

# Hugo Leichtentritt Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Hugo Leichtentritt Papers

**Span Dates:** 1888-1972

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1890-1933)

**Call No.:** ML31.L45

**Creator:** Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951

**Extent:** 1,600 items

**Extent:** 23 containers

**Extent:** 10.0 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in German and English

**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2012562125>

**Summary:** Hugo Leichtentritt was a German musicologist, music critic, and composer. The collection contains his original music manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, programs, scrapbooks, articles and drafts of his writings on music history, criticism, and theory.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951--Archives.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951--Correspondence.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951--Manuscripts.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951. Music of the Western nations.

Leichtentritt, Hugo, 1874-1951. Works. Selections.

### Subjects

Composers.

Music critics.

Music--History and criticism.

Music--Manuscripts.

Music--Performance--History.

Musical criticism.

Musicologists.

### Form/Genre

Articles.

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Correspondence.

Drafts (Documents)

Programs (Documents)

Promotional materials.

Scrapbooks.

## Provenance

Gift, Nicolas Slonimsky, circa 1952.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

The Hugo Leichtentritt Papers were processed by Pamela Murrell in April 2009. Christopher Hartten revised the finding aid and coded it for EAD format in 2012.

## Related Material

The Library of Congress Music Division holds the [Nicolas Slonimsky Collection](#) (ML31.S6) and [Serge Koussevitzky Archive](#) (ML31.K66), both of which contain correspondence from Leichtentritt.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Hugo Leichtentritt Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## Access and Restrictions

The Hugo Leichtentritt Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Hugo Leichtentritt Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1874, Jan. 1	Born in the province of Posen, Prussia
1891-1894	Attended Harvard University
1894-1895	Continued musical studies in Paris
1895-1898	Attended the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin
1898-1901	Ph.D., in Philosophy, Berlin University; dissertation entitled <i>Reinhard Keiser in seinen Opern</i>
1901-1924	Taught at the Klindworth-Scharwenka Conservatory in Berlin
1901-1933	Gave private composition lessons and wrote music criticism for various German and American publications
1933	Left Germany to lecture at Harvard University
1940	Retired from Harvard University
1940-1944	Lecturer, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Mass. and New York University
1951, Nov. 13	Died, Cambridge, Mass.

## Scope and Content Note

The Hugo Leichtentritt Papers consist of music manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, programs, scrapbooks, and writings on music history, criticism, and theory. The collection spans the period 1888 to 1972, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1890 to the 1933.

Leichtentritt's personal compositions include songs, and works for solo piano, organ, small instrumental combinations, and orchestra. These are chiefly represented by manuscript scores, parts, and sketches. Leichtentritt's dramatic works are often regarded as his most significant original compositions: *Esther* (1923-1926), *Cantata, op. 27: Ich bin eine Blume zu Saron* (1930), and his comedic opera, *Der Sizilianer* (1915-1918). A handwritten thematic index, located in box 21, provides details about the history of many of his compositions. Leichtentritt frequently reconstructed or arranged the compositions of other composers to illustrate concepts for teaching. These are represented in the subseries of "Music by Other Composers" alongside scores and parts by various composers, including Bach, Haydn, Handel, and Monteverdi. Leichtentritt's settings of texts by the German poets Richard Dehmel and Friedrich Hölderlin are extensively represented.

The collection also contains seven scrapbooks that date from 1888 to 1933. These span Leichtentritt's early career, from his years as an undergraduate at Harvard University, through his employment at the Klindworth-Scharwenka Conservatory in Berlin, to his later hiring by Harvard in 1933. The albums chiefly contain articles, clippings, correspondence, programs, and promotional material in German and English about various musical performances and composers.

Leichtentritt's writings consist of manuscript and typescript drafts of articles, essays, critical commentary, and analyses. Most notable are the materials for his book *Music of the Western Nations*, which was published posthumously by Nicolas Slonimsky in 1956. Although the final version contained twelve chapters, there are fourteen present in his draft, including a foreword, introduction, and index. Equally intriguing is Leichtentritt's unfinished autobiography that chronicles his military life in Germany during World War I, his travels throughout Europe, and his seven-year tenure as a lecturer at Harvard University. The collection also contains a draft of his 1901 dissertation, *Reinhard Keiser in seinen Opern*, which he submitted for his Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Berlin University. Other writings include a work on the history of motet music and analyses of compositions by Chopin, Copland, Handel, and Monteverdi.

## Organization of the Hugo Leichtentritt Papers

The Hugo Leichtentritt Papers are organized in four series:

- [Music, 1893-1972](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1888-1933](#)
- [Writings, 1892-1956](#)
- [Miscellany, 1889-1931](#)

## Description of Series

### Container

BOX 1-14, 22-23

### Series

Music, 1893-1972

#### Music by Leichtentritt

Manuscript and published scores, parts, and sketches. Researchers should consult Leichtentritt's thematic index for more detailed compositional histories of select works. Arranged alphabetically by title.

#### Music by Other Composers

Manuscript and printed scores and parts in the hands of Leichtentritt and other composers. Includes manuscript copies and arrangements by Leichtentritt used for student instruction. Arranged alphabetically by composer and title of work therein.

BOX 15-16

#### Scrapbooks, 1888-1933

Unbound volumes of articles, clippings, correspondence, and programs. Arranged chronologically.

BOX 17-21

#### Writings, 1892-1956

Manuscript and typescript drafts of book chapters, articles, essays, and other writings on music history. Includes Leichtentritt's unfinished autobiography and his journal from 1893. Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX 21

#### Miscellany, 1889-1931

One article, two programs, and a thematic index of Leichtentritt's musical compositions. Arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-14, 22-23</b>	<b>Music, 1893-1972</b>  <b>Music by Leichtentritt</b> Manuscript and published scores, parts, and sketches. Researchers should consult Leichtentritt's thematic index for more detailed compositional histories of select works. Arranged alphabetically by title.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	4 stimmen Fuge (piano), 1896 Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</b>	The 7 penitential psalms (voices, chorus, orchestra), undated Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</b>	Allegro maestoso (piano), 1893 Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	Andante, op. 1 (piano), 1890 Sketch
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</b>	Aus dem 106 Psalmen für 3 Stimmen mit Klavier, 1892 Title page
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/6</b>	Canon in der Oktave (piano), 1896-1897 Scores
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/7-11, 22/1</b>	Cantata for contralto solo and orchestra, or piano, on selected verses from the canticle of Solomon, op. 27: Ich bin eine Blume zu Saron, 1930 Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/12</b>	Ca'tchua (orchestra), 1908 Score fragment
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1-2</b>	Chinesisch-deutsche Jahres-und Tageszeiten von Goethe (no. 1-8), op.4: ein Liederzyklus (voice, orchestra), 1912 Scores
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/3-6</b>	Concert for cello and orchestra, op. 24, 1927 Scores and sketches
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7-8, 3/1-2</b>	Concerto for violin and orchestra, op. 14, undated Scores and violin solo parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/3</b>	Cyprian de rose (voices), 1892 Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/4</b>	Danket dem Herrn, denn er ist freundlich (double chorus), 1899 Score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/5-6</b>	Dirge of Saul: for baritone solo, women's chorus, and instruments, circa 1944? Score and sketches
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/7</b>	Doppelter contrapunkt, 1897 Exercises
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/8</b>	Dreistrimmiger [?] canon, undated Sketch
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/9</b>	Esther: dramatische Legende nach der Bibel (voices, violin, organ), 1914 Score Incomplete

## Music, 1893-1972

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/10-11, 4/1-2, 22/2-4, 23/1-2	Esther: dramatische Legende nach der Bibel (voices, chorus, orchestra), 1923-1926 and undated Scores and sketches
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Etude (piano), undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 23/3	Etude (piano), undated Score and sketches
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	Etude (piano), 1932 Score
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	Etude no. 1 (piano), undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 4/6	Etude no. 3 (piano), undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 4/7-8	From the 130th psalm (voices, chorus, orchestra), 1897 Scores
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	Des Frühlings Ankunft (voice, piano), 1910 Score
BOX-FOLDER 4/10-12, 5/1-3	Hero und Leander: op. 30, undated Parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	Ich sehe dich in Tausend bildern: op. 2, no. 7 (voice, piano), 1910 Printed score
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	Introitus solemnis: for organ, op. 33, 1933 <i>see also <a href="#">Prelude for organ</a></i> Printed score
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	Jewish marching song (voice or chorus, piano), undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 5/7	Kol nidreh: for mixed chorus and organ, undated Score Laid in: solo voice arrangements by Louis Lewandowski and an unidentified composer, used as source material by Leichtentritt
BOX-FOLDER 5/8	Kontrapunkt, 1895-1897 Exercises
BOX-FOLDER 5/9-10	Lieder und Gesänge, op. 2 and 3 (voice, piano), 1909-1910 and undated Scores
BOX-FOLDER 5/11	Miscellaneous compositions, undated Sketches and fragments
BOX-FOLDER 5/12	Piano concerto (piano, orchestra), 1929 Score Incomplete or unfinished
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	Piano quintet, op. 14, 1914 Score
BOX-FOLDER 6/2	Prelude for organ, 1930 <i>see also <a href="#">Introitus solemnis</a></i> Score
BOX-FOLDER 6/3	Psalm 2 (voices, orchestra), 1897 Score Unfinished
BOX-FOLDER 6/4	Scherzo and trio (piano), 1895 Score

## Music, 1893-1972

### Container

### Contents

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BOX-FOLDER 6/5	Schwimm hin, Ringelein: aus <i>Des Knaben Wunderhorn</i> (voice, piano), 1909-1910 Score
BOX-FOLDER 6/6-11, 23/4	Der Sizilianer (voices, orchestra), 1915-1918 Scores, vocal part for "Isadore", and librettos
BOX-FOLDER 7/1-3	Sonata for cello and piano, 1929 Scores and corrections
BOX-FOLDER 7/4-5	Sonata for piano, 1898 Score and sketches Includes revised Finale
BOX-FOLDER 7/6-9, 23/5	Sonata for piano, op. 23, 1926 Scores
BOX-FOLDER 7/10	Sonata for viola and piano, op. 13, 1913 Scores and viola part
BOX-FOLDER 7/11-13	Sonata for violin and piano, op. 17, 1919 Scores, violin part, and sketches
BOX-FOLDER 7/14	Song for the twentieth reunion of the class of 1894, Harvard College (voice, piano), 1914 Score
BOX-FOLDER 7/15	String quartet, 1894 Score
BOX-FOLDER 7/16	String quartet, 1897 Score
BOX-FOLDER 7/17	String quartet, op. 1, 1913 Printed score Annotations
BOX-FOLDER 7/18	String quartet, op. 7, undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	String quartet no. 2, op. 20, undated Parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/2-3	String quartet no. 3, undated Scores and parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/4	Suite for cello solo, undated Title page
BOX-FOLDER 8/5	Suite for harpsichord, op. 31, 1932 Score
BOX-FOLDER 8/6-8	A summer day: tone poem for women's chorus and chamber orchestra, op. 11, undated Scores and double bass part
BOX-FOLDER 8/9-12	Symphonic suite (orchestra), undated Scores and sketches Unfinished
BOX-FOLDER 8/13	Tenebrae factae sunt (voices), undated Score
BOX-FOLDER 8/14	Theme (piano), 1893 Score
BOX-FOLDER 9/1-3	Theme and variations for piano, op. 26, 1930 Scores and sketches
BOX-FOLDER 9/4-5	Theme and variations for string quartet, undated Score and parts Incomplete



## Music, 1893-1972

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 9/6-7	Toccata and fugue for piano, op. 29, 1931 Score and sketches
BOX-FOLDER 9/8	Variations on a Siamese melody: for orchestra, 1931 Score
BOX-FOLDER 9/9	Unidentified, undated Sketches
<b>Music by Other Composers</b>	
Manuscript and printed scores and parts in the hands of Leichtentritt and other composers. Includes manuscript copies and arrangements by Leichtentritt used for student instruction. Arranged alphabetically by composer and title of work therein.	
BOX-FOLDER 9/10-9/20	A-Ca
BOX-FOLDER 10/1-10/41	Ch-Deh
BOX-FOLDER 11/1-11/46	Del-Ha
BOX-FOLDER 12/1-12/27	He-Ho
BOX-FOLDER 13/1-13/30	Ho-Mu
BOX-FOLDER 14/1-14/42, 23/6	No-V
BOX 15-16	<b>Scrapbooks, 1888-1933</b> Unbound volumes of articles, clippings, correspondence, and programs. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 15/1-15/4	1880s-1920s and undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/1-16/3	1918-1933 and undated
BOX 17-21	<b>Writings, 1892-1956</b> Manuscript and typescript drafts of book chapters, articles, essays, and other writings on music history. Includes Leichtentritt's unfinished autobiography and his journal from 1893. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX-FOLDER 18/1	"Aaron Copland: Third symphony," 1946
BOX-FOLDER 18/2	"The American scene of music," undated
BOX-FOLDER 18/3-4	Analyse der Chopin'schen Klavierwerke, 1920-1922
BOX-FOLDER 18/5-8	Autobiography, undated
BOX-FOLDER 19/1	"Claudio Monteverdi as Madrigalkomponist," undated
BOX-FOLDER 19/2	"Essais et critiques," 1893-1894
BOX-FOLDER 19/3-5	Geschichte der Motette, 1908
BOX-FOLDER 17/1-3	Handel, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 19/6	"History of ancient art," 1892-1893
BOX-FOLDER 19/7	"Jean Sibelius: Fifth symphony," undated
BOX-FOLDER 20/1	"Julius Caesar," undated
BOX-FOLDER 20/2	Miscellany, undated
BOX-FOLDER 20/3	Music, history, and ideas, undated Introduction only
BOX-FOLDER 20/4-8	Music of the Western nations, 1956

## Writings, 1892-1956

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 20/9</b>	"Nationalism and internationalism in music," undated Chapter 10 from an unidentified work
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/1</b>	"Die Oper," undated
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/2</b>	"Protestant music and the Reformation," 1934
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/3</b>	"The reform of Trent," undated
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/4</b>	"Reinhard Keiser in seinen Opern," 1901
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/5</b>	"Schubert," undated
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/6</b>	Tagebuch, 1893
<b>BOX 21</b>	<b>Miscellany, 1889-1931</b> One article, two programs, and a thematic index of Leichtentritt's musical compositions. Arranged alphabetically by title or subject.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/7</b>	"Bericht über die fünfte Hauptversammlung," 1920 Article that mentions Leichtentritt
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/8</b>	Programs, 1889, 1931
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/9</b>	Thematic index, undated Index cards with bibliographic information for Leichtentritt's compositions