

Project Title:

The Poetry of Schoenberg's Opus 6: Jacobowski's Neue Lieder der besten neueren Dichter für's Volk

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Project Summary:

The poetry anthology *Neue Lieder der besten neueren Dichter für's Volk* (Ludwig Jacobowski, ed., Berlin: M. Liemann, 1899), was the source of several song texts for Arnold Schoenberg's opera 6 & 8. In fact, no other anthology of poetry was a more fruitful source of lyrics for Schoenberg. My goal was to contextualize the poetry anthology *Neue Lieder der besten neueren Dichter für's Volk*: who are the poets? What are the poems? Which are included in other anthologies from the time and since?

At the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, I examined 13 poetry anthologies. Of the 150 poets in *Neue Lieder*, one or more poems by 36 of these poets also appear in other anthologies of poetry. Among these are the most famous poets of the time, which I propose reflects editor Ludwig Jacobowski's first-hand knowledge of the German literary scene. But *Neue Lieder* also includes numerous works by lesser-known poets, suggesting that Jacobowski's social circle extended into the realm of amateur poets.

A significant piece of publication history that remains mysterious is a reference to a plan for "100,000 copies to be sold for 10 Pfennig each." By modern standards, selling 100,000 copies of a poetry anthology is ambitious, particularly given that 10 Pfennig is equivalent to the cost of mailing a postcard. A further mystery concerns the publisher. No entry for "M. Liemann" could be found in Berlin around the turn-of-the-century, confounding the research librarians who assisted me. Thus, the need for further investigation remains.

Publications:

Not at this time. This research will be incorporated into my future books about Arnold Schoenberg's Opera 6 & 8.

Presentations:

"Schoenberg's 'Lockung': Schwebende Tonalität and the Great Escape." Music Theory Midwest, Bowling Green, OH (May 2008).

"Schoenberg's 'Lockung': The Questionable Eb Major Chord, Schwebende Tonalität, and Text-Music Relationships." Texas Society of Music Theory, Waco, TX (Feb 2010).

"Schoenberg's 'Lockung': The Questionable Eb Major Chord, Schwebende Tonalität, and Text-Music Relationships." New England Conference of Music Theorists, Storrs, CT (April 2010).

NA

External Grants Applied:

NA

External Grants Awarded:

NA

Student Number: 2