

RUDOLF KATTNIG

David C F Wright DMus

This is a most unsatisfactory article because information about this composer is scant and, despite many efforts, no one has come forward to supply any information.

It seems that his political persuasion may have restricted the publication of details of his life and work.

He was born on 9 April 1895 in Carinthia, a province of Austria.

He studied music with Joseph Marx at the Vienna State Academy of Music and Art.

After graduating, he was appointed professor in this academy. He acquired the position of director of music at the Innsbruck Conservatory and, simultaneously, the conductor of the local symphony orchestra interspersed with engagements in Vienna and Zurich.



He was dismissed in 1934 and joined the Nazi Reich Music Group of which Richard Strauss was the chairman and Furtwangler his deputy. It was a Nazi Institution with strict rules and regulations; it was exclusive to 'real' Germans and those who supported the Nazi movement; it was anti-Semitic and dictatorial.

Kattnig became the pianist for Empire Broadcasting.

Among his works are six operettas which are well-written and superior to many other operettas which have a wide circulation. The operettas are:

Der Prinz von Thule	1930
Balkanliebe	1936
Rhinemaidens	
Donna Mirande	
Empress Katharina	1935
Bel Ami	1949

Other works

Slovenian Dances	
Burleske Suite Op 5	1924
scherzo for orchestra	1930
Romantic Overture	1930
Serenata Chioggiota for strings and three bassoons	1930
Piano Concerto	1934
Concerto for flute, piano and orchestra	1934
Andante with variations	1940

The Piano Concerto is an interesting work. It has been called intriguing, powerful, intoxicating and a masterpiece. Others have dismissed it as a formless mess by 'just another Austrian' and someone said, "How can we listen to Nazi music?"

Kattnig died at Klagenfurt on 2 September 1955. He was 60.

(303)

© COPYRIGHT David C F wright DMus 2011 – This article or any part of it, however small, must not be copied, quoted, reproduced, downloaded or altered in any way whatsoever nor stored in any retrieval system. Failure to comply is in breach of International Copyright Law and will render any offender liable to action at law.