

DO N E M I U S

Forbidden  
Music  
Regained

preview

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# Symphony

for orchestra

not dated

**Robert Hanf**

The series of published scores of *Forbidden Music Regained* is a collaborative project by Donemus Publishing, the Leo Smit Foundation and the Nederlands Muziek Instituut (Dutch Institute of Music). This series is financially supported by the Investeringsfonds Muziek, an initiative by Buma/Stemra and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

Donemus is grateful to Eleonore Pameijer and Lourens Stuifbergen for the tireless efforts and expertise they dedicated to this project.

### **Forbidden Music Regained**

The series 'Forbidden Music Regained' proudly presents works by composers who were persecuted during the Second World War. Performances of these works were forbidden during the war. Many composers were imprisoned, several did not survive and others went into hiding.

After the war a new generation took over. The pre-war composers were soon forgotten and their compositions remained hidden in closets and archives or fell otherwise into oblivion. In recent decades numerous works have been rediscovered through the efforts of the Leo Smit Foundation. Some scores were found in attics, others in a garden shed and a pile of music was found by young children next to a garbage can. These compositions are of a high quality and deserve to be performed again. The diversity of styles represents the entire spectrum of the first half of the Twentieth century: romanticism, impressionism, modernism, neoclassicism, jazz, and so forth. This project aims to encourage musicians, young and old, from across the globe to perform these compositions, and for concert audiences to (once again) become acquainted with this "unheard" music.

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**Robert Hanf (1894-1944)**

Bob Hanf was born in Amsterdam on November 25, 1894, to parents of German-Jewish decent, and grew up in an affluent, artistic environment. His mother was an accomplished pianist. He received his first violin lessons in the ensemble classes led by George Scager, a viola player in the Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Bob Hanf showed a great talent for drawing and he received lessons from the famous Amsterdam painter George Breitner. He became a versatile artist: drawing, painting, writing, playing the violin and composing. Nowadays the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam owns and displays several of his works. Around this time, Hanf met the writers Hendrik Marsman, Jan Spierdijk and Simon Vestdijk and introduced them to modern German writers like Franz Kafka. Hanf, himself, wrote two plays, three novels and several poems, influenced by Wedekind's anti-bourgeois morality and Kafka's surrealistic atmosphere and gloomy worldview.

In 1921, Hanf quit his studies in chemistry and architecture in Delft and moved to the attic in the family home on the Willemsparkweg in Amsterdam. At this time, he seriously began studying violin and composed his first works. He took lessons with Louis Zimmerman, concertmaster of the Concertgebouw Orchestra. Although he performed as violinist in professional orchestras, including the Arnhem Symphony Orchestra with conductor Martin Spanjaard, Hanf nevertheless decided to give up this career in 1928. Composing was better suited to his contemplative nature. He wrote works for violin, some string quartets, songs on texts by Rilke, Kafka, Morgenstern and Goethe, orchestral works and one opera. In 1941 both Hanf and composer Robert de Roos were awarded the Music Prize from the city of Amsterdam.

While in hiding in the Suikerhofje on the Prinsengracht, Hanf wrote, under the pseudonym Christiaan Philippus, a poem *Mijmeringen over de nachtzijde des levens* (Thoughts on the Dark Side of Life). This was his only work published after the war. On April 23, 1944, he was arrested in a raid by the Sicherheitsdienst and deported to Auschwitz where he was murdered on September 30, 1944.

Leo Smit Foundation

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## Symphony

Robert Hanf employs a late romantic musical language somewhat influenced by Gustav Mahler and Max Reger. More than once, traditionally formed melodies make unexpected modulations. Similarly, in the harmony, familiar chords are accompanied by spiced-up ones. This titillating contrast renders his music highly appealing.

The single-movement *Symphony* by Robert Hanf consists of four sections which follow one another without interruption: 1. Allegro vivace; 2. Andante; 3. Molto allegro; 4. Allegretto non troppo (quasi maestoso) – a tempo, ma agitato (con brio). In this, we recognise the nineteenth-century symphony with its four separate movements: two lively corner movements, a slow movement and a scherzo. With Hanf the themes in the four subsections are related or occasionally even make a literal return. In the fourth movement, for example, a maestoso setting of a theme from the second movement alternates with a con brio performed polyphonic setting. The writing style for the orchestra is highly virtuosic.

In the title we occasionally encounter the addition *Ituriel*. The original title, however, was exclusively *Symphony*. Robert Hanf sent his composition in for a competition in 1941, organized by 'Stichting Rotterdam 1939'. To guarantee anonymity, he used the motto 'Ituriel', the name of the angel who, on orders of archangel Gabriel, searched the Garden of Eden to undo Satan of his disguise. The precise date of origin of the symphony is unknown, possibly it was written well before 1941. No first prize was awarded. Hanf shared second prize with a composer from The Hague, Robert de Roos, who submitted a viola concerto.

The autograph of this composition is currently located at the Nederlands Muziek Instituut in The Hague

Lourens Stuifbergen

(translation: Luc den Brinker)

String:

2 Flutes  
 2 Oboes (Oboe 2 doubling English Horn)  
 2 Clarinets in B flat  
 Bass Clarinet in B flat  
 2 Bassoons (Bassoon 2 doubling Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F/E  
 2 Trumpets in C  
 3 Trombones  
 Tuba

Timpani

Percussion:  
 Snare Drum  
 Bass Drum  
 Tam-tam  
 Cymbal  
 Triangle

Violin I  
 Violin II  
 Viola  
 Violoncello  
 Contrabass

# Symphony

Allegro vivace

Flute 1  
Flute 2  
Oboe 1  
Oboe 2/  
English Horn  
Clarinet 1 in Bb  
Clarinet 2 in Bb  
Bass Clarinet in Bb  
Bassoon 1  
Bassoon 2/  
Contrabassoon  
Horn 1 in F  
Horn 2 in F  
Horn 3 in F  
Horn 4 in E  
Trumpet 1 in C  
Trumpet 2 in C  
Trombone 1  
Trombone 2  
Trombone 3  
Tuba  
Timpani  
Percussion  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contrabass

Allegro vivace  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
f

E - D - A  
tr  
poco f  
tr  
p

Allegro vivace  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
f  
pizz.  
f