

The « Nationalsozialistischen Symphonieorchester » plays Bruckner's 5th 9th Party Congress at the Nuremberg Rally Grounds



Theme :

« Rally of Greater Germany »
(« Reichsparteitag Großdeutschland »)

Monday, 6 to Monday, 13 September 1937 :

Celebration of the reduction of unemployment in Germany
since the Nazi rise to power



Adolf Hitler and Albert Speer overlooking the site
of the Nuremberg Rally Grounds from the
Zeppelin Tribune. (1937)

**Adolf Hitler chose to conclude the 9th Party Congress
with a performance of the gigantic Fugue which ends
the last movement of the 5th Symphony by Anton Bruckner
a personal favourite of the « Führer » . (Albert Speer)**



Albert Speer's « Cathedral of Light » or « Lichtdom » (which is still considered amongst his most important works) was staged during the Congress.



**« The feeling was of a vast room,
with the beams serving as mighty pillars of infinitely light outer walls. »
(Albert Speer)**

« The single most dramatic moment of the Nazi Party Rallies (...) was not a military parade or a political speech but the "Lichtdom", or Cathedral of Light. » (Kathleen James-Chakraborty)

The « Cathedral of light » was documented in the Nazi Propaganda film « Festliches Nürnberg », released in 1937.

Speer might well have been partly inspired by the « Deutschland, Das Land der Musik » poster. Lothar Heinemann's image adopts the Classic framing towers of large northern organs, taken by so many German writers we have encountered as evidence of their preeminence in the development of the instrument and its crucial pedals.

In general, there were 2 primary National-Socialist styles of architecture. Nazi Architecture in its crudest sense was either a squared-off version of neo-Classical architecture, or a mimicry of « völkish » buildings and structures.

The neo-Classical style was primarily used for urban State buildings or Party buildings such as the « Zeppelinfeld » in Nuremberg. This style was not just used for physical construction, but on the ordered columns of search-lights that formed Speer's « Cathedral of light » used at the Nuremberg Party Rallies.

