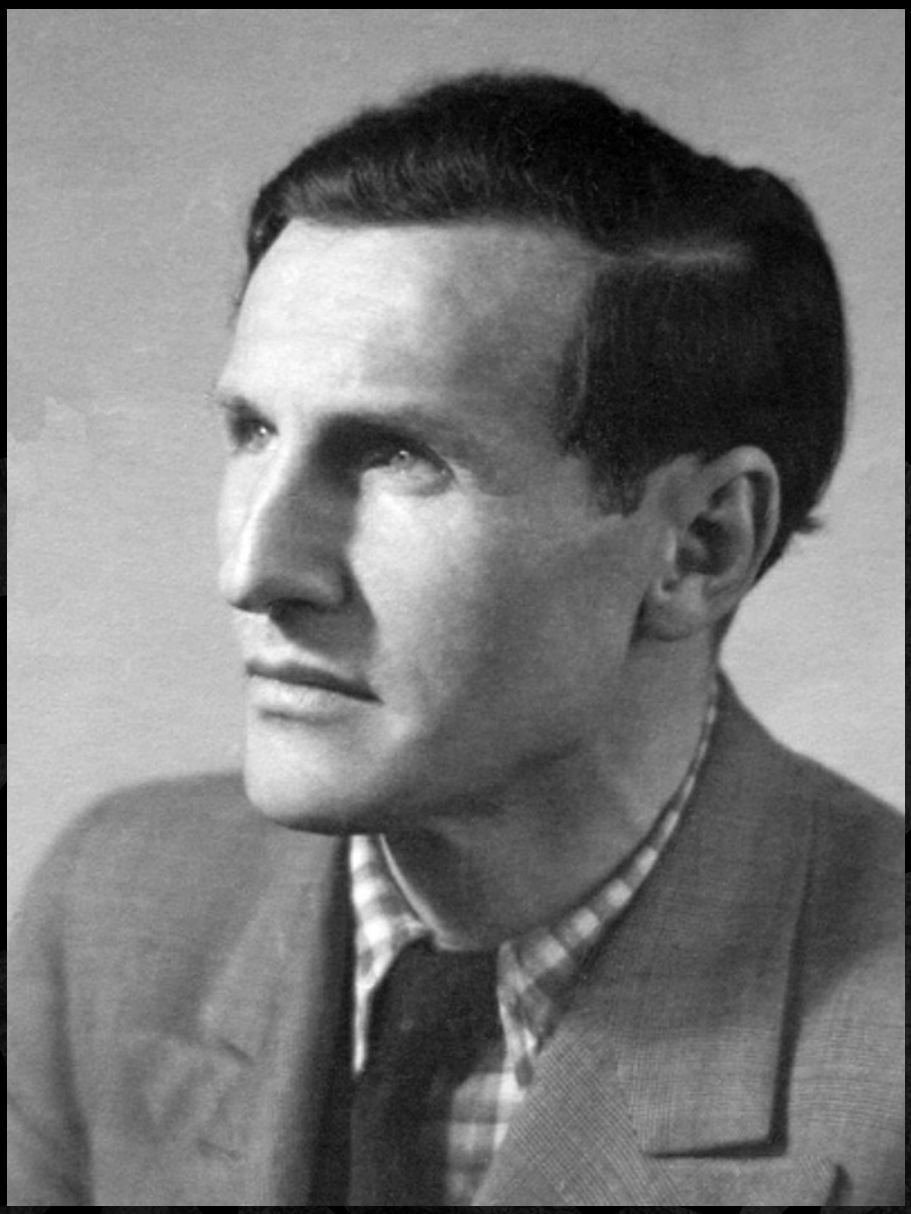
Bruckner Choir, Leipzig

Saturday, 6 November 1943

Contributing to the war effort, Professor Günther Ramín organizes in Leipzig a free « a cappella » concert featuring his « Reich » Bruckner Choir at the « Städtisches Kaufhaus » : the first model trade-fair building in the world. The programme consists of works by Anton Bruckner (WAB 6, 11, 23, 30, 52) , Carlo Gesualdo, Ernst Pepping and popular folk-songs.

Cultural Days, Upper-Danube

Johannes Rietz



Johannes Rietz, second music director of the « “ Reich ” Bruckner Choir »

Günther Ramín

Tuesday, 2 December 1943

Third concert in Leipzig of the « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » under Professor Günther Ramín
given in partnership with the « Gewandhaus » Orchestra.

Programme

Hermann Simon : « Requiem in Bello » - Celebration of the Dead in Time of War,
based on poems by Ruth Schaumann, for soprano, 4 part mixed-choir and string orchestra (1942) .
Hans Pfitzner : « Fons salutifer » , hymn for mixed-choir, orchestra and organ, Opus 48 (1941-1942) .
Max Reger : « Der 100. Psalm » in D major for mixed-choir and orchestra, Opus 106 (1909) .

The bombing of Leipzig

Thursday, 4 December 1943, early morning hours

Extensive strikes by the British Royal Air Force severely damage the « Städtisches Kaufhaus » .

A rain of explosive bombs and incendiaries laid waste the centre of Germany's book industry in just under 2 hours. More than 1,800 people died that night ; 114,000 of Leipzig's citizens became homeless and 15,000 buildings were hit. The biggest publishing firms - including F. A. Brockhaus Verlag, Verlag Philipp Reclam junior and Breitkopf & Härtel, the world's oldest music-publisher - were burnt out together with an estimated 50 million books. The German Museum of Books and Writing, the world's oldest book museum, was a ruin, the headquarters of the German Book Traders' Association destroyed, the « Deutsche Bücherei » badly damaged : the Allied offensive dealt the final blow to Leipzig's centuries-old reputation as the « City of Books » , a reputation which had already been shaken to its foundations during World War I.

The bombing of Leipzig

Wednesday, 22 December 1943

Letter from procurator Hilde Wendler of the « German Bruckner Society » of Leipzig, to Professor Max Auer :

Wendler talks about the desastrous consequences of the night air-strikes by the British Royal Air Force on Thursday, 4 December 1943 (between 3:39 and 5:32 am) on the general-headquarters of the Society. It also damaged the Oskar Brandstetter Company, the official printer and editor of the « Musicological Publishers » .

The « Publishers » have enough publishing stock in an out-of-town warehouse. Invaluable documents and manuscripts have all been saved in a secure basement.

« Thank God, our warehouse in the suburbs was saved, and we can at least provide the orchestras with Bruckner scores and other performance materials. (...) Documents and manuscripts have all been stored in the lowest cellar. »

The increasing uncertainty in Leipzig will lead to the plan to move the « Musicological Publishers » to the town of Braunau-am-Inn near Linz, on the border with Germany : the birth-place of Adolf Hitler. The publishing-house will then be renamed « Bruckner-Verlag GmbH » .

Lord Mayor Franz Langoth

Wednesday, 22 December 1943

« Gauleiter » August Eigruber is looking for a new Lord Mayor for Linz. He offers the office to the highly-esteemed Franz Langoth, who accepts this new prestigious position. Langoth thus succeeds Doctor Leopold Sturma, who is named President of the Higher Regional Court of Linz. In this capacity, Langoth makes a major contribution to the maintenance of National-Socialist rule until May 5, 1945, accepting civilian casualties in the process. He also takes charge of the Youth and Welfare Office, which, up to now, persecuted « anti-social activities » and ordered forced sterilization.

Langoth states in his memoirs :

« Of course, the " Führer " principle also applied to the city administration. (...) The decision was ultimately up to me alone. »

Homage to Gisela Göllerich

Wednesday, 22 December 1943

The pianist and Nazi sympathizer « Frau » Gisela Göllerich celebrates her 80th birthday during a honorary evening organized by the « Reich-Gau » of the N.S.D.A.P. at the large festive hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » in Linz.

Programme

1) Piano Trio. Performers : « Frau » Gisela Göllerich (piano) , who is accompanied by the children of her first marriage : Pálma von Pászthory (violin) and Casimir von Pászthory (cello) .

2) Ceremonial speech including the read-out by the music advisor and head-squad « SS-Führer » Herbert Ziehland of a congratulatory telegram from the « Führer » (as reported in the « Völkischer Beobachter » , Tuesday, 21 June 1938) .

3) Max Damberger conducts the National-Socialist Symphony Orchestra of the « Reich-Gau » of Upper-Danube in the first movement of the Symphony No. 1 in C minor, « Linz » , revised 1877 version edited by Robert Haas in 1935 (WAB 101) .

Steinberghaus in Altaussee

Winter 1943

Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, the director of the archive and art-collections, and the librarian of the former « Stiftsbibliothek » , makes a third salvage trip to the town of Steinberg in the Styrian region of Altaussee.

Steinberghaus in Altaussee

Salt mines of Altaussee

Salt mines of Altaussee

Salt mines of Altaussee

Salt mines of Altaussee

Salt mines of Altaussee

Karajan on Glasmeier

January 1944

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier has spent around 4.5 million « Reich » Marks on the « St. Florian project » . 2.4 million of which were on furnishings alone ; all of them of high artistic or antiquarian value. Only 130,000 « Reich » Marks has been spent for the maintenance of the building complex.

Herbert von Karajan recalls : « They will buy furniture for him in Paris.
He will also get a carriage with 6 assorted horses, with the interior in damask blue. »

The most precious furniture and art-objects are procured from France and other countries. For Glasmeier's dining room, the furniture must be custom-made (hand-carved work) . Covers and carpets are woven according to special patterns. Unfortunately, he does not like them, so he immediately gets rid of them. After a plate from the Vienna Museum, a complete table service for 50 people is commissioned, each piece bearing the coat-of-arms of St. Florian and the « swastika » of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany, along with the coat-of-arms of the Glasmeier family from the town of Dorsten in Westphalia on the back. A table cutlery made of hand-forged silver, solidly gold-plated, cannot be missing. Glasmeier manages through Adolf Hitler that the scarce precious metal is released shortly before the end of the War.

Ruins of the « Gewandhaus »

Sunday, 20 February 1944

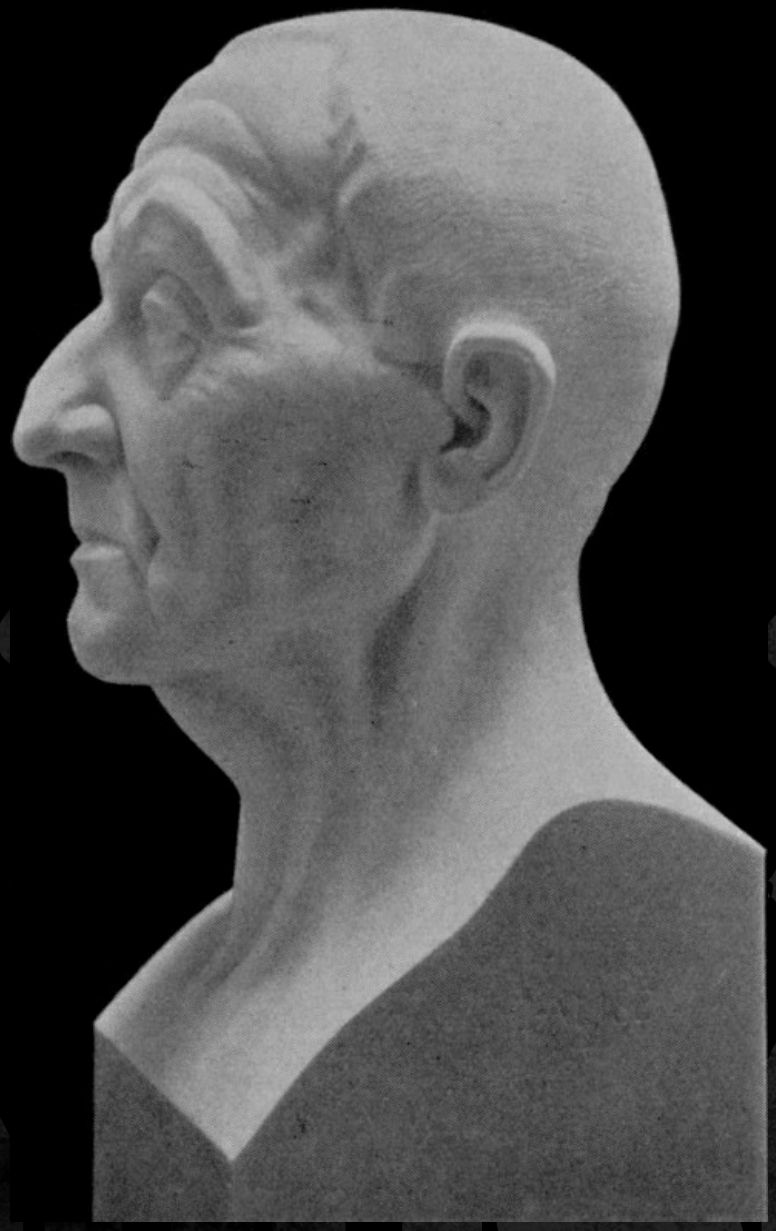
Between 3:15 am and 4:20 am, Royal Air Force Bomber Command launches a major bombing raid against the German city of Leipzig at the beginning of the so-called « Big Week » . Amongst others, the second « Gewandhaus » Concert Hall (designed by Martin Gropius) , located on the south-side of the « Karl-Marx-Platz » (opposite the main-entrance to the University Library) , is almost totally destroyed (the roof having collapsed completely) as a result of the incendiary bombings. Valuable orchestral instruments, the organ and the sheet-music archive are destroyed by the flames. The marble bust of Anton Bruckner (the first on German soil) , executed in 1931 by the sculptor Fritz Zalisz (commissioned by Doctor Emil Theodor Anton Armbruster) , has miraculously survived !!

Ruins of the « Gewandhaus »

Sunday, 20 February 1944

Between 3:15 am and 4:20 am, Royal Air Force Bomber Command launches a major bombing raid against the German city of Leipzig at the beginning of the so-called « Big Week » . The bombing erased the city's printing and publishing quarter, and thus, the material manifestation of the « City of Books » , damaged most of its University facilities and destroyed the « Bürger » built Opera House and world-famous « Gewandhaus » Orchestra Concert Hall. The archives of most of Leipzig's cultural institutions suffered greatly : the « Gewandhaus's » burned in the building's destruction, St. Thomas's was transferred to the city archive, and the University archive fell prey to political manoeuvres.

Fritz Zalisz

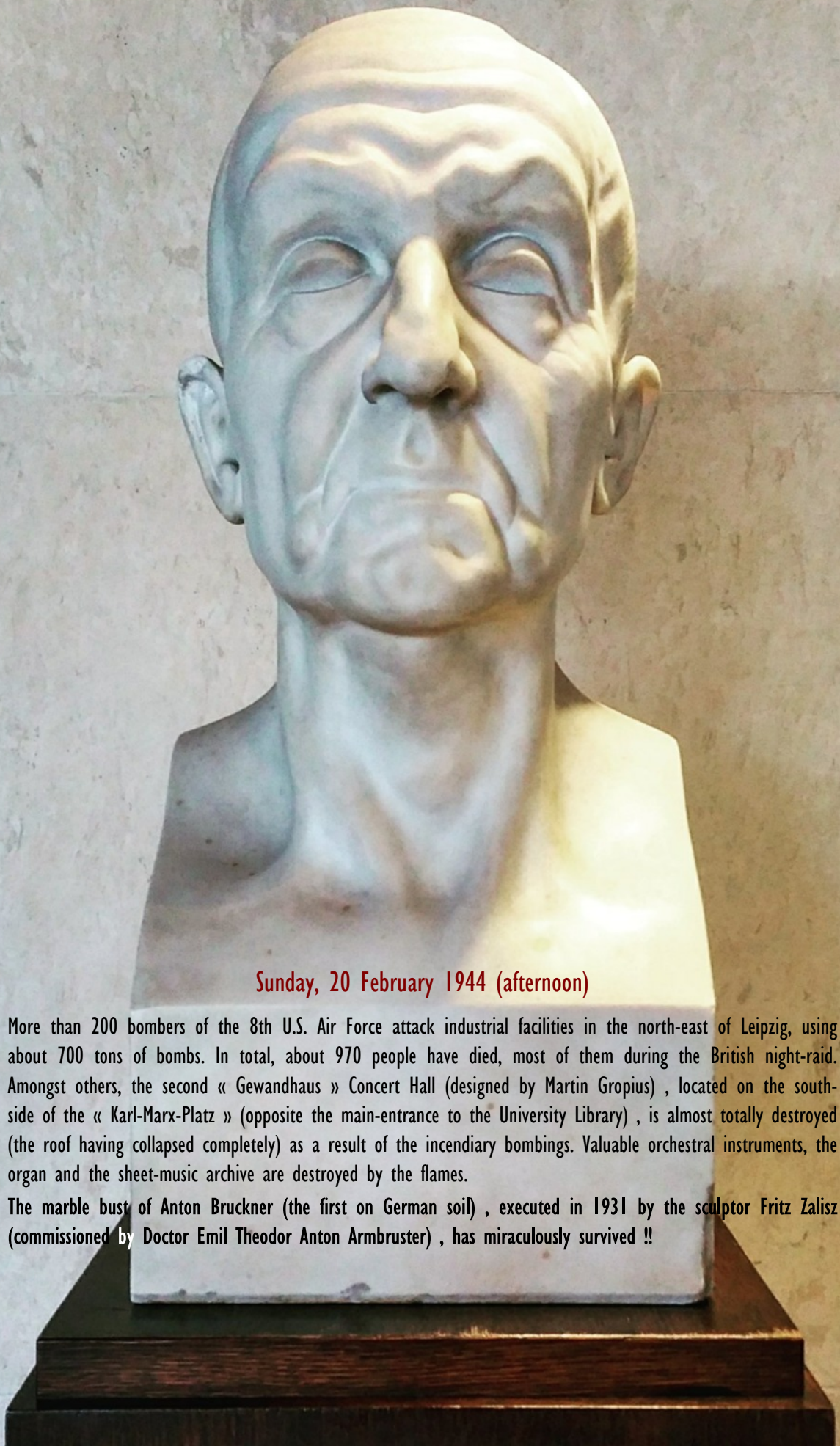


Sunday, 20 February 1944 (afternoon)

More than 200 bombers of the 8th U.S. Air Force attack industrial facilities in the north-east of Leipzig, using about 700 tons of bombs. In total, about 970 people have died, most of them during the British night-raid. Amongst others, the second « Gewandhaus » Concert Hall (designed by Martin Gropius) , located on the south-side of the « Karl-Marx-Platz » (opposite the main-entrance to the University Library) , is almost totally destroyed (the roof having collapsed completely) as a result of the incendiary bombings. Valuable orchestral instruments, the organ and the sheet-music archive are destroyed by the flames.

The marble bust of Anton Bruckner (the first on German soil) , executed in 1931 by the sculptor Fritz Zalisz (commissioned by Doctor Emil Theodor Anton Armbruster) , has miraculously survived !!

Fritz Zalisz

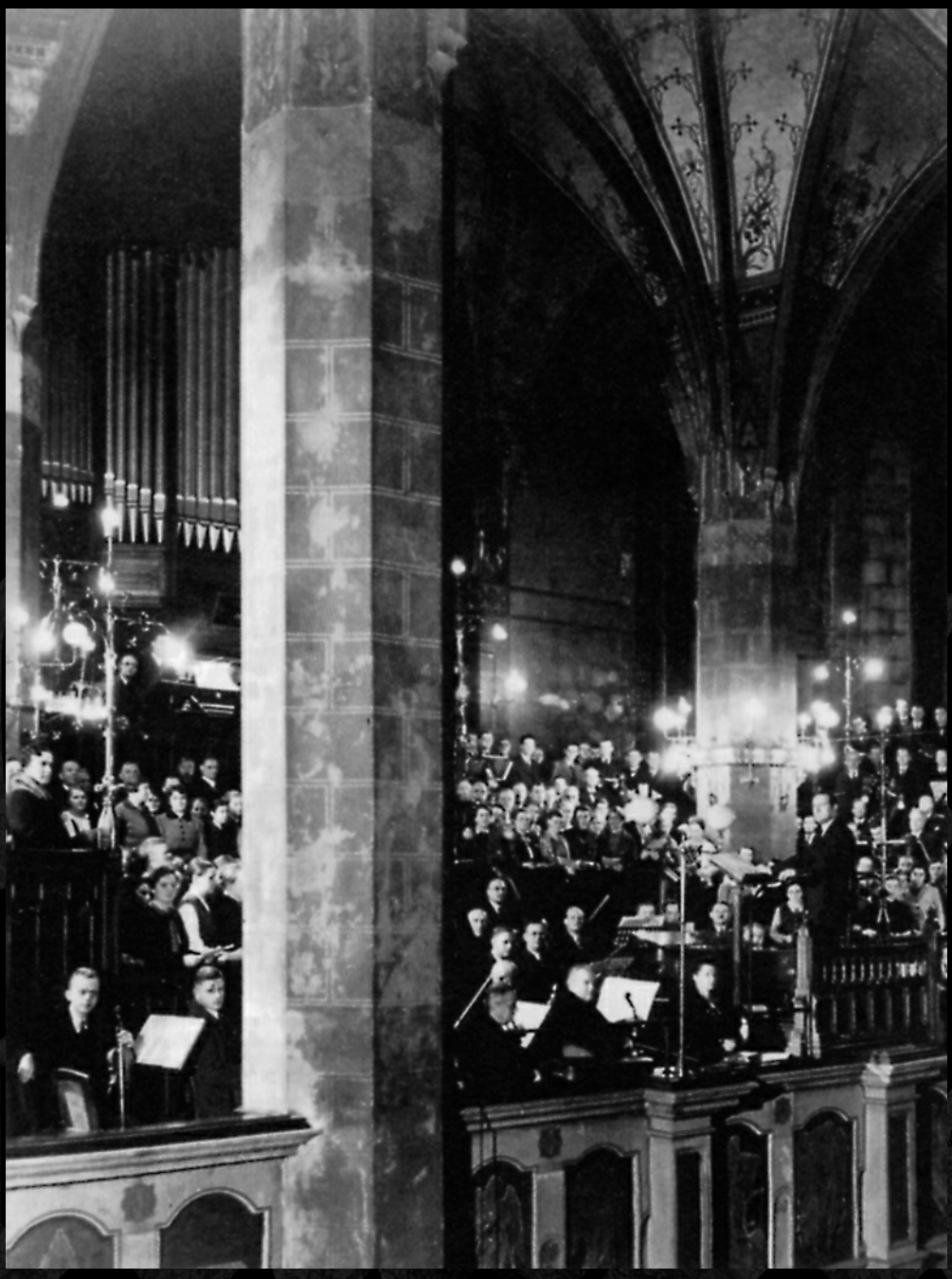


Sunday, 20 February 1944 (afternoon)

More than 200 bombers of the 8th U.S. Air Force attack industrial facilities in the north-east of Leipzig, using about 700 tons of bombs. In total, about 970 people have died, most of them during the British night-raid. Amongst others, the second « Gewandhaus » Concert Hall (designed by Martin Gropius) , located on the south-side of the « Karl-Marx-Platz » (opposite the main-entrance to the University Library) , is almost totally destroyed (the roof having collapsed completely) as a result of the incendiary bombings. Valuable orchestral instruments, the organ and the sheet-music archive are destroyed by the flames.

The marble bust of Anton Bruckner (the first on German soil) , executed in 1931 by the sculptor Fritz Zalisz (commissioned by Doctor Emil Theodor Anton Armbruster) , has miraculously survived !!

Bruckner Choir, Leipzig



Wednesday, 23 February 1944

Fourth and last concert in Leipzig of the « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » under Professor Günther Ramín.
The concert given at the « Thomas-Kirche » was originally intended to take place in the concert-hall of the « Gewandhaus »
but the destruction of the building during the bombing raid, the Sunday before, forced to re-schedule the event.

Programmed work

Giuseppe Verdi : « Messa da Requiem » (in memory of Alessandro Manzoni) for 4 soloists, double-choir and orchestra.

Lord Mayor Franz Langoth

February 1944

The « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, August Eigruber, feels compelled to clarify things in a letter to the Lord Mayor of Linz, Franz Langoth :

« The " Bruckner Orchestra " of the Great German Broadcasting Corporation is a " Reich " orchestra which is based in St. Florian or currently in Linz and is, by no means, to be addressed as a municipal or regional orchestra. »

Albert Speer, Organisation Todt

The Minister's limited ability to win over his staff was not solely a matter of his lack of warmth and camaraderie. Albert Speer made his first attempts to do something about this in Spring 1944, when his political star was again on the wane and the Ministry was threatening to fall apart, by using irony and symbolic gestures.

During Armaments Conferences, Speer would prefer, instead of throwing a party, to put on a formal programme of Anton Bruckner's music played under a Baroque ceiling, with something like a one-off exhibition on « the synthesis of art and war » .

Wednesday, 19 April 1944

Average net paid circulation for March exceeded
Daily---2,000,000
Sunday-3,700,000

DAILY NEWS
Copr. 1944 by News Syndicate Co. Inc. NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off

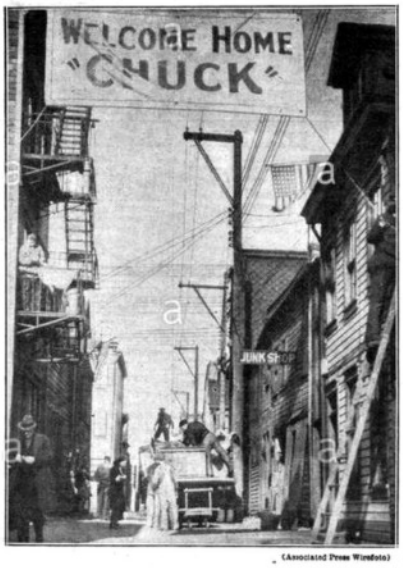
FINAL

Vol. 25. No. 256 New York, Wednesday, April 19, 1944* 52 Main + 8 Brooklyn Pages 2 Cents IN CITY LIMITS | 3 CENTS Elsewhere

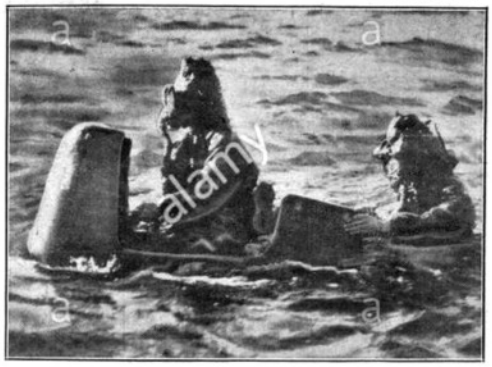
U. S. BOMBERS ROCK BERLIN

Blast Plane Plants, Destroy 34 Nazi Aircraft, Lose 25

Story on Page 3



(Associated Press Wirephoto)



(Acme Radiofoto)

Two Men in a Torpedo. British "human torpedo," manned by two men, charges through the ocean toward an enemy mark. Revelation of successful use of torpedo in attack on Palermo Naval Base, Sicily, was made yesterday. Pilots of tin fish, attired in diving suits, guide it to mark, attach fuse for charge and scoot away. —Story on page 3

To Welcome Kelly. Neighbors of Sergt. Charles E. (Commando) Kelly festoon the streets [←] in Pittsburgh with banners and flags. Kelly's coming home to Shawano St. soon. The city is preparing a tremendous welcome for its conquering hero.

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Wednesday, 19 April 1944

Special evening concert organized by Doctor Josef Gœbbels and the Nazi Party at the « Staatsoper Unter den Linden » in Berlin on the eve of Adolf Hitler's 55th Birthday. Gœbbels's radio broadcast speech to the German people is still promising victory, somehow the « Führer » will achieve this despite the apocalyptic scenes facing Germany.

The « Führer » decides that the « Bruckner-Orchester St. Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » will henceforth be under his protectorate, and be re-named the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » . On his order, the orchestra is preparing to hold its first major public concert to be broadcast live on radio throughout the « Reich » .

Adolf Hitler's 55th birthday

Thursday, 20 April 1944

Berlin : Although Wilhelm Furtwängler already assured he will conduct the St. Florian festive concert (he even approved the elaborate menu of the opening dinner) , the event is canceled due to the unfavourable war situation.

Linz : The armament factories (« Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel-Works ») are no longer spared from the hail of bombs.

Monastery of St. Florian : A simple stew dinner is served to the « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier by 6 « Waffen-SS » men coming from the Nazi concentration-camp of Mauthausen, which is located around 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Linz.

29 April 1944, Berlin

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Berlin, 1944

Berlin, 1944

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Wiener Neustadt, 23 April 1944

The 317th Bombardment Squadron bombed the Wiener Neustadt aircraft factory. The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress dropped more bombs than any other U.S. aircraft in World War II. Of approximately 1.5 million tons of bombs dropped on Nazi Germany and its occupied territories by U.S. aircraft, over 640,000 tons were dropped from B-17s.

Linz, April 1944

Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber flying over Linz.

The B-24 was used extensively in World War II. It served in every branch of the American armed forces as well as several Allied air forces and navies. It saw use in every theatre of operations. Along with the B-17, the B-24 was the mainstay of the U.S. strategic bombing campaign in Western Europe.

The Governer and the Lord Mayor

Upper-Danube « Gauleiter » August Eigruber and Linz Lord Mayor Leo Sturma

Glasmeier's swimming pool

April 1944

While the War claims its victims everywhere in the « Reich » , Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier continues to lead an extravagant life - thriving on reckless spending that are no longer appropriate at that time. The project to build a swimming pool below the eastern wall of the monastery (which Glasmeier promotes as an emergency water basin for the fire-fighters from the nearby station, but, in reality, is solely reserved for himself and for his distinguished guests) only fails because of the fierce opposition of the Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, Doctor Josef Gœbbels.

The firemen of St. Florian

Wiener Neustadt, 10 May 1944

The 456th Bombardment Group bombed an aircraft factory at Wiener Neustadt after the other groups turned back because of bad weather. Of 31 aircrafts, 5 were shot down (including the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress of Jacob E. Smart) , and the unit earned the Distinguished Unit Citation.

The targets in and around Wiener Neustadt included the marshalling yards, the « Wiener Neustädter Flugzeugwerke » (WNF) aircraft factory (effectively an extension of Messerschmitt) and the « Raxwerke » plants of « Wiener Neustädter Lokomotivfabrik » (two of which used forced labour from the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp) .

Werner Naumann

Friday, 19 May 1944

Letter from the « Reich » State Secretary Doctor Werner Naumann to Doctor Heinz Drewes, the director of the « Reich » Music Examination Office at the Propaganda Ministry :

« The Minister has taken note of Doctor Glasmeier's letter and considers that, in principle, no foreigners should be admitted in the " Bruckner Orchestra ". (...) »

Professor Michael Schneider

May 1944

Since Günther Ramín is unable to reconcile his role as choir-master of the « " Reich " Bruckner Choir » of Leipzig with his duties as Cantor of St. Thomas Church after the choir moved to the Austrian city of Linz, the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany (« Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk ») is keen to persuade Michael Schneider to take on the job.

Professor Michael Schneider

May 1944

Professor Michael Schneider, one of the finest organists in Germany, is persuaded to take-up the position in Linz. The need for an organist who can play the « Bruckner Organ » at the monastery of St. Florian is one of the reasons for his appointment.

Adolf Hitler's « Berghof » in Obersalzberg

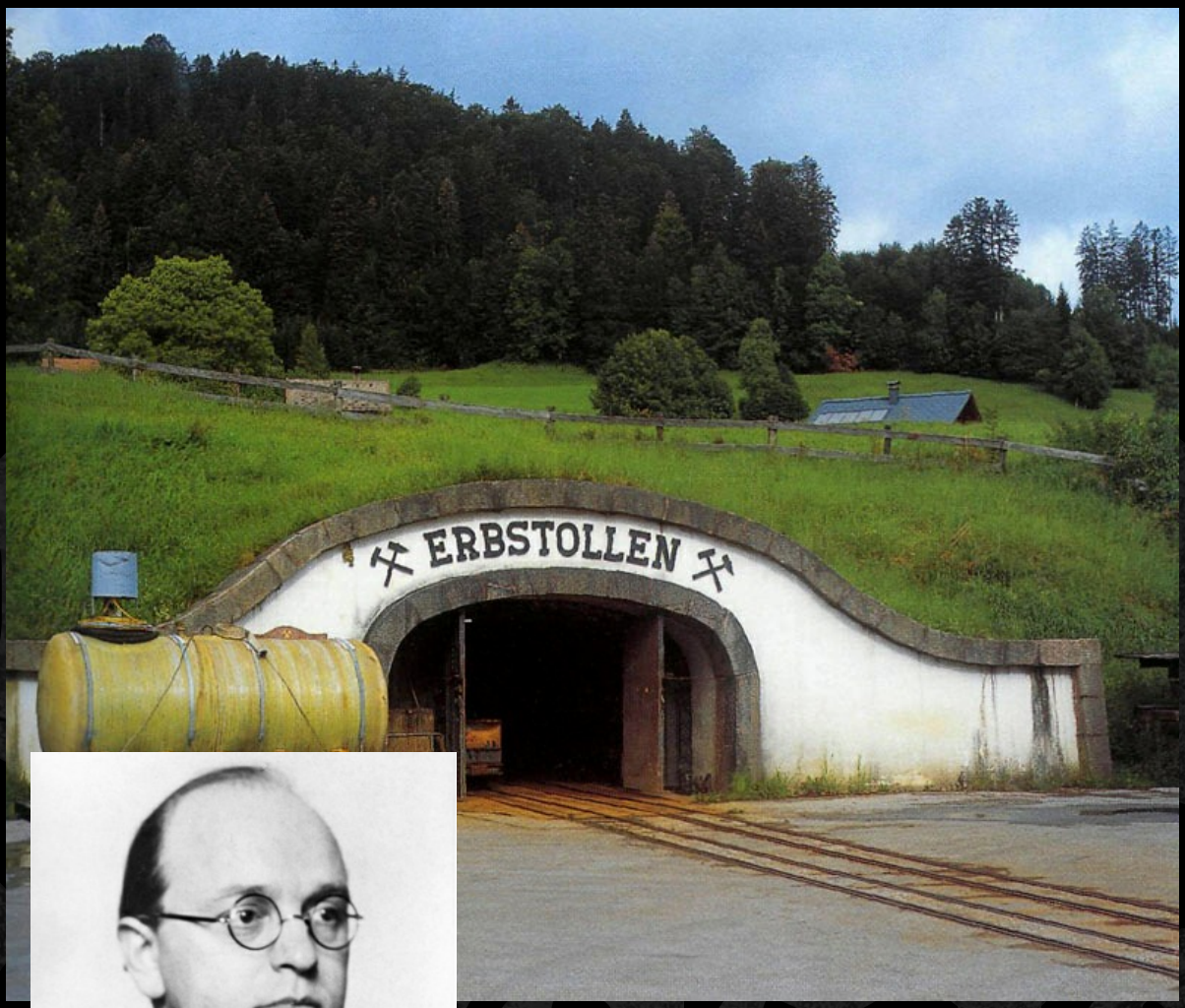
Wednesday, 31 May 1944

Letter from Doctor Gustav Adolf Schwaiger, Heinrich Glasmeier's technical collaborator in St. Florian, to Doctor Müller in Berchtesgaden (Bavarian Alps) :

Professor Schwaiger pushes for the establishment of a powerful radio station in Obersalzberg, where Adolf Hitler's « Berghof » is located. He also suggests that the April 6 nation-wide broadcast of the tape-recording of Anton Bruckner's Seventh Symphony (WAB 107) , featuring the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » under music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum, be re-broadcast, so that the « Führer » would finally have the opportunity to listen to it.

Hitler first visited the Obersalzberg region in 1923. 4 years later, he settled there, gradually re-shaping the area as his Party rose to power. During the War, this idyllic mountain-side became, in many ways, the epicentre of Nazi might, serving as a private retreat for both Hitler as well as members of his inner-circle.

Erbstollen in Altaussee

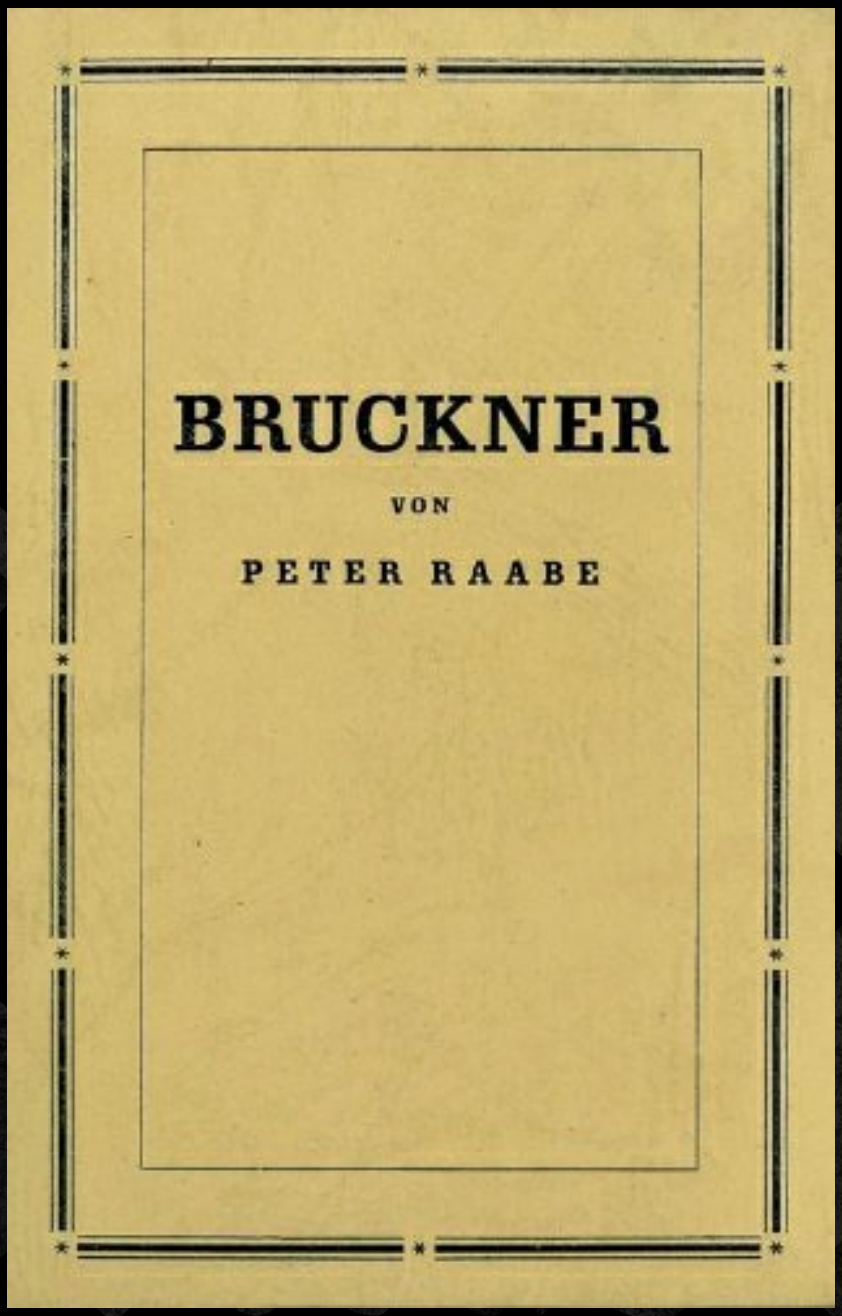


Tuesday, 6 June 1944

Doctor Johannes Hollnsteiner, the director of the archive and art-collections, and the librarian of the former « Stiftsbibliothek » , makes a fourth and ultimate salvage trip, this time to the town of Erbstollen in the Styrian region of Altaussee. It mostly consists in hand-written documents from Anton Bruckner's estate of St. Florian.

Erbstollen in Altaussee

Professor Peter Raabe



1944

Professor Peter Raabe. « Wege zu Bruckner » , Gustav Bosse Verlag, Regensburg.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Saturday, 15 June 1944

Funeral ceremonies of Vinzenz Hartl, the Provost of the monastery of St. Florian. The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier is allegedly strictly forbidden by Doctor Josef Gœbbels himself to attend the burial (as he had intended) which takes place in the priests' cemetery of the monastery. According to witnesses, Glasmeier followed the event from a window.

Immediately after, in the Prelate's sacristy, Leopold Hager is appointed the 54th member of the ecclesiastical Chapter in front of all the elected members under the direction of Convisitor Alipius Joseph Linda, the former Provost of the Augustinian monastery of Klosterneuburg near Vienna.

Linda was Provost from 1937 to 1953, and Abbot General from 1946 to 1953. He led the community during the difficult years of the War. He and the community were heavily abused with slander and aggression by the Nazis and eventually were thrown out of their house. Fortunately, they were able to return after the War and found the canonry intact despite the fact that it had been occupied by the Russians.

Heinrich Glasmeier

Heinrich Glasmeier's finger ring

Heinrich Glasmeier

Heinrich Glasmeier's insignas from his Waffen-SS black uniform

Heinrich Glasmeier

Heinrich Glasmeier's insignas from his Waffen-SS black uniform

Hans Fritzsche

Saturday, 17 June 1944

Hans Fritzsche, the head of Radio Broadcasting at the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, arranges for a copy consisting of 5 individual boxes (taken from the holdings of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany) of Anton Bruckner's Seventh Symphony by the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » under music director Georg-Ludwig Jochum to be sent by secured courier from Berlin to the « Berghof » near Berchtesgaden. Adolf Hitler could then play these magnetic tapes on his « AEG K5 Magnetophon » , a personal gift from Doctor Josef Gœbbels.

AEG Magnetophon K5

Saturday, 17 June 1944

Hans Fritzsche, the « head of Radio Broadcasting » at the Culture Ministry of Doctor Josef Gœbbels, arranges for a copy consisting of 5 individual volumes (taken from the holdings of the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany) of the April 20th evening broadcast of Anton Bruckner's Seventh Symphony (WAB 107) by the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » under music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum to be sent by secured courier from Berlin to the « Berghof » in the Obersalzberg of the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden. Adolf Hitler could then play these magnetic tapes on his « AEG K5 Magnetophon » before returning to the « Wolfs-Schanze » (Wolf's Lair) headquarters on Friday, July 14. (Instead of the planned special anniversary-concert, the tape-recording of the Seventh Symphony produced at the « große Sende-Saal » (Hall 1) of the « Reichs-Sender » (« Funkhaus ») in Vienna on Thursday, April 6 was broadcast nation-wide.)

Albert Speer and Bruckner's Fourth

Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 June 1944

The city of Linz is the host of the (last) « Great German » Armament Conference under « Reich » Minister Albert Speer.

Sunday, 25 June 1944

Speer concludes the Conference by giving a speech. Accompanied by high-ranking military and business representatives, he then visits the « Bruckner Monastery » . The « Reich » Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier welcomes the prestigious delegation with fanfare music (composed by Vinzenz Goller ?) performed from the tower of the Collegiate Church.
Afternoon concert performance : Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major, « Romantic » (WAB 104) .
(Photo) : Front-row, from left to right : August Eigruber, Albert Speer, Heinrich Glasmeier.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Monday, 26 June 1944

Studio recording at the « große Sende-Saal » (Hall I) of the « Reichs-Sender » (« Funkhaus ») on « Argentinier-Straße » in the 4th District of Vienna of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 6 (WAB 106, 1881 version edited by Robert Haas in 1935) with music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducting the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Summer refectory, St. Florian

Sunday, 9 July 1944

Morning chamber concert held in the summer refectory of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian featuring the joint forces of the Steiner String Quartet (Heinrich Steiner : ? ; Adolf Steiner, violoncello ; ...) and a wind octet ensemble composed of members of the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester des Deutschen Rundfunks » - all placed under music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum.

Programme

Johann Christian Bach : « Sinfonia » in B-flat major, Opus 18, No. 2.

Ottorino Respighi : « Trittico Botticelliano » (Botticelli Triptych) , 3 movements for orchestra (1927) .

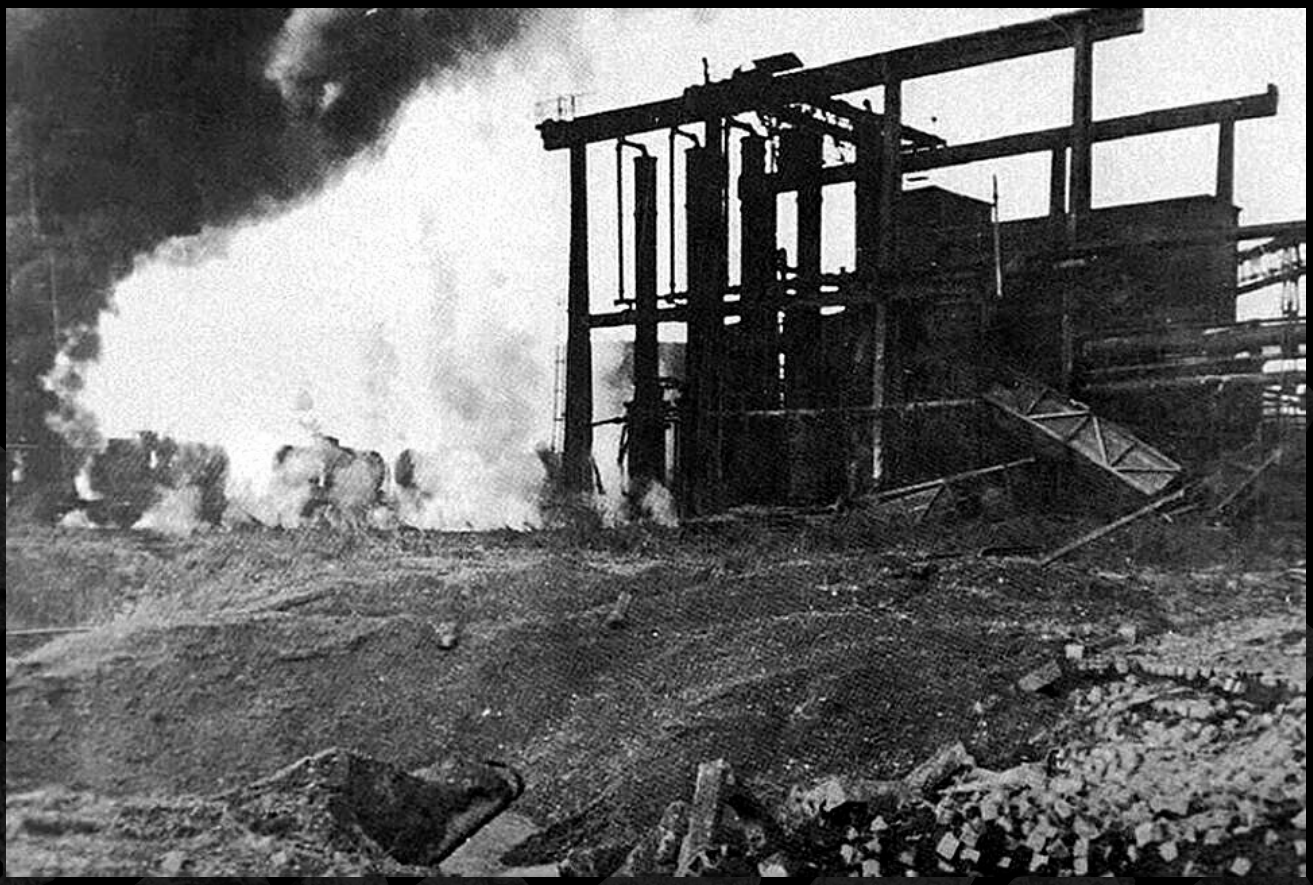
Claude Debussy : « Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune » .

St. Florian Monastery

Sunday, 16 July 1944

Following the « Bruckner Organ » recital at the Collegiate Church, a chamber music concert featuring members of the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester des Deutschen Rundfunks » is held in the Imperial Marble Hall (« Marmor-Saal ») of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian.

Hermann Göring Steel Works, Linz



July 1944

First Allied air-strikes targeting the armament factories of the « Hermann Göring " Reich " Steel Works » , located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz. Although St. Florian and Pulgarn near Steyregg are located not so far from Allied bombings which target the Linz area, both monasteries are spared from collateral damage. Plans to use camouflage paint on the building complex of the monastery of St. Florian - as was the case for the Benedictine monastery of Kremsmünster near Linz - are finally discarded. The presence of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation is probably protecting the site (with a few exceptions) from other harmful third party use. Nevertheless, labourers from the Linz armament factories are quartered in the 12 Imperial Rooms of the monastery.

St. Florian Monastery

July 1944

First Allied air-strikes targeting the armament factories of Hermann Göring located in St. Valentin - St. Peter near Linz. Although St. Florian and Pulgarn near Steyregg are located not so far from Allied bombings which target the Linz area, both monasteries are spared from collateral damage. Plans to use camouflage paint on the building complex of the monastery of St. Florian - as was the case for the Benedictine monastery of Kremsmünster near Linz - are finally discarded. The presence of the « Reich » Broadcasting Corporation is probably protecting the site (with a few exceptions) from other harmful third-party use. Nevertheless, labourers from the Linz armament factories are quartered in the 12 Imperial Rooms of the monastery.

Leopold Gutterer

Monday, 14 August 1944

Letter from Herbert von Karajan to « Reich » State Secretary Leopold Gutterer :

« The " Herr Reich " Intendant (Glasmeier) would like to give permission to the " Reich " Bruckner Orchestra to appear at " Immortal Music (of German Masters) " with me. I recently conducted the orchestra and can absolutely make it perform at its best. »

The « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier takes Karajan's positive assessment and the extraordinary success of his St. Florian concert as a great opportunity to allow (probably with the Maestro's benediction) the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester des Deutschen Rundfunks » to be part of the Sunday radio series produced by the « Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk » entitled « Immortal Music of German Masters » , which is reserved for the best German orchestras who are so rich in tradition (Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Prussian State Orchestra, Saxon State Orchestra, Bavarian State Orchestra) . The admission of the Linz « Bruckner » Orchestra, which has been put together only 2 years ago, would mean absolute recognition or equal status. It is important to note that the radio program always opens with the festive, blaring trumpet fanfares from Anton Bruckner's Third Symphony (WAB 103) .

Salzburg, 1944

Monday, 14 to Wednesday, 16 August 1944

The Salzburg « Summer of Theatre and Music » is cancelled. Only 2 symphonic concerts are authorized to replace the festival, due to the proclamation of « Total War » and the ban on all festivals after the attempted assasination on Adolf Hitler on July 20th.

Professor Michael Schneider

Sunday, 27 August 1944

Music-director Michael Schneider conducts the « " Reich " Bruckner-Chor » and members of the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » in a concert which takes place at the Imperial Marble Hall (« Kaiserliche Marmor-Saal ») of the securalized monastery of St. Florian. Although his status as choir-master will not last long due to the War, Professor Schneider gives numerous concerts with the choir.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum, Neuer Dom

1944

Music director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducts the « Reichs-Bruckner-Chor »
from the balcony of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Linz.

Georg-Ludwig Jochum

Tuesday, 5 and Thursday, 7 September 1944

Recording sessions at the « große Sende-Saal » (Hall I) of the « Reichs-Sender » (« Funkhaus ») on « Argentinier-Straße » in the 4th District of Vienna of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 2 in C minor (WAB 102, hybrid version edited by Robert Haas in 1938) with the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » conducted by music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum.

Beethoven Hall, Berlin

Wednesday, 6 September 1944

Meeting at the « Haus des Rundfunks » in Berlin in the presence of Hans Fritzsche, the head of Radio Broadcasting at the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, concerning the planning of the October schedule of the Sunday radio series « Immortal Music of German Masters » produced by the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany. Among the discussed topics : The participation of the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » is to be suspended until some questions are clarified. Having only the « Bruckner Orchestra » in mind, Herbert von Karajan is neglecting his ongoing projects, including the final recording sessions of the Eighth Symphony in C minor (WAB 108) with the Orchestra of the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » (which will take place on September 29) . Is the « Beethoven Hall » (« Beethoven-Saal ») on « Köthener-Straße » , nearby the ruins of the old « Philharmonie » , can be used for broadcasting ?

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

Sunday, 17 September 1944

Large festive hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) located on « Landstraße » in the inner-city of Linz. Farewell public concert of music-director Michael Schneider conducting the « Bruckner-Chor Sankt Florian des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Mass No. 2 in E minor for 8 part mixed-choir and wind ensemble (WAB 27)

Herbert von Karajan

Friday, 29 September 1944

Experimental stereophonic recording sessions at the « große Sende-Saal » (Hall 1) of the « Haus des Rundfunks » (« Zentrale des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks ») on « Masuren-Allee » in Berlin of the fourth movement of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 8 in C minor (WAB 108, hybrid version of 1887-1890 edited by Robert Haas, 1935-1939) with the « Reichs-Kapellmeister » (principal music-director) Herbert von Karajan and the Orchestra of the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » . « Groß-Deutscher Rundfunk's » sound-engineer Helmut Krüger this time uses a stereo « AEG K7 Magnetophon » and installs additional microphones, without Karajan's knowledge.

(Picture) Herbert von Karajan and the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » during a recording session at the DGG studios located in the old « Carl-Theater » on « Alte Jakobstraße » . Recordings are made with 2 machines running simultaneously, juste to be safe.

Robert Hohlbaum

Thursday, 5 and Friday, 6 October 1944

The Austrian-German librarian and playwright Robert Hohlbaum visits the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian. He meets the « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier. The two literate men are discussing the project of writing an illustrated novel about the life of Anton Bruckner.

Salzburg Festival (1944)

Saturday, 7 October 1944

Special symphonic concert given at the « Großes Festspielhaus » in Salzburg (after the cancellation of the festival) .
Music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducts the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, original version of 1878 edited by Robert Haas in 1935 (WAB 105)

Salzburg, 16 October 1944

Consolidated B-24 Liberators from the 460th Bomb Group target the city-centre of Salzburg, destroying the dome of the Cathedral and two-thirds of the Mozart residence located on « Hannibal-Platz » .

15 air-strikes kill 547 inhabitants, destroying or damaging 46 % of the buildings (7,600) , especially those around the Salzburg railway station.

Glasmeier welcomes Furtwängler

Tuesday, 3 and Saturday, 7 October 1944

Concert given at the « Beethoven-Saal » in Berlin, next to the ruins of the old « Philharmonie » on « Bernauerstraße » .
The hall is empty, relieved of its usual audience studded with Nazi « élite » seeking a brief cultured respite from the stresses of War.
Wilhelm Furtwängler conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Symphony No. 9 in D minor, original version edited by Alfred Orel in 1934 (WAB 109)

The orchestra is on stage, awaiting its cue. Furtwängler stands awkwardly on the podium. The vague meandering of his baton summons the first shadowy note of Bruckner's Ninth. A radio engineer of the « Haus des Rundfunks » starts his « AEG Magnetophon » ...
After the recording, Furtwängler leaves with his wife Elisabeth heading towards the monastery of St. Florian.

Wednesday, 11 October 1944

Special anniversary concert honouring the death of the composer, which concludes the Bruckner cycle performed at the Collegiate Church of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian. Wilhelm Furtwängler conducts the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Symphony No. 9 in D minor, original version edited by Alfred Orel in 1934 (WAB 109)

This symphony was the first work Furtwängler ever conducted in public, and remained one of his favourites.

Wilhelm Furtwängler at St. Florian

« Reich » Broadcasting Intendant Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier (front right) welcomes Wilhelm and Elisabeth Furtwängler at the Bruckner Monastery.

Wednesday, 11 October 1944

Special anniversary concert honouring the death of the composer, which concludes the Bruckner cycle performed at the Collegiate Church of the « Bruckner Monastery » of St. Florian. The audience is made up of armaments workers, members of the « Wehrmacht » and members of the large Bruckner community of Upper-Danube. Wilhelm Furtwängler conducts the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Programme

Symphony No. 9 in D minor, original version edited by Alfred Orel in 1934 (WAB 109)

(This will become his last performance of the work.)

Several papers such as the « Oberdonau-Zeitung » , the « Schlesische Zeitung » , the « Brünner Tageblatt » , and the « Königsberger Allgemeine Zeitung » write about the concert.

Herbert Caspers reports in the « Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung » :

« On request of the " Reich " Intendant Glasmeier, the " Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks " played in the Baroque church of St. Florian (where Bruckner is buried beside his beloved organ) the composer's last work, the Ninth Symphony in its original version. The most famous conductors have conducted the Radio Orchestra of Greater Germany. This year, it was Furtwängler who conducted Bruckner's " swan song ". The performance was of unearthly beauty and all-impressive sound fullness. »

Furtwängler defends G-L Jochum

Wednesday, October 1944

During the post-concert gala dinner honouring Furtwängler, in the presence of « Gauleiter » August Eigruber, which is held in one of the large halls of the monastery (probably the summer refectory) , the « Reich » Broadcasting Intendant makes it clear that the time has come to replace Georg-Ludwig Jochum with a real master-conductor ...

Glasmeier, who is sitting next to « Frau » Jochum, casually drops the remark :
« Once your husband completes his military service, he will have reach the peak of his musical career.
The order to report for duty has arrived. »

Everyone at the table is stunned. Outraged, Furtwängler replies :
« That is out of the question ! Jochum has now done all the orchestra's preparation work, and must continue. It would be unfair if someone else - I have my suspicions - was allowed to take the position under his nose. I'm calling Doctor Gœbbels today to prevent this to happen. »

The matter will never come up again, and Jochum won't be drafted.

Photo, 1940 : Reception given for members of the « Reich » Chamber of Culture.
Magda Gœbbels, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Josef Gœbbels, Zitla Furtwängler.

Hans Fritzsche

Thursday, 12 October 1944

Letter from Hans Fritzsche, the head of the radio department at the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, to « SS-Brigade-Führer » Leopold Gutterer, the State Secretary at the Propaganda Ministry :

Fritzsche complains that the studio recording of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 8 by the « Reichs-Kapellmeister » (principal music director) Herbert von Karajan and the Orchestra of the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » at the « Haus des Rundfunks » (« Zentrale des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks ») was, according to him, overly time-consuming (i.e., multiple recording sessions - monophonic, stereophonic) . For this reason, Fritzsche considers that Karajan should not be the first one to conduct the work with the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Leopold Gutterer

Thursday, 12 October 1944

Letter from Hans Fritzsche, the head of the radio department at the « Reich » Chamber of Culture, to « SS-Brigade-Führer » Leopold Gutterer, the State Secretary at the Propaganda Ministry :

Fritzsche complains that the studio recording at the « Haus des Rundfunks » of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 8 in C minor (WAB 108) by the « Reichs-Kapellmeister » (principal music-director) Herbert von Karajan and the Orchestra of the « Preußische Staatskapelle Berlin » was, according to him, overly time-consuming (i.e. , multiple recording sessions - monophonic, stereophonic) . For this reason, Fritzsche considers that Karajan should not be the first one to conduct the work with the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

« Stadt-Theater » , Steyr

Tuesday, 17 October 1944

Symphonic concert given at the Municipal Theatre of Steyr located at « Volks-Straße » Number 5 :

Music-director Georg-Ludwig Jochum conducts the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » .

Programme

Anton Bruckner : Symphony No. 2 in C minor, hybrid version edited by Robert Haas in 1938 (WAB 102) .

« Stadt-Theater » , Steyr

The imposing building was inaugurated on Saturday, 28 May 1898 under the name « Emperor Franz-Josef's Industrial and Trade Exhibition Hall » . The hall was converted in 1924 into a 900 seat public cinema theatre and concert-hall.

Karl Böhm

Karl Böhm at the podium of the old « Philharmonie » in Berlin.

Still picture from the National-Socialist propaganda film « Philharmoniker »
which was officially released in Germany on December 4, 1944.
The Berlin premiere was held at the « Tauentzien Palast » on « Tauentzien-Straße » .

Herbert von Karajan

1-12	**Bach:** The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080	45:19
	Abridged Version for String Orchestra	
	I. Contrapunctus 1	03:37
	II. Contrapunctus 3	03:15
	III. Contrapunctus 2	03:08
	IV. Contrapunctus 4	04:35
	V. Contrapunctus 9, a 4, alla Duodecima	02:49
	VI. Contrapunctus 10, a 4, alla Decima	03:06
	VII. Contrapunctus 5	03:08
	VIII. Contrapunctus 6	04:50
	IX. Contrapunctus 11	05:00
	X. Contrapunctus 12, a 4 (rectus)	01:50
	XI. Contrapunctus 12, a 4 (inversus)	01:53
	XII. Fuga a 3 Soggetti (Fragment, unfinished)	07:03

Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester des Großdeutschen Rundfunks

HERBERT VON KARAJAN Conductor

Recorded · 14 December 1944 · Linz · Stadttheater · Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft · Radio Studio Recording

melo CLASSIC

MC 5005
From the Original Masters
Booklet enclosed · © · ℗ · 2016 Meloclassic
www.meloclassic.com · www.facebook.com/meloclassic

Thursday, 14 December 1944

Recording of Johann Sebastian Bach's « The Art of Fugue » (BWV 1080) in an abridged version for string orchestra, produced at the State Theatre (« Landestheater ») in Linz by the Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Greater Germany. Herbert von Karajan conducts the « Linzer Reichs-Bruckner Orchester des Groß-Deutschen Rundfunks » . This is one of the few surviving recordings made by this orchestra that was sent (with 120 other tapes) to the RRG in Berlin by Georg-Ludwig Jochum in March 1945.

Graz, 4 March 1945

Mission No. 188 of the 461st Operations Group (U.S. 15th Air Force) .
Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress bombers target the main marshalling rail yard in Graz.

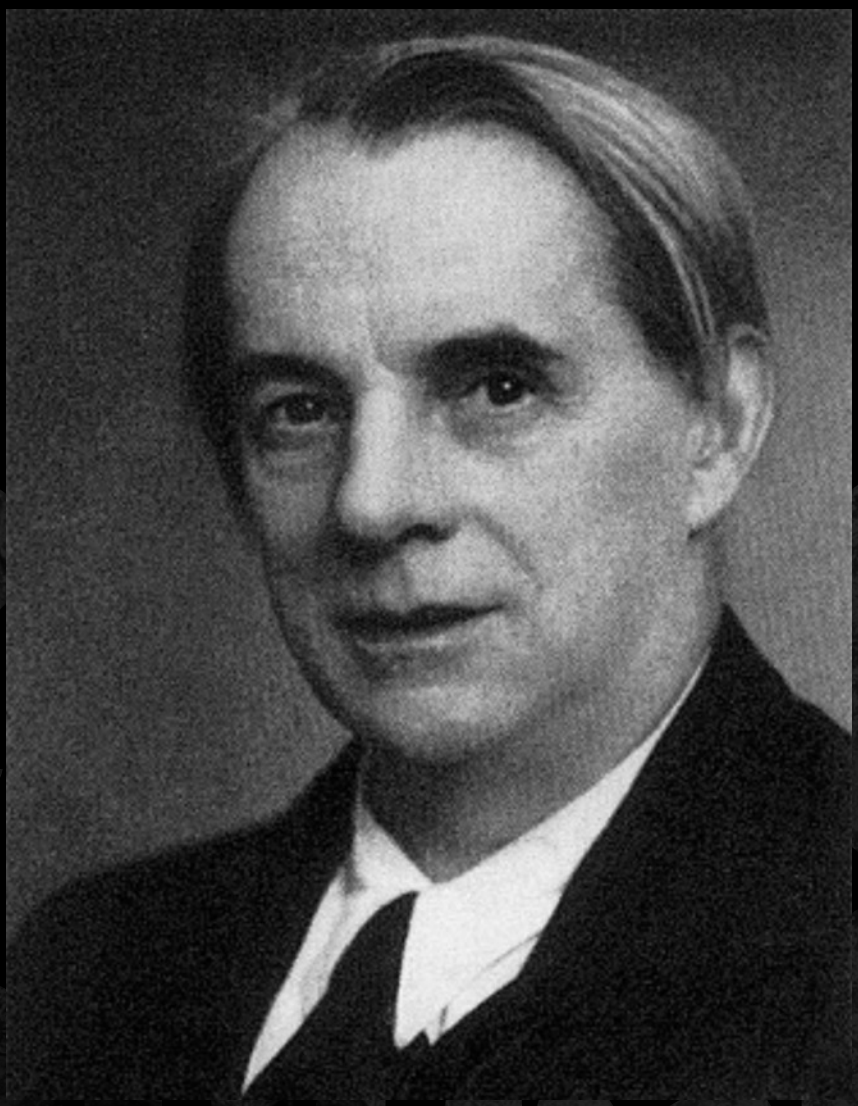
Graz, 4 March 1945

Mission No. 188 of the 461st Operations Group (U.S. 15th Air Force) .
Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress bombers target the main marshalling rail yard in Graz.

Linz, 25 April 1945

The 459th Bombardment Group hits the city of Linz.
By the time it ceased combat operations in April, it had flown nearly 200 combat missions.

Ignaz Brantner



March 1945

The Linz State Theatre (« Landestheater ») is forced to close due to the extensive damage caused by the recent bombardments. Much to the regret of Doctor Franz Danzer, the High-Officer of State in charge of Local Politics and the German Local Council, the request from theatre-director Ignaz Brantner to August Eigruber, the « Gauleiter » of the Upper-Danube region, to release prisoners from the nearby Mauthausen concentration-camp to come and clean-up the site cannot be passed on because the telephone line has been disrupted.

U.S. Invasion of the Upper-Danube

Monday, 30 April to Sunday, 6 May 1945

Invasion of the Upper-Danube territory by the American forces - including the bordering Ausseer Land in the Salzkammergut, in the north-west of Styria.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

During the Battle of Berlin, one Russian battalion branches off and continues west to the « Haus des Rundfunks » . Once the soldiers have taken and occupied the huge building, they encircle it with barbed wire and hold onto it in the face of American and British forces coming from the west.

« Haus des Rundfunks » , Berlin

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

During the Battle of Berlin, one Russian battalion branches off and continues west to the « Haus des Rundfunks » . Once the soldiers have taken and occupied the huge building, they encircle it with barbed wire and hold onto it in the face of American and British forces coming from the west. Consequently, the « Haus » becomes something of a Cold War issue : though it is situated in the British Sector, it is used by the « Berliner Rundfunk » radio station, controlled by the Soviet occupation forces.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

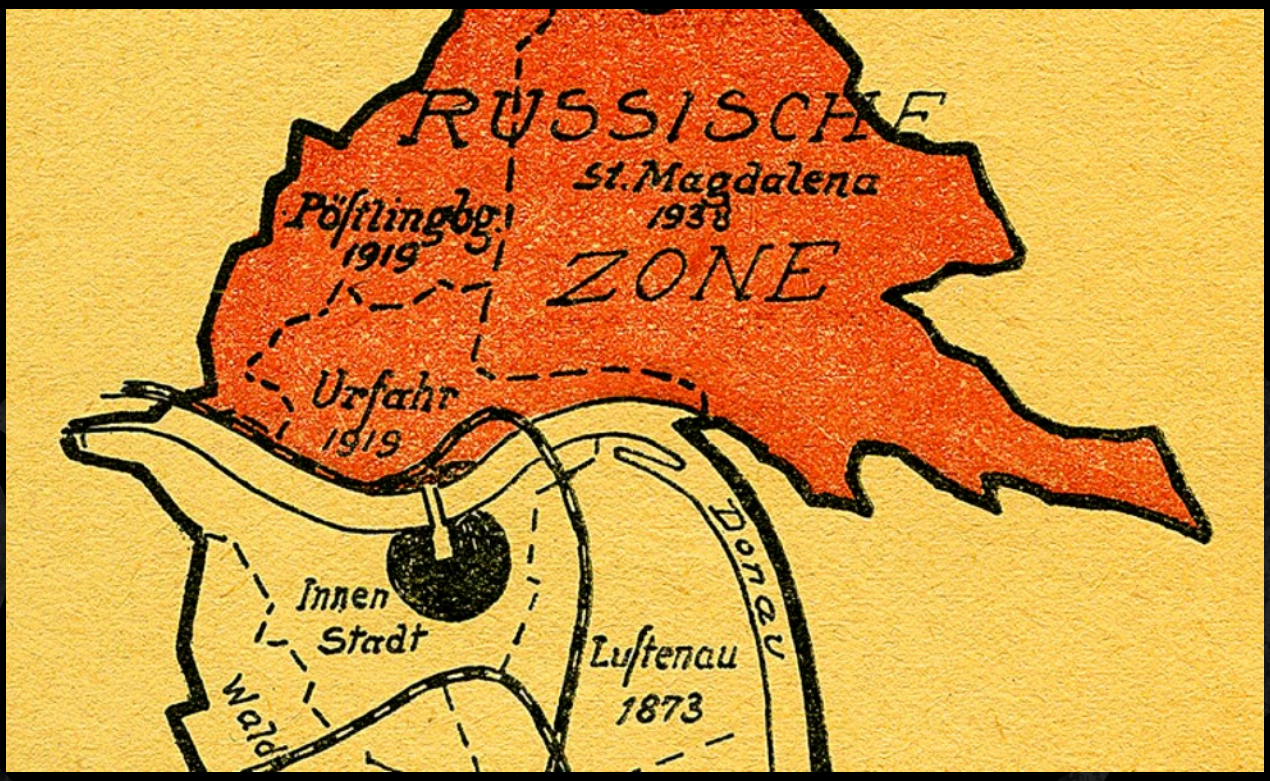
Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Americans meet Soviets near Linz

Wednesday, 2 May 1945

Members of the U.S. 9th Armored Division meet up with Soviet units near Linz.

Linz Occupation Zones



A divided city from 1945 to 1955, with the Danube acting as the demarcation line between the Soviet and the U.S. occupation zones, Linz is temporarily the home to some 40,000 Dps (displaced persons) coming from 25 different nations. Haphazard growth during the Nazi era and war-time bombing-raids have turned the Baroque city into a « city of barracks » .

1945

Linz, 5 May 1945

U.S. Occupation Zone, Linz

5 May 1945

Nibelungen Bridge, Soviet Sector

1945

The Bruckner Monastery Project of Intendant Heinrich Glasmeier

Nibelungen Bridge, Soviet Sector

1945

KZ-Gusen

Sunday, 6 May 1945

The U.S. Army reaches Gusen and Mauthausen. Some prisoners are in such a weakened state that many will still die in the days and weeks after the liberation. Of a total of around 190,000 people from all over Europe imprisoned in the Mauthausen concentration-camp and its sub-camps over 7 years, at least 90,000 died.

KZ-Mauthausen

Sunday, 6 May 1945

The U.S. Army reaches Gusen and Mauthausen. Some prisoners are in such a weakened state that many will still die in the days and weeks after the liberation. Of a total of around 190,000 people from all over Europe imprisoned in the Mauthausen concentration-camp and its sub-camps over 7 years, at least 90,000 died.

Linz, May 1945

Citizens of Linz looking at atrocious pictures taken at the Nazi concentration-camp of Mauthausen.

Landestheater, Linz

The concert-hall of the « Reichs-Bruckner-Orchester » of Linz.

1945

« Volksgarten » Pavilion, Linz

Severely affected by numerous bombing raids in 1944 and 1945, the city of Linz only slowly recovers from its wounds after the end of the War. In addition to many human tragedies, this also means the end of formative buildings such as the « Volksgarten-Salon » . Although a reconstruction is planned, it is finally decided in 1952 to demolish this much-loved venue.

1945

« Volksgarten » Pavilion, Linz

Severely affected by numerous bombing raids in 1944 and 1945, the city of Linz only slowly recovers from its wounds after the end of the War. In addition to many human tragedies, this also means the end of formative buildings such as the « Volksgarten-Salon » . Although a reconstruction is planned, it is finally decided in 1952 to demolish this much-loved venue.

1945

« Landstraße » , Linz

American soldiers patrolling on « Landstraße » in Linz.

1945

« Schillerstraße » , Linz

« Schillerstraße » towards « Landstraße » . In the background on the left, the Colosseum movie theatre.

1945

Stockhofviertel District, Linz

1945

The Happy Abbey !

April-May 1945

The history of the « Bruckner Monastery » in St. Florian finally ends with the advance of the Allies.

Sunday, 6 May 1945

Around 270 American soldiers occupy the building complex of the monastery of St. Florian.
They call the place : « Happy Abbey » !

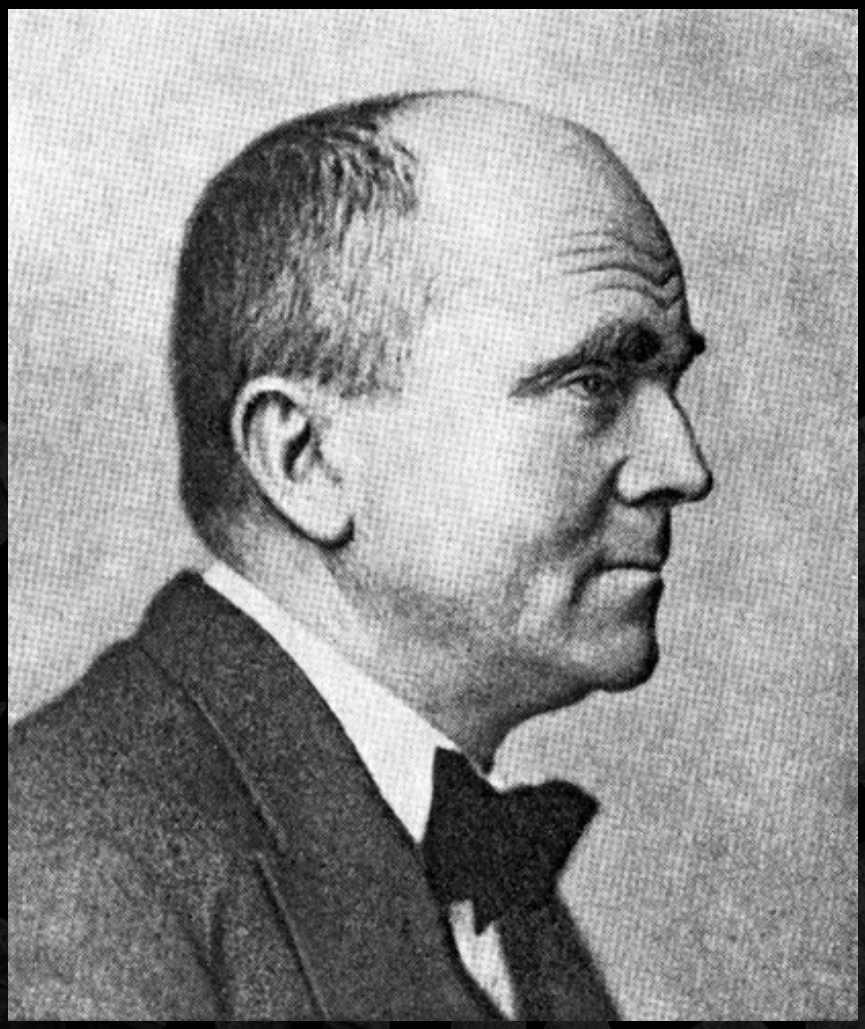
As a privileged witness, Anton Hochreiter (1903-1985) notes in his memoirs :
« They settled down as the new Masters in the Imperial Rooms and rode motorcycles in the long wide corridors. »

Heinrich Glasmeier

Early-May 1945

Shortly before the U.S. troops march into St. Florian, Doctor Heinrich Glasmeier signs the last payment order for his architect Franz Schneider, which, however, can no longer be carried out. According to eye-witness reports, Glasmeier left St. Florian the same day in a Volkswagen bucket-seat military vehicle (« Kubelwagen ») of the « Wehrmacht » with a driver, allegedly armed with tank fists and machine guns, in order to go to the Eastern Front supposedly to stop the Red Army. He is said to have been seen in Kremsmünster and Graz, but then, he got out of sight. Maybe he found death or he swapped his « Waffen-SS » uniform for an inconspicuous civilian suit and went underground. Nobody knows. Everyone in his immediate vicinity assumed that he had voluntarily sought death at the front in accordance with his military code of honour. His family initially remained behind in St. Florian. The German journalist and author Ernst Klee (1942-2013) proposed Wednesday, 31 January 1945 as the date of death.

Robert Hohlbaum



May 1945

Robert Hohlbaum is expelled to the Soviet occupation zone, where he secures his livelihood as an assistant-gardener and goat herder for a few years - but remains faithful to his profession as a writer.

Salt mines of Altaussee, May 1945

Group photo after the recovery of 500 kilogram bombs packed in wooden boxes which were stored in the salt mine complex of Altaussee.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Tuesday, 13 March 1945

The new extensions of the « Reich » Propaganda Ministry designed by architect Karl Reichle are badly damaged by an Allied air-raid, as is the western part of the northern wing (towards « Wilhelmstraße ») with 4 window bays. What has remained are the building sections in the court-yard as far as « Mauerstraße » . The undestroyed parts of the complex are looted by the population in the immediate post-War days.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Tuesday, 13 March 1945

The 18th Century Palace of Prince Friedrich Leopold (« Ordens-Palais ») located on the northern corner of « Wilhelmplatz » , which occupies the centre part of the « Reich » Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, is completely destroyed (burned down) by an Allied air-raid. Its ruins will be cleared in 1949.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Tuesday, 13 March 1945

The new extensions of the « Reich » Ministry designed by architect Karl Reichle are badly damaged, as is the western part of the northern wing (towards « Wilhelmstraße ») with 4 window bays. What has remained are the building sections in the court-yard as far as « Mauerstraße » . The undestroyed parts of the complex are looted by the population.

Propaganda Ministry, Berlin

Tuesday, 13 March 1945

The new extensions of the « Reich » Propaganda Ministry designed by architect Karl Reichle are badly damaged by an Allied air-raid, as is the western part of the northern wing (towards « Wilhelmstraße ») with 4 window bays. What has remained are the building sections in the court-yard as far as « Mauerstraße » . The undestroyed parts of the complex are looted by the population in the immediate post-War days.

Augustinian Abbey, Pulgarn near Steyregg

Sunday, 24 June 1945

After tough negotiations with the American occupational forces, so much space was created in the monastery that it is now possible for the acting Provost Leopold Hager and his Augustinian Canons Regular to finally return to St. Florian after 4 years of exile at the Abbey of Pulgarn near Steyregg.

Funkhaus, Vienna

Summer 1945

The radio technicians of the « Funkhaus » at « Argentinier-Straße » in the 4th District of Vienna are able to assemble a 10 Kilowatt transmitter from parts of damaged military transmitters, and put it into operation.

Rudolf Holzer

Monday, 25 February 1946

Article in the « Wiener Kurier » concerning the re-organization of the « International Bruckner Society » (provisional board-members : Max Auer, Norbert Furreg, Ferdinand Habel, Rudolf Holzer) and the continuation of the « Complete Critical Edition » .

Trial of August Eigruber

Friday, 29 March to Monday, 13 May 1946

The trial of personnel from Mauthausen-Gusen near Linz takes place in the Dachau concentration-camp.

Among the accused are 61 former members of the camp's administration and the former « Gauleiter » August Eigruber who is particularly proud to represent the Upper-Austrian region where Adolf Hitler was born (the town of Braunau-am-Inn near Linz) . The defendants are charged with « violations of the laws and usages of war » , a charge which encompassed among other things murder, torture, beating and starving the inmates.

During his interrogations, Eigruber states to the Americans that, due of his poor education, he had no past experience in dealing with state administration. He points out that it would have taken him 3 years of training to finally be able to perform his duties correctly. It is for this reason that he called upon the help of professionals who were opposed to National-Socialism.

Eigruber sarcastically asks the American investigators, including U.S. prosecutor William Denson :

« Who were the best-paid members of the Vienna Boys' Choir ? »

And answers :

« The members of the (Nazi) " Reichstag ".

Once a year, they get up, sing the " Horst Wessel Lied " and receive 500 " Reich " Marks a month for it. »

« Gewandhaus » , Leipzig

1946

« Palais Kaufmännischer Verein »

Friday, 26 July 1946

Day one of the Bruckner festival in Linz.

Concert given at the large festive hall (ballroom) of the « Palais Kaufmännischer Verein » (House of the Traders' Society) located on « Landstraße » . Presently, the « Landestheater » is not in the best of conditions due to the extensive damage caused by the Allied air-strikes in late-February. Professor Ludwig Daxsperger conducts the Linz Municipal Symphony Orchestra.

Featured choral ensembles : the Linz Cathedral Choir, the Liedertafel « Frohsinn » , the Linz « Bruckner Choir » .
Soloists : Irmgard Seefried (soprano) , Else Schürhoff (contralto) , Anton Dermota (tenor) , Herbert Alsen (bass) .

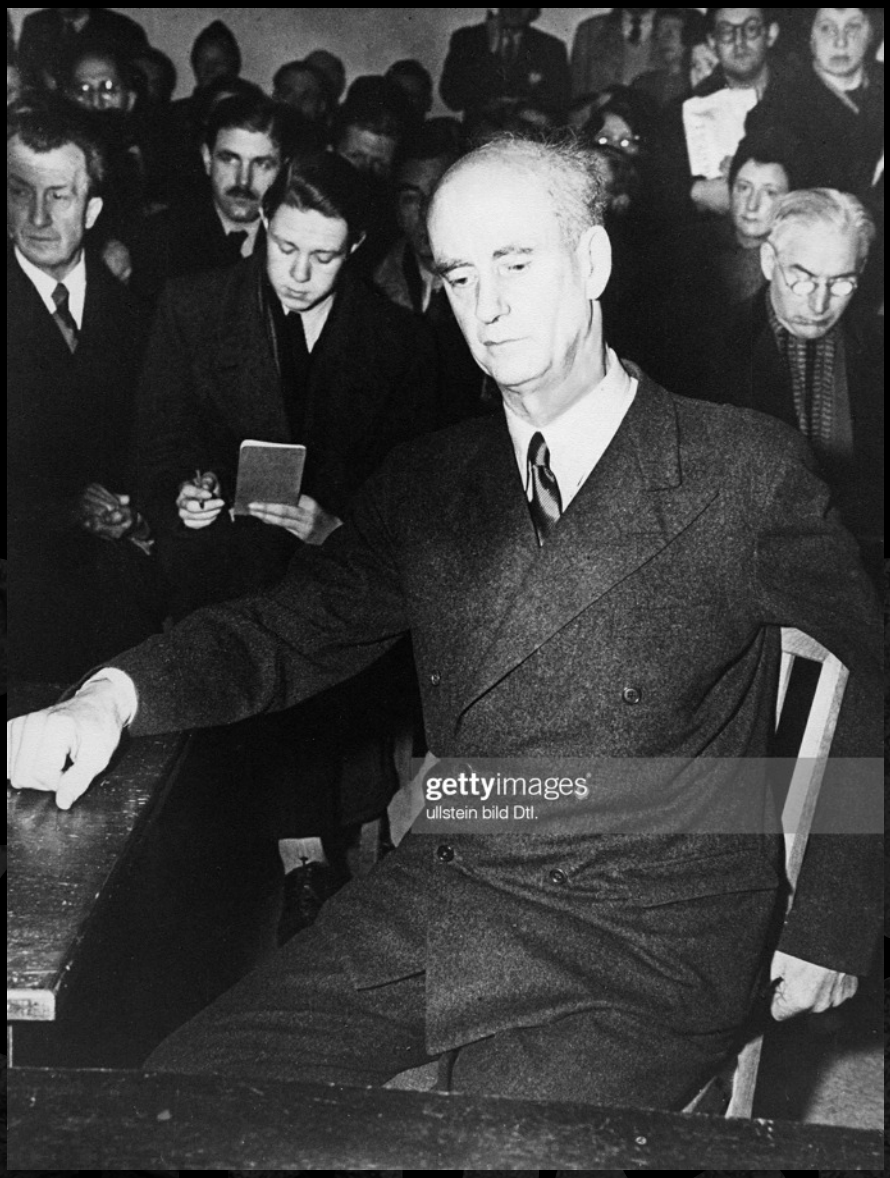
Programme

Mass No. 3 (« The Great ») in F minor for soloists (SATB) , mixed-choir, orchestra and organ « ad libitum » (WAB 28) .

Intermission

« Te Deum » for soloists (SATB) , mixed-choir, orchestra and organ « ad libitum » (WAB 45) .

Wilhelm Furtwängler



Wednesday morning, 11 December 1946

Day one of the Furtwängler trial in Berlin. The charges against him are very low.

The Tribunal for Artists - which is composed of 5 men, 2 women, Soviet chairman Alex Vogel and German principal judge Hans Wolfgang Schmidt - assembles in Room 304 on « Schlütter-Straße » , off the « Kurfürstendamm » in the British occupation zone. Prominent people in the arts, the foreign press corps, musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, clutches of photographers, radio engineers laying down wire and microphones, singers, actors, and a few of the general public who managed to obtain passes pack the small trial chamber. Outside, people unable to get-in assemble and mutter to each other. Most of them feel the denazification process is stupid and insulting. Others complain bitterly that Furtwängler's trial (though it is not officially called a « trial ») has been played up while the inquiries into other artists who have been extremely cooperative with the Nazis are being virtually ignored by the press.

Hans Fritzsche

Monday, 27 January 1947

Hans Fritsche, the former head of the radio department at the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, testifies before the de-Nazification court in Nuremberg. He acknowledges the jurisdiction of the de-Nazification court procedure and pleads for his classification into the parole group.

Cleveland Theatre, Linz

April 1947

Homemade sign promoting the Americanized Cleveland Theatre in Linz.

Cleveland Theatre, Linz

April 1947

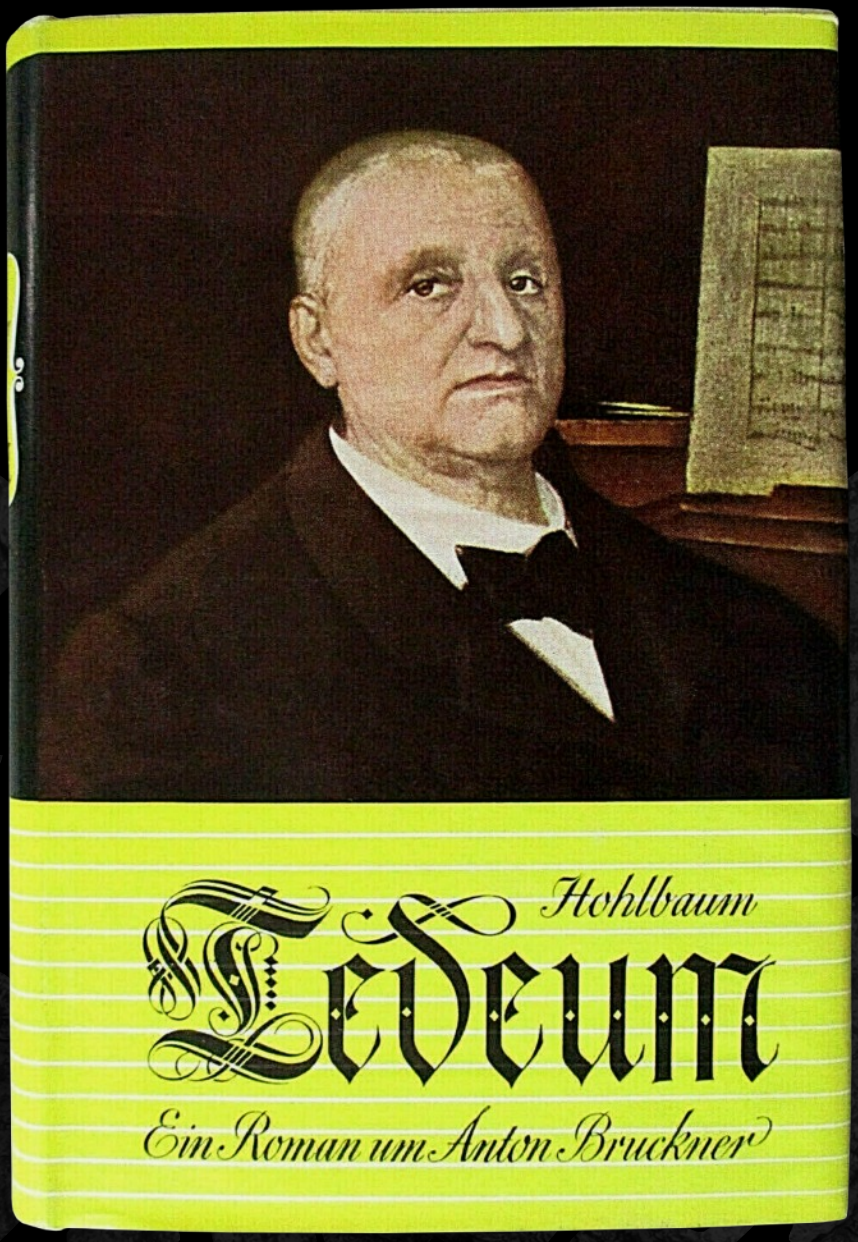
Homemade sign promoting the Americanized Cleveland Theatre in Linz.

Eugen Kurt Fischer

1949

Doctor Eugen Kurt Fischer publishes « Der Rundfunk - Wesen und Wirkung » (Radio broadcasting : essence and effect) , edited by Curt E. Schwab in Stuttgart.

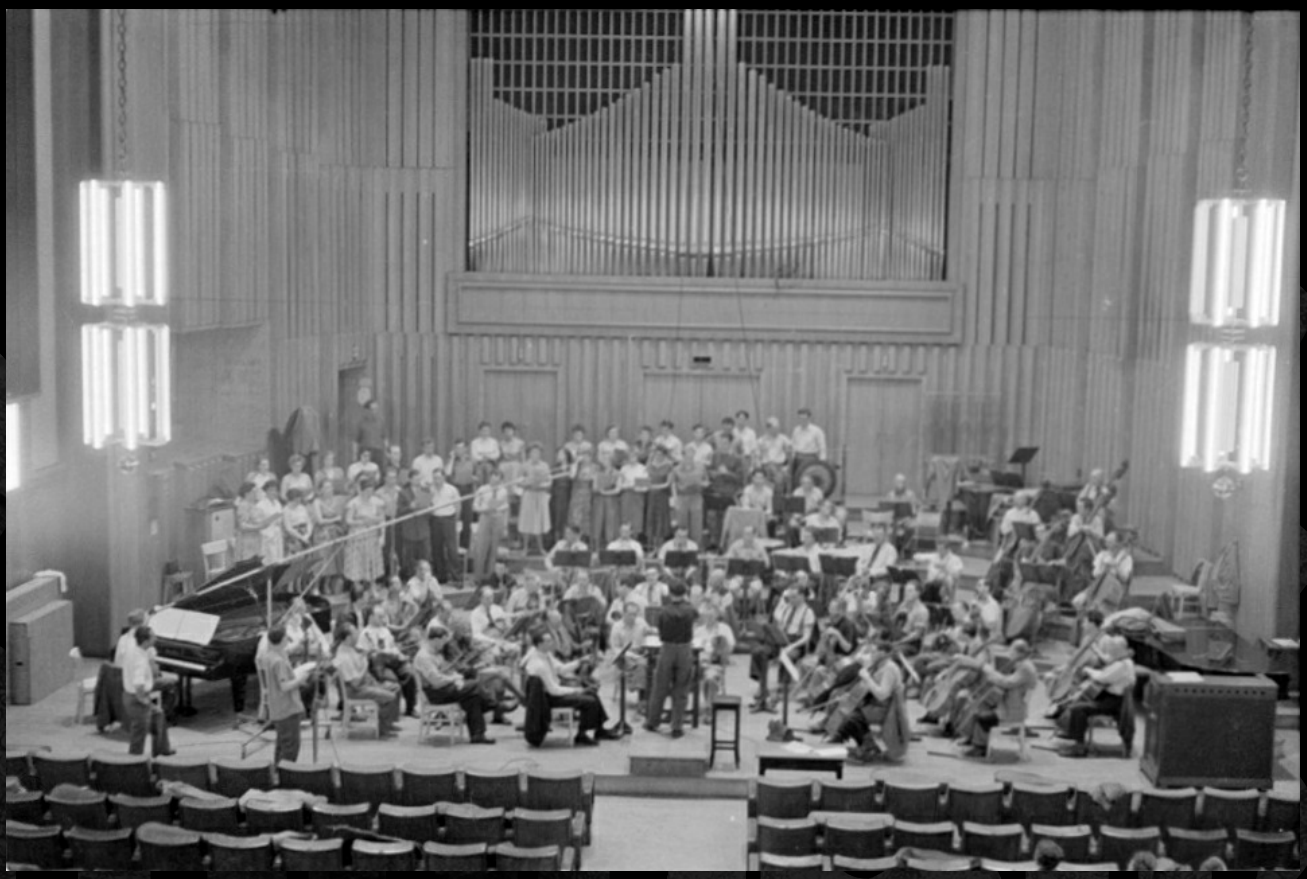
Robert Hohlbaum



1950

Robert Hohlbaum publishes a novel on Anton Bruckner, « Te Deum » (Pilger-Verlag, Speyer) .

Funkhaus, « großer Sende-Saal »



1954

The « St. Florian project » was largely the work of one person :

Heinrich Glasmeier

who took advantage of the expropriation of the monastery,
as well as the soft spot of Adolf Hitler for the Linz region.