

Guido Adler – Musicology Then and Now at Harvard University Symposium, Exhibitions, & Concert on Friday, October 13, 2017

One-day symposium, Spalding Room in the Loeb Music Library, Music Building | 8:00 p.m. Concert of music by Adler's students and contemporaries with Boston Trio, John Knowles Paine Concert Hall | Exhibitions: "Guido Adler's Library," Loeb Music Library, through January 22, 2018; "Guido Adler, Father of Musicology," Houghton Library, through December 19, 2017



To mark the confluence of a new music curriculum and a new collection of the materials of “the father of musicology” Guido Adler, the Department of Music is hosting a one-day event devoted to exploring the past, present and future of music scholarship. On Friday, October 13th, there will be talks, a panel discussion, the formal opening of two library exhibitions drawing on Harvard’s rich collections of Adler materials and, in the evening, a performance of works by Adler’s pupils by the Boston Piano Trio.

Musicology Then & Now: A Symposium

In September 2017, a new era of music study in the Harvard College begins. In addition to the rigorous history and theory paths, there will be greater flexibility in qualifications and increased freedom of course choice, permitting many more students who arrive at Harvard from diverse backgrounds and with wide interests to embark on the music concentration. To frame the discussion of music scholarship and practice, papers will be given by Christoph Wolff, Kevin Karnes, Judy Tsou, Alejandro Madrid, and Matthew Morrison. The concluding podium discussion, “Musicology in the 21st Century,” will be moderated by Suzannah Clark. This one-day symposium runs from at 2:30 to 6:30 in the Spalding Room of the Music Library, and the public is welcome.

Boston Trio: Concert of Music by Adler’s Students and Contemporaries



“Whenever this trio plays, drop everything and go hear them!” hailed the Boston Globe on the occasion of The Boston Trio’s Tanglewood debut at Ozawa Hall. Since their formation in 1997, the trio has quickly become one of today’s most exciting chamber ensembles.

Violinist Irina Muresanu, cellist Jonah Ellsworth, and pianist Heng-Jin Park each have distinguished careers as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and have appeared with major orchestras and premier chamber music festivals throughout the United States and Europe.

The Boston Trio performs a concert of works by Adler’s students and his contemporaries at 8:00pm in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall on the Harvard campus. The concert is free and no tickets are required. Paine Hall is located directly behind the Science Center at 3 Oxford Street. It is a short walk from the Harvard Square Red Line T shop. The hall is wheelchair accessible.

Exhibitions Highlight Scholarly Life and Library of “The Father of Musicology”

The practice of academic music study is relatively young, and may be traced to the innovations of Guido Adler (1855-1941), a professor at the University of Vienna who started a Musicology Institute in 1898. Adler’s “branches of musicology” were generous and expansive, and they accommodated the study of new music, early music, popular song, what we might now call world music and the great composers of the past. While Adler died of natural causes in 1941, his family suffered after the Anschluss of 1938: he was forced to resign from his position as editor of *Denkmäler der Tonkunst in Österreich* (Monuments of Austrian Music) that year and after his death his daughter and caretaker Melanie was surprised to discover that, as a Jew, she was unable to inherit her father’s library. It was subsumed into the collections of the University of Vienna, ironically the institution where Adler founded his musicology institute. Melanie was transported to Theresienstadt, where she was shot in 1942.

Immediately after the war, a substantial portion of Guido Adler’s library was returned to his son, Achim; these materials now reside at the University of Georgia. But many important items remained in Vienna, and only unearthed after a massive effort on the part of the institution. Returned to Adler’s family in California, then sold by them to Houghton Library, the Guido Adler papers show the very beginnings of what we now recognize as musicology.

“Guido Adler, Father of Musicology” can be seen at Houghton through December 19, 2017. Highlights of this exhibition are documents from the life of a busy university professor and scholarly editor. A companion exhibit, “Guido Adler’s Library,” formally opens on October 13 (through January 22, 2018) in Loeb Music Library and features many volumes from Adler’s own library as well as complementary materials from the Music Library’s collections, including the first volume of the musicology journal Adler co-founded in 1884.

*There will be an **informal coffee hour with the curators** of these exhibitions in Houghton Library on Friday, October 13th from 10:30-11:00, to which the public is welcome.*

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