

AHRC RESEARCH PROJECT: MUSIC, MIGRATION & MOBILITY: The Legacy of Musicians from Nazi-Europe in Britain

REPERTOIRE GUIDE—STRING QUARTET

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Hyperlinks to our [online resource](#) on the RCM Website are included.

HANS GÁL (1890-1987)

Widely admired as a composer of opera, ballet, symphonic, chamber and choral music in Austria and Germany before his emigration, [Hans Gál](#) wrote more than half of his entire oeuvre in Britain. He taught at the University of Edinburgh, where he continued to develop his highly sophisticated and pleasing style.

Five Intermezzi for String Quartet, op. 10

- Composed—1914
- Duration—20'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD 9222
- Notes—first performed in Vienna in January 1916

String Quartet No. 1 in F minor, op. 16

- Composed—1916
- Duration—30'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD 9215
- Notes—first performed by the Kolbe Quartet in Vienna (January 1924)

String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, op. 35

- Composed—1929
- Duration—27'
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—Str4; CD 9222
- Notes—first performed by the Rosé Quartet in Vienna (March 1930)

HANS GÁL (1890-1987) - continued



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Improvisation, Variations and Finale on a Theme by Mozart, op. 60b

- Composed—1934
- Duration—17'
- Orchestration—string quartet
- Publisher—available privately from Hans Gál Society
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD 9222

String Quartet No. 3 in B minor, op. 95

- Composed—1969
- Duration—26'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—Str4; CD 9222
- Notes—first performed by the Edinburgh Quartet (June 1970)

String Quartet No. 4, op. 99

- Composed—1970
- Duration—32'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Meridian CDE 84530/1
- RCM Shelf Mark—Str4; CD 9215
- Notes—first performed by the Edinburgh Quartet (November 1972)

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PETER GELLHORN (1912-2004)

As a conductor and pianist with an extraordinary musical memory, Peter Gellhorn was a highly respected figure in Britain throughout the second half of the 20th century. His compositions, mostly written during his early career in Berlin and then London as well as during internment as an 'enemy alien' on the Isle of Man, were edited and published through RCM research in 2016.

String Quartet No. 1

- Composed—1933
- Duration—24'
- Publisher—RCM Editions (available from petergellhorn.com)
- Recordings—non-commercial recording (at petergellhorn.com)

String Quartet No. 2

- Composed—1935
- Duration—
- Publisher—RCM Editions (at petergellhorn.com)



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ROBERTO GERHARD (1896-1970)

One of the most influential composers in post-war Britain, Roberto Gerhard enjoyed success as a composer of ballet, opera, chamber and electronic music. Born to Swiss-German parents in Barcelona studied with Granados, Pedrell and Schönberg and became an important modernist figure in Catalonia before emigrating to Britain in 1939 to escape the Franco regime.

String Quartet No. 1

- Composed—1955
- Duration—19'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Metier MSV 92026
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc; Str4
- Notes—first performed by the Parrenin Quartet at Dartington (1956); recorded by the Kreuzer Quartet

String Quartet No. 2

- Composed—1962
- Duration—13'
- Publisher—Oxford University Press
- Recordings—Metier MSV 92026
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc
- Notes—commissioned by the University of Michigan and premiered there by the Stanley Quartet in 1962; performed by the Parrenin Quartet at Dartington (1963)



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BERTHOLD GOLDSCHMIDT (1903-1996)

Forced to emigrate after a hugely successful early career as a conductor and composer whose opera 'Der Gewaltige Hahnrei' had been celebrated in Mannheim in 1932, Berthold Goldschmidt worked as a conductor and coach in Britain and came to wider international acclaim only in the final decade of his life, when many new works were written and published.

String Quartet No. 1, op. 8

- Composed—1926
- Duration—23'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Largo/EMI 56621
- RCM Shelf Mark—FulSc
- Notes—written in Berlin whilst a student of Schreker

String Quartet No. 2

- Composed—1936
- Duration—27'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Largo 1001 (Elegy movement only)
- RCM Shelf Mark—FulSc

String Quartet No. 3

- Composed—1989
- Duration—17'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- RCM Shelf Mark—FulSc
- Notes—commissioned by the Jewish Museum (Rendsburg); quotes his *Belsatzar*; one movement

String Quartet No. 4

- Composed—1992
- Duration—13'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—Largo/EMI 56622
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc

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MICHAEL GRAUBART (1930-)

After his arrival in Britain as a child refugee, Michael Graubart studied physics before training as a professional flautist and composer (with Mátyás Seiber) and later working as a conductor and educator in London and Manchester. He describes his music as atonal, following 12-note technique, but essentially motivic and melodic.

String Quartet

- Composed—2000
- Duration—10'
- Publisher—Musica Neo (at michaelgraubart2010.musicaneo.com)

Bagatelle for String Quartet

- Composed—2006
- Duration—11'
- Publisher—Musica Neo (at michaelgraubart2010.musicaneo.com)
- Recordings—non-commercial recording available ([exil.arte](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) YouTube channel)
- Notes—dodecaphonic

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JOSEPH HOROVITZ (1926-2022)

A revered teacher and colleague at the Royal College of Music for many decades, Joseph Horovitz achieved widespread critical acclaim and success as a composer of orchestral concertos, chamber music, ballet and film music.

String Quartet No. 4

- Composed—1953
- Publisher—available via subscription (Classical Music Archive)
- Recordings—Carducci Classics CSQ 6482
- Notes—first performed by the Alfredo Wang String Quartet at the Society for the Promotion of New Music (1953); public premiere soon after at the Wigmore Hall

String Quartet No. 5

- Composed—1969
- Duration—17'
- Publisher—Novello
- Recordings—Carducci Classics CSQ 6482
- Notes—commissioned by Phaidon Press for Ernst Gombrich's 60th birthday; premiered by the Amadeus Quartet at the V&A on 1 June 1969

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KARL RANKL (1898-1968)

As the first music director of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden after WW2 and later director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Glasgow, the conductor and composer Karl Rankl, a pupil of Schönberg and Webern and close friend of Hanns Eisler, was at the centre of post-war music in Britain. His songs, eight symphonies and opera 'Deirde of the Sorrows' are a treasure trove that should be explored further.

String Quartet

- Composed—1935
- Manuscript Location—Bibliothek der Kunstuniversität Graz

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FRANZ REIZENSTEIN (1911-1968)

Franz Reizenstein was born in Nuremberg and studied first in Berlin under Hindemith and then, as a young refugee, under Ralph Vaughan-Williams at the Royal College of Music in London. Reizenstein was a successful virtuoso pianist and composer of orchestral, vocal, piano and chamber music as well as film scores.

Divertimento for String Quartet, op. 9

- Composed—1936
- Publisher—Lengnick
- RCM Shelf Mark—Str4; MinSc

MÁTYÁS SEIBER (1905-1960)



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Mátyás Seiber's compositions have been loved and admired all over Europe and beyond, but few know the full range of his output which includes chamber music inspired by Hungarian folk tunes as well as modernist twelve-tone works, large scale orchestral and choral works, songs and film scores.

String Quartet No. 1

- Composed—1924
- Duration—18'
- Publisher—Edizioni Suvini Zerboni
- Recordings—Delphian DCD 34082
- RCM Shelf Mark—CD 10711
- Notes—a version exists for string orchestra arranged by Antal Dorati and entitled *Sinfonietta*

String Quartet No. 2

- Composed—1935
- Duration—20'
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—Delphian DCD 34082
- RCM Shelf Mark—FuSc; CD 10711

String Quartet No. 3 (*Quartettolirico*)

- Composed—1951
- Duration—23'
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—Delphian DCD 34082; EMI Classics LC 06646
- RCM Shelf Mark—Str4; MinSc; CD 10711
- Notes—written for the Amadeus Quartet



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LEOPOLD SPINNER (1906-1980)

Firmly rooted in the twelve-tone serialism of Schönberg and Webern (who was his teacher), Leopold Spinner is known for his finely crafted chamber music and songs. After his emigration to Britain in 1939 he became Chief Editor of Boosey&Hawkes in London.

String Quartet

- Composed—1935
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Notes—first performed at the Austrian National Library in Vienna (December 1986)

String Quartet No. 1, op. 2

- Composed—1941
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Notes—premiered in London on 27 March 1945 with Mátyás Seiber on cello and Maria Lidka on violin

String Quartet No. 2, op. 7

- Composed—1952
- Duration—12'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes



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VILÉM TAUSKY (1910-2004)

A student of Leoš Janáček, Vilém Tauský became a well-known conductor of opera and light music in Britain. His meditation for string quartet *Coventry* is his most well-known composition.

Coventry, a meditation for string quartet

- Composed—1941
- Duration—8'
- Publisher—CMA Publications (available on boosey.com)
- Recordings—Nimbus NI 57301; Gramola 98964
- Notes—composed in response to the bombing of the cathedral in Coventry (November 1940); premiered by the Menges Quartet in the National Gallery Concert Series during WWII

String Quartet

- Composed—1981(?)
- Manuscript location—unpublished; manuscript in Senate House Library Archives, University of London

Serenade for Strings

- Composed—1998
- Manuscript location—unpublished; manuscript in Senate House Library Archives, University of London



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EGON WELLESZ (1885-1974)

Egon Wellesz was one of the most renowned and widely performed modernist composers of the first quarter of the 20th century. After studying with Arnold Schönberg for a short period he found his own path as a composer of opera, ballet and chamber music. A highly respected scholar, he became a Fellow of Lincoln College Oxford after his migration to Britain, where he also wrote his cycle of nine symphonies, completed in 1971.

String Quartet No. 1, op. 14

- Composed—1912
- Duration—38'
- Publisher—Boosey & Hawkes
- Recordings—non-commercial recording available (YouTube: old radio broadcast by Dartington String Quartet)
- Notes—first performed in Berlin on 31 October 1913

String Quartet No. 2, op. 20

- Composed—1916
- Duration—30'
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Recordings—non-commercial recording available (1st and 2nd movements only; exil.arte YouTube channel performed by the Aron Quartett)
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc

String Quartet No. 3, op. 25

- Composed—1918
- Duration—30'
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger
- Recordings—Nimbus NI 5821
- Notes—first performed in Vienna (8 December 1997); revised by Hannes Heher

String Quartet No. 4, op. 28

- Composed—1920
- Duration—19'
- Publisher—Universal Edition
- Recordings—Nimbus NI 5821
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc
- Notes—first performed in London (spring 1922)



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EGON WELLESZ - CONTINUED

String Quartet No. 5, op. 60 ('In memoriam')

- Composed—1943
- Duration—21'
- Publisher—Schott
- Recordings—non-commercial recording available (2nd and 3rd movements only; *exil.arte* YouTube channel performed by the Aron Quartett)
- Notes—first performed at the Library of Congress in Washington DC (30 October 1947); arguably the first piece Wellesz composed after a time of personal crisis resulting from his internment during WWII

String Quartet No. 6, op. 64

- Composed—1947
- Duration—15'
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger
- Recordings—Nimbus NI 5821
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc
- Notes—dedicated to E Mackenzie and Patricia Kean and premiered at the Library of Congress (12 October 1948)

String Quartet No. 7, op. 66

- Composed—1948
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger
- RCM Shelf Mark—MinSc
- Notes—first performed in Cologne (16 October 1961)

String Quartet No. 8, op. 79

- Composed—1957
- Duration—22'
- Publisher—Sikorski
- Notes—premiered in Oxford (1958)

String Quartet No. 9, op. 97

- Composed—1966
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger
- Notes—premiered in Bromsgrove, Birmingham (21 April 1970)

Four Pieces for String Quartet, op. 103

- Composed—1968
- Publisher—Musikhaus Doblinger