

Rediscoveries of Forgotten Music Recorded Anew

Rediscovering, promoting,

and preserving for posterity forgotten music for piano four hands—this is the mission of the piano duo Friederike

Haufe and Volker Ahmels. Their latest recording of works by banned 20th-century composers will be released on **March 24, 2026** on major streaming services.

They chose the release date deliberately. It has historical significance: On

March 24, 1933, the Nazis' "Enabling Act" came into force. On

March 24, 1945, the Allies launched "Operation Varsity," the crossing of the Rhine.

"This temporal framework makes the historical dimension visible. Twelve years in

which the Nazi regime destroyed the art, culture, and lives of countless people. The fact

that all the composers we have recorded suffered or were expelled,

persecuted, or silenced during this period becomes particularly tangible through these two dates,"

explains pianist Friederike Haufe.

The recording features Hans Gál's "Serbian Melodies" from 1916,

the ballet fragment "La Danse de la Sorcière" by Alexandre

Tansman, composed in 1923, as well as Arnold Schoenberg's fragment for piano four hands from 1937.

"The Schönberg fragment in particular raises questions. No reliable background information is known to date regarding its origin and

context,"

reports Volker

Ahmels, who is also director of the Center for Ostracized Music at the hmt Rostock as well as

artistic director of the International Interpretation Competition for Ostracized

Music. "It was brought to the attention of the piano duo by the Arnold Schönberg Center

and made available to them," he adds. "The reception of

Alexandre Tansman's work for four hands has also been insufficiently researched to date,

which further underscores the significance of this streaming project as a documentary contribution

. Hans Gál's 'Serbian Melodies' are a prime example

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fax 0381 5108-235 | hmt III | Beim St.-Katharinenstift 8 | 18055 Rostock for the creative output of a composer whose work was long

marginalized due to displacement and exile."

The works were recorded by "Die Tonspur Schwerin" in the studio of

Klangmanufaktur in Hamburg on a fully restored Steinway D grand piano, the so-called “Blue Grand” of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra from 1925.

This historic instrument lends the recordings an authentic sound that closely reflects the era in which the works were composed.

The project was supported by the Hans Kauffmann Foundation.

With this release via streaming services, the Haufe-

Ahmels piano duo makes an important contribution to the culture of remembrance, to musical research

and to the vibrant transmission of ostracized music—beyond commercial exploitation and with a focus on sustainable documentation.

Caption:

Banned music for piano four hands with Friederike Haufe and Volker Ahmels

@ Oliver Borchert

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