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# BERG

Edited by Anthony Pople



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in memory of Derrick Puffett



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Alban Berg, op. 1 Sonata for piano

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Alban Berg, op. 2 Four Songs

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## Chronology

<i>year</i>	<i>Berg's life</i>	<i>musicians and others</i>
1885	Albano Maria Joannes Berg born (9 February)	Helene Nahowski born; 'King' Oliver, Varèse and Kern born
1886		Liszt dies
1887		
1888		serial killer 'Jack the Ripper' active in London
1889		
1890		Franck dies
1891		Prokofiev born
1892		
1893		
1894		
1895		Hindemith born
1896		Bruckner dies
1897		Brahms dies
1898	begins friendship with architect Hermann Watznauer	Gershwin born
1899		'Duke' Ellington born; Johann Strauss II dies; Karl Kraus begins publication of <i>Die Fackel</i>
1900	father dies (30 March); receives <i>The Golden Book of Music</i> as a gift from Watznauer	Copland and Weill born
1901	composes first songs	Verdi dies
1902	friendship with Paul Hohenberg; acknowledges paternity of Albine Scheuchl (born 4 December to Marie Scheuchl, a member of the Berg family staff)	Schoenberg: <i>Verklärte Nacht</i> performed (composed 1899); Debussy: <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> completed (begun 1893)
1903	friendship with Frida Semler; attempts suicide (autumn)	Wolf dies
1904	begins studies with Schoenberg (October) while working as an unpaid civil servant	
1905	attends Kraus's private production of Wedekind's <i>Die Büchse der Pandora</i> (29 May); family moves into inherited accommodation	Strauss: <i>Salome</i>

1906	resigns from civil service post (October)	Shostakovich born; Mahler: Symphony No. 6; Schoenberg: Chamber Symphony No. 1; Hauptmann: <i>Und Pippa tanzt!</i>
1907	passionate friendship develops with Helene Nahowski by Easter; composes 'Die Nachtigall' (spring), Fugue for piano quintet (summer); these and two further songs performed (7 November)	Mahler resigns his post at the Vienna Hofoper and leaves for New York
1908	impressed by Dukas's <i>Ariane et Barbe-bleue</i> (2 April); composes Twelve Variations on an original theme (performed 8 November); begins work towards a piano sonata (autumn)	Messiaen and Carter born; Strauss: <i>Elektra</i> ; Schoenberg: String Quartet No. 2; Mathilde Schoenberg's tragic affair with the painter Richard Gerstl
1909	completes Piano Sonata Op. 1 and composes some of Op. 2 songs	Schoenberg: <i>Erwartung</i>
1910	finishes Four Songs Op. 2; composes String Quartet Op. 3; engagement to Helene	Stravinsky: <i>The Firebird</i>
1911	Piano Sonata Op. 1 and String Quartet Op. 3 performed (24 April); marries Helene (3 May); finishes studies with Schoenberg	Mahler dies; Schoenberg's <i>Harmonielehre</i> ; Schoenberg leaves Vienna to work in Berlin
1912	composes <i>Altenberg Lieder</i> Op. 4; sketches fragments of a symphonic movement on Balzac's <i>Seraphita</i>	Cage born; Strindberg dies; Schreker: <i>Der ferne Klang</i> ; Schoenberg: <i>Pierrot lunaire</i> ; Mahler's Symphony No. 9 performed (composed 1908–9)
1913	the <i>Skandalkonzert</i> (31 March): first performance of two of the <i>Altenberg Lieder</i> leads to uproar; composes Four Clarinet Pieces Op. 5; receives criticism from Schoenberg (June); begins work on Three Orchestral Pieces Op. 6	Britten and Lutoslawski born; first performance of Stravinsky's <i>The Rite of Spring</i> leads to uproar in Paris (29 May)
1914	rift with Schoenberg (March); sees production of Büchner's <i>Woyzeck</i> (14 May); sketches parts of <i>Woyzeck</i> while composing Op. 6	Austria declares war on Serbia (28 July) after assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, leading to First World War
1915	finishes Three Orchestral Pieces Op. 6; trained for military service; physical breakdown	sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i>
1916	intensive work at War Ministry	Emperor Franz Josef dies
1917	resumes composition of <i>Woyzeck</i>	Bolshevik revolution in Russia

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1918 | working with Schoenberg again, in the Society for Private Musical Performances  | Austria surrenders (2 November); Wedekind dies; Debussy dies; Bernstein born               |
| 1919 | first performance of <i>Four Clarinet Pieces</i> Op. 5 (17 October)   | Treaty of Versailles; Peter Altenberg dies   |
| 1920 | assumes editorship of 'Anbruch'; later resigns through ill-health   | Stravinsky: <i>Pulcinella</i>  |
| 1921 | finishes composition of <i>Wozzeck</i> (October); begins orchestration  |  |
| 1922 | finishes score of <i>Wozzeck</i> (April)  |  |
| 1923 | performances of String Quartet Op. 3 (2 August) and Op. 6 Nos. 1–2 (5 June) bring Berg to public notice; begins to compose Chamber Concerto   | Schoenberg makes known his ideas for a twelve-note technique; Mathilde Schoenberg dies     |
| 1924 | <i>Three Fragments from 'Wozzeck'</i> premiered (15 June)   | Puccini dies; Gershwin: <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>  |
| 1925 | finishes Chamber Concerto (9 February); amorous exchanges with Hanna Fuchs-Robettin (from 20 May); composes twelve-note setting of 'Schliesse mir die Augen beide'; begins <i>Lyric Suite</i> ; first production of <i>Wozzeck</i> (Berlin, 14 December)                  | Boulez and Berio born  |
| 1926 | finishes composition of <i>Lyric Suite</i> (September); Berg's mother dies (19 December)  | Sibelius: <i>Tapiola</i>   |
| 1927 | first performances of <i>Lyric Suite</i> (8 January) and Chamber Concerto (20 March); signs exclusive publication contract with Universal Edition; <i>Wozzeck</i> produced in Leningrad [St Petersburg]; begins work towards opera on Hauptmann's <i>Und Pippa tanzt!</i> | Bartók: String Quartet No. 3; Hindemith: <i>Hin und zurück</i>                             |
| 1928 | prepares <i>Seven Early Songs</i> in orch. version (performed 6 November) and with revised piano accompaniments; abandons <i>Pippa</i> over contractual difficulties and begins to compose <i>Lulu</i> (June)   | Stockhausen born; Schoenberg: Variations for Orchestra; Weill: <i>Die Dreigroschenoper</i> |
| 1929 | interrupts work on <i>Lulu</i> to compose <i>Der Wein</i> (completed 23 August); string orchestra arrangement of <i>Three Movements from</i>  | Wall Street crash; Schoenberg: <i>Von heute auf morgen</i>                                 |

- the 'Lyric Suite' performed (31 January); gives lecture on *Wozzeck* in connection with successful production in Oldenburg*
- 1930 Three Orchestral Pieces Op. 6 performed complete for the first time (14 April); elected to membership of the Prussian Academy of Arts; buys Ford cabriolet
- 1931 *Wozzeck* performed in Philadelphia under Stokowski
- 1932 buys 'Waldhaus' to improve working conditions away from Vienna
- 1933 intensive work on *Lulu*
- 1934 finishes composition of *Lulu* (May); begins orchestration; *Lulu Suite* performed (30 November)
- 1935 composes Violin Concerto to commission from Louis Krasner (completed 12 August); health deteriorates rapidly after insect sting (mid-August); hears *Lulu Suite* in Vienna (11 December); dies of blood poisoning around midnight on 23/24 December
- Stravinsky: *Symphony of Psalms*
- Bartók: Piano Concerto No. 2
- Schoenberg: *Moses und Aron* (left unfinished in two acts)
- Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany (30 January)
- Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies born; Elgar dies
- Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess*

## Select list of works

This list is selective in that, of his earliest works (preceding Op. 1), it includes only those either performed publicly at the time or later published by Berg himself. Many of the other *Jugendlieder*, in particular, are of considerable musical interest. Forty-six of these have been published in two volumes, ed. Christopher Hailey (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1985). The chapter references are given for convenience but are not exhaustive.

<i>title</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>chapter</i>
c. 85 early songs ( <i>Jugendlieder</i> ), including	1901–8	4
‘Im Zimmer’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 5)	1905	
‘Liebesode’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 6)	1906	
‘Die Nachtigall’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 3)	1907	
‘Traumgekrönt’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 4)	1907	
‘Schliesse mir die Augen beide’ (first setting)	1907	
‘Nacht’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 1)	1908	
‘Schilflied’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 2)	1908	
‘Sommertage’ ( <i>Seven Early Songs</i> , No. 7)	1908	
Fugue for piano quintet	1907	4
Twelve Variations on an original theme	1908	4
Piano Sonata Op. 1	1908–9	4
Four Songs Op. 2	1909–10	4
String Quartet Op. 3	1910	4
<i>Altenberg Lieder</i> Op. 4 [Five songs on picture-postcard texts by Peter Altenberg]	1912	5
Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano Op. 5	1913	5
Three Orchestral Pieces Op. 6	1913–15	6
<i>Wozzeck</i>	1914–22	7, 8, 9
<i>Three Fragments from ‘Wozzeck’</i>	1924	
Chamber Concerto	1923–5	8, 10, 11
‘Schliesse mir die Augen beide’ (second setting)	1925	9, 10, 11
<i>Lyric Suite</i>	1925–6	8, 10, 11
<i>Seven Early Songs</i> (see above)	1928	11
<i>Three Movements from the ‘Lyric Suite’</i> (arr. string orch.)	1928	
<i>Der Wein</i>	1929	11
Canon [from Alban Berg to the Frankfurt opera house]	1930	
<i>Lulu</i>	1928–34*	9, 11, 12
<i>Lulu Suite</i> [Symphonic pieces from the opera <i>Lulu</i> ]	1934	11
Violin Concerto	1935	8, 11

\* *Particell* (short score) completed in 1934; orchestration incomplete at Berg’s death

## Contributors

KATHRYN BAILEY taught for many years at the Universities of British Columbia and Western Ontario before moving to Cambridge in 1989. Her publications, including *The Twelve-Note Music of Anton Webern* (CUP, 1991), have primarily been analyses of the works of Webern and studies of his sketches.

ANDREW BARKER is Head of the Department of German and Russian at the University of Edinburgh. Specialising in the literature and cultural history of Vienna from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, he is author of *Telegrams from the Soul: Peter Altenberg and the Culture of fin-de-siècle Vienna* (1996) and has also published on such figures as Nestroy, Bahr, Hofmannsthal, Mahler, Wittgenstein, Doderer and Joseph Roth.

NEIL BOYNTON is Lecturer in Music at the University of Lancaster. His publications are principally concerned with the music of the Second Viennese School composers, and include a study of formal combination in Webern's Variations Op. 30 based on the composer's sketches for the work. He is currently preparing an edition of notes from Webern's 1934–8 lectures on musical form.

RAYMOND GEUSS taught Philosophy at Heidelberg, the University of Chicago, and Princeton, before moving to Cambridge in 1993. He is the author of *The Idea of a Critical Theory* (CUP, 1981) and has published various articles on topics in ethics and the philosophy of history.

CHRISTOPHER HAILEY is Director of the Franz Schreker Foundation, Inc., and is the author of a biography of Schreker (CUP, 1993) and editor of the correspondence between Schreker and the critic Paul Bekker (1994). He is a co-editor of *The Berg–Schoenberg Correspondence* (1987) and a co-translator of Theodor W. Adorno's monograph on Berg (CUP, 1991).

PATRICIA HALL is Associate Professor of Music Theory at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has published widely on Berg's music and other topics, and is the author of *A View of Berg's Lulu Through the Autograph Sources* (1996). Among her current projects is a database with visual access to the sketches for *Wozzeck*.

DOUGLAS JARMAN is Principal Lecturer at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. He has published widely on Berg, and his *The Music of*

*Alban Berg* (1979) is a landmark in modern Berg scholarship. He has edited the Cambridge Opera Handbooks to both *Wozzeck* and *Lulu*, and also *The Berg Companion* (Macmillan, 1991). His scholarly edition of the Violin Concerto was published in 1996.

JUDY LOCHHEAD is Associate Professor of Music at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she teaches the theory and history of music in the twentieth century. Her current research focuses on phenomenological approaches to the analysis of recent music, the idea of musical postmodernism, and graphic transcription of musical timbre for the purposes of analysis. She has a long-standing interest in Berg's *Lulu*.

DERRICK PUFFETT taught at the University of Cambridge until his retirement in 1994 and was Editor of *Music Analysis* for eight years. He edited the Cambridge Opera Handbooks to Strauss's *Salome* and *Elektra*, and published notable studies of Tippett, Berg, Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Debussy towards the end of his life. The present volume was in press when Derrick Puffett died in November 1996.

ANTHONY POPLE is Professor of Music Theory and Analysis at the University of Lancaster, and Editor of *Music Analysis*. He has published widely on theory, analysis and twentieth-century music and his books include the Cambridge Music Handbook to Berg's Violin Concerto (CUP, 1991).

ARNOLD WHITTALL was Professor of Musical Theory and Analysis at King's College, University of London until his retirement in 1996. His many publications on nineteenth- and twentieth-century music include influential studies of Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Webern, Birtwistle and others, together with *Music Since the First World War* (1977) and *The Music of Britten and Tippett: Studies in Themes and Techniques* (CUP, 1982).

