

Vorwort

Nachdem Paul Dessau, aus Paris kommend, im Juni 1939 seine zweite Exilstation New York erreicht hatte, begann für ihn eine materiell und ideell ungewöhnlich harte und forderungsreiche Zeit. Als einzige Bezugspunkte erwiesen sich die ebenfalls emigrierten Musikfreunde sowie generell die jüdische Gemeinschaft der Stadt. Von einer Exilgemeinschaft, die ihn gleich in den ersten Monaten in Astoria ereilt hatte, versuchte er seinen künftigen Lebensunterhalt als Notenkorrektor und –knipser für Musikverleger sowie als synagogaler Komponist. Autonome Werke entstanden nur in geringem Maße, vor allem durch die Aneignung der Reihentechnik, die er 1937 bei seinem Aufenthalt in Paris kennengelernt hatte und in der Verbalne-Vertonung des Wokals „Lied“ (1939) anwendete. Das Zweite Streichquartett, das Dessau im Juli 1940 in New York komponierte und am 18. Februar 1943 beendete, gehört neben dem *Violin Concerto* (1942) und den *Two Canons* für Flöte, Klarinette und Fagott zu den wichtigsten Werken dieses Ausformungsprozesses. Danach konnte er sich nur noch wenige Kompositionen erlauben. Im April 1943 begegnete er dem Komponisten René Leibowitz, der ihn nach Hollywood und ordnete diesen Zeitpunkt als Beginn einer musikalischen Zusammenarbeit seine freien stilistischen Bestrebungen in Richtung der „Neuen Musik“ an. Das polyphon dicht gesetzte, gedanklich schwer zu durchdringende *Violin Concerto* am 8. Februar 1945 an René Leibowitz komponiert. Er überließ es ihm, es zu veröffentlichen und in Kopierstücken Arnold Schönberg einzuliefern. Dessau war sich bewusst, dass er sich dabei nicht nur um die Letztlich davon, dass er sich nicht zu verweigern, sondern auch nicht befangen machen konnte. 1947 hat Dessau in einem Brief an René Leibowitz hervorgehört, die Hoffnung, dass er sich nicht zu verweigern, sondern auch nicht befangen machen konnte. 1947 hat Dessau in einem Brief an René Leibowitz hervorgehört, die Hoffnung, dass er sich nicht zu verweigern, sondern auch nicht befangen machen konnte.

Daniela Reinhold

Preface

After Paul Dessau, coming from Paris, had arrived at New York, his second place of residence in June 1939, a time of great material and spiritual hardship and privation began. The only persons he could relate to were emigrated fellow musicians in particular and the émigré musical community of the city in general. After having recovered from a serious illness which he had caught right in the first months after his arrival in America, he earned his living as a freelance proof-reader of music and copyist, music teacher and author of pedagogical works. He also composed only few autonomous works. These works served Dessau as a means of artistic technique which he had got to know from his friend René Leibowitz. The most important work he used superbly in his musical version of Verlaine's *Œuvres complètes* for the New York String Quartet No. 2 which Dessau is supposed to have composed in September 1939 and premiered on 18 February 1943, is, apart from *Deix Volinstücke* (1941), *Deix Volinstücke* and *Deix Canons* for flute, clarinet and bassoon (1942), one of the few works which Dessau composed in this process. He then turned to new artistic challenges. In April 1941 he was invited to Hollywood, followed him to Hollywood in October and stayed there until the end of the year. He devoted his free-stylistic efforts to this collaboration and its artistic results. As Dessau wrote to René Leibowitz in November 1941: "I started the 2nd [work] which is so dense and rich in ideas, is very clear and concise, and I have already completed it. At that time he considered the possibility of collaborating with Dessau on a new work for clarinet and *Deix Volinstücke*, when the latter was in Hollywood, but he ultimately refrained from doing that because he learned that Dessau had already begun to work on it. Dessau wanted to continue to honour his artistic work, but he also wanted to be able to compose any music." In 1945 Dessau composed the *Deix Volinstücke* which would be performed in Hollywood, as can be gathered from the letter of Dessau to Leibowitz of 22 September 1945. Dessau does not seem to have come back to Germany in 1945, but he did return to his native country in 1946. Dessau's commitment to new music, eventually leading to his death in 1961, is well documented in the *Deix Volinstücke*.

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¹ Daniela Reinhold: Paul Dessau. Ein Komponist-Ästhet. *Journal für Musikwissenschaft*, 1674-1951, Juni 2017, Edition der Komponisten, Archiviert 21.11.2017 bei der Akademie der Künste der DDR, Berlin 1976, p. 124. Cf. the letter of 22 September 1945 to René Leibowitz: *Leibowitz Archiv der Akademie der Künste, Paul Dessau-Archiv*, 1983.

Streichquartett Nr. 2

I

Paul Dessau
1894-1979

Andante con tenerezza (♩ = 88)

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with four staves corresponding to the instruments: Violine I, Violine II, Viola, and Violoncello. The first system includes the tempo marking 'Andante con tenerezza (♩ = 88)' and the dynamic 'mf espr.' for Violine I and 'mf cantabile' for Violine II and Viola. The second system starts with a measure number '4' and includes dynamics like 'p sub.' and 'mf'. The third system features 'f' and 'mf' dynamics. The fourth system includes 'cresc.' and 'mf' dynamics. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PREVIEW Low Resolution' is overlaid across the entire score.

11

mf ma dolce

mp *p* *mp* *p*

14

p *mp* *p*

p *poco*

17

calmo

p *mp* *mf* *p* *poco* *p* *non troppo espr.*

p *mp* *mf* *p* *poco* *p* *non troppo espr.*

p *mp* *mf* *p* *poco* *p* *espr.*

p *mp* *mf* *p* *poco*

31

mf *poco* *p* *sempre p e dolce* *dolce expr.*

p ma libero

34

sempre p *p dolce* *pp*

expr. ma piano

p *pp*

pp *p*

p dolce *pp* *p*

p dolce *pp delicato* *p*

p dolce *pp delicato* *p*

Più mosso (♩ = 104)

41 Energico

Musical score for measures 41-43. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is marked 'Energico'.

Musical score for measures 44-46. The score continues with piano accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mf energico f* and *mf quasi legg.*

Musical score for measures 47-49. The score continues with piano accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mf quasi legg pizz. arco*, *mf energico*, and *sempre marc. e ben ten.*