



**Othmar
Schoeck**



**Complete
Works**

commissioned by the
Othmar Schoeck Society

edited by
Beat A. Föllmi



**Scholarly and critical complete edition of the eminent
Swiss composer Othmar Schoeck (1886–1957) in
24 volumes for music scholars and performers**

As well as a scrupulously edited and newly set musical text,
the Edition features a detailed introductory discussion of the
genesis and reception history of each work
in German and English.

Biography

Othmar Schoeck is the only twentieth-century Swiss composer to have his works published in a Critical Complete Edition.

Schoeck was born in 1886 in Brunnen (Central Switzerland) but spent his entire adult life in Zurich. His musical education was initially acquired at the Zurich Conservatory under Friedrich Hegar and Lothar Kempfer. In 1907/08 he attended Max Reger's master classes in composition in Leipzig. From 1908 he directed several choirs in Zurich, and between 1917 and 1944 he was in charge of the symphony concerts in St Gallen.

After returning from Leipzig he rapidly established his name as a composer in Switzerland through his songs, choral works and above all his Violin Concerto. His eight stage works and his major song-cycles brought him renown from the 1920s onwards throughout the German-speaking domain and beyond. Whereas with his one-acter *Penthesilea* (f.p. 1927) Schoeck was in close touch with the avant-garde of the time, he was more strongly orientated to classicistic trends during the 1930s before achieving a greater spiritualisation and condensation of his musical language in the late works composed after the Second World War.



Up to Schoeck's death in 1957 his works were recognized internationally and performed by distinguished interpreters (such as Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau), but during the 1960s they largely disappeared from the concert hall as being "unseasonable." From the late 1980s onwards one notices a new awakening of interest in Schoeck's compositions, an interest resulting in numerous widely regarded performances (e.g. *Penthesilea*, 1999 Lucerne Festival) and a large number of recordings and scholarly publications.

The Complete Edition comprises 24 volumes and includes all the printed and unprinted compositions based on a critical comparison of all accessible sources.

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- An **Introduction** in German and (from 2001) English provides information about the history and reception of a work and assigns it a place in terms of genre and music history.
- The **Critical Report** contains a detailed description of sources, a critique of the sources, a list of variant readings and other special aspects of the transmission.
- Each volume is rendered more user-friendly, and the Complete Edition more easy to survey, through **lists of abbreviations** and a list of the frequently quoted literature, as well as an index of persons, places and subjects.



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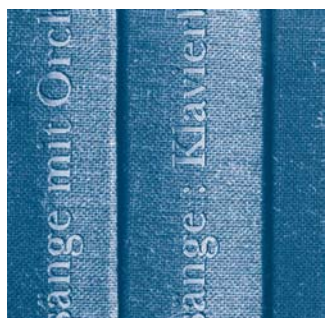
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Othmar Schoeck Research Archive

The Othmar Schoeck Society (OSG) began to set up a Schoeck Archive as long ago as 1962. The Othmar Schoeck Research Archive is now located at Viktoriastrasse 32, Zurich.

The Research Archive comprises:

- all the autograph scores (photocopies) and printings of Othmar Schoeck's works
- letters from, to and about Schoeck (photocopies)
- a reference library of Schoeck publications
- a collection of reviews and concert announcements

These materials are all contained in electronic data banks and referenced by catchword. Furthermore there is an [Othmar Schoeck Archive \(OSA\)](#) with original manuscripts and other original materials deposited in the Zurich Central Library.

The [Othmar Schoeck Research Archive](#) is the seat of the Complete Edition. It organizes international conferences and publishes the Schriftenreihe der Othmar Schoeck-Gesellschaft.

The Research Archive will gladly provide musicians, music scholars, concert promoters and interested private individuals with information about Othmar Schoeck's life and works.

The documents and data banks can be viewed in situ by prior arrangement.

Othmar Schoeck Research Archive

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The Othmar Schoeck Complete Edition was established by Prof Dr Max Lütolf in 1988. Following his retirement, Dr Beat A. Föllmi was appointed the new Editor in Chief in 2001.

"A symbolic memorial"

Max Favre, *Bund*,
20 July 1996

The Complete Edition will comprise a total of 24 volumes by the time of its scheduled completion in the year 2016. The Complete Edition is an independent research project operating under the patronage of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW), which has set up an "Othmar Schoeck" governing body. The Complete Edition is also a member of the "Specialist Group of Independent Research Institutions." The project is financed by public and private funding.

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