Georgian Triangle Lifelong Learning Institute

Human Emigration And Music

Session 2, 2022 – Shadows In Paradise, The Journey:

Korngold + February House

This week we give the spotlight to Erich Wolfgang Korngold, One of the Jewish musicians who left Austria for Hollywood and created what would become the template for future movie scores. As a composer, conductor and pianist in Austria, he knew the tone poems of Richard Strauss and the brilliant use of his orchestration which effected his own musical choices. He was also a supporter of the music of Ricard Wagner and his use of the leitmotif. Korngold created the original Symphonic Film score using big orchestras, full instrument colour and motifs to show character, establish time and place, and highlight specific emotions.

We look at the continuation of the symphonic film score with comparison to John Williams and others.

Die tote Stadt is a Symbolist opera, completed in 1917, when Korngold was 19.

<https://youtu.be/gRkuHKc9YJQ> 2nd. Mov’t, Violin Concerto, E.W.Korngold

Next we turn our attention to the emigree artists living in February House, in NYC, in 1940-41. *February House* (2005), a book by Sheril Tippins, describes the true story of an extraordinary experiment of artists in communal living. It happened the year before America entered World War II, fuelled by the appetites of youthful artists and their lives unfolding with a shared sense of urgency as artists in such a crucial historical time. Led by the poet W.H.Auden, several Brits, including Benjamin Britten, Peer Pears and Christopher Isherwood, among others, created some amazing collaborations.

<https://youtu.be/J-Ra3GHAW0A> The Ploughboy P. Pears & B. Britten

<https://youtu.be/_BP1slscwEs> If I Could Tell You W.H Auden