

# Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2021**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2006571040>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021011>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Rachel McNellis, 2021

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg

**Inclusive Dates:** 1905-1956

**Bulk Dates:** 1931-1935

**Call No.:** ML31 .B453

**Collector:** Reich, Willi, 1898-1980

**Creator:** Berg, Alban, 1885-1935

**Extent:** approximately 275 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** 1.25 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in German, with some materials in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006571040>

**Summary:** Alban Berg (1885–1935) was an Austrian composer and member of the Second Viennese School, along with Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern, who together advanced atonal and twelve-tone music. The Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg consists of correspondence between the composer and musicologist Willi Reich (1898-1980), articles and clippings, and printed music for Berg's vocal and instrumental works.

## Acquisition Information

Purchase, 1990

## Processing History

Music Division staff processed the Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg around 1993. Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2021.

## Related Material

The Music Division holds holograph scores for Alban Berg's [Violin Concerto](#) and his opera [Wozzeck](#), as well as a significant amount of correspondence between [Berg and Paul Hohenberg](#). Several additional collections contain related materials. The [Arnold Schoenberg Collection](#) includes letters between Schoenberg and Berg, in addition to those with Anton Webern. The [Rudolph Kolisch Collection](#) contains correspondence between Kolisch and Berg, Schoenberg, and Webern, as well as several scores in Berg's hand. The [Alexander von Zemlinsky Collection](#) includes materials related to the Second Viennese School.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg 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 Willi Reich Collection Alban Berg is 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note: Alban Berg

Date	Event
1885 February 9	Born in Vienna, Austria
circa 1901-1902	In a romantic relationship with Maria Scheuchl, a maid at the family's estate in Carinthia
1902 December 4	Scheuchl gave birth to his daughter Albine
1901-1904	Composed more than 80 songs, which were his first compositions
1904-1911	Studied composition and music theory with Arnold Schoenberg
1910 May 3	Married Helene Nahowski
1911	Moved to Berlin
1911-1915	Taught private lessons and worked as a composer and arranger for Universal Edition in Vienna
1912	Composed the song collection <i>Fünf Orchesterlieder nach Ansichtskartentexten von Peter Altenberg</i>
1913 March 31	Riot occurred at the premiere of <i>Altenberg Lieder</i> , conducted by Arnold Schoenberg, in reaction to the work's experimental style
1914 May 5	Attended first performance of Georg Büchner's play <i>Woyzeck</i> in Vienna
1915-1918	Served in the Austrian Army and the War Ministry
1921-1921	Performance director, Verein für Musikalische Privataufführungen (Society for Private Musical Performances)
1922 April	Completed the opera <i>Wozzeck</i>
1923-1925	Composed Kammerkonzert, his first instrumental programmatic work
1925	Wrote his first 12-tone composition, <i>Schliesse mir die Augen Beide</i> , a song setting of Theodor Storm's poem of the same title
1925 December 14	The Berlin State Opera premiered <i>Wozzeck</i> under the direction of Erick Kleiber
1927 January	The Kolisch Quartet premiered <i>Lyrische Suite</i> at the Baden-Baden Festival
1928-1934	Composed short score for the opera <i>Lulu</i> , based on Frank Wedekind's plays <i>Erdegeist</i> (1895) and <i>Die Büchse der Pandora</i> (1904)
1934	Orchestrated parts of <i>Lulu</i> into the concert suite <i>Symphonische Stücke aus 'Lulu'</i>
1934 November 30	The Berlin State Opera premiered <i>Symphonische Stücke aus 'Lulu'</i> under the direction of Erick Kleiber
1935	Composed Violinkonzert
1935 December 24	Died from sepsis in Vienna, leaving the third act of <i>Lulu</i> unorchestrated
1937	The Zürich Opera posthumously premiered the first two acts of <i>Lulu</i>
1979 February 24	Friedrich Cerha finished orchestrating an ending for Act 3 of <i>Lulu</i> , and the Paris Opera premiered the work in its entirety

## Biographical Note: Willi Reich

Date	Event
1898 May 27	Born in Vienna, Austria
1920	Began working as a music critic for local and international newspapers and journals
1927-1935	Studied music theory and composition with Alban Berg
1936-1938	Studied music theory and composition with Anton Webern
1932-1937	Edited the newspaper <i>23 – eine Wiener Musikzeitschrift</i> , which promoted music of the Second Viennese School and other new music

1937	Published, with co-authors Theodor Adorno and Ernst Krenek, <i>Alban Berg</i> . Vienna: Reichner
1938	The National Socialists banned <i>23-eine Wiener Musikzeitschrift</i> following the Anschluss of Austria Graduated with a Ph.D. from Vienna University, where he studied musicology with Robert Lach, Alfred Orel, and Robert Haas Emigrated to Basel, Switzerland, and began work as a freelance music writer
1948	Began work as a music critic for the <i>Neue Zürcher Zeitung</i>
1959-1970	Lectured in music theory and history at the Technische Hochschule in Zürich
1961	Published <i>Anton Webern: Weg und Gestalt</i> . Zürich: Verlag der Arche
1963	Published <i>Alban Berg: Leben und Werk (The Life and Work of Alban Berg)</i> . Zürich: Atlantis
1968	Published <i>Arnold Schönberg, oder Der konservative Revolutionär (Schoenberg: A Critical Bibliography)</i> . Zürich: Molden
1980 May 1	Died in Zürich

## Scope and Content Note

The materials in the Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg span from 1905 to 1956, with the majority dating from 1931 to 1935. The [Papers](#) series consists chiefly of correspondence between Willi Reich and Alban Berg dating from 1928 to 1935. It also includes a small number of telegrams, clippings, and writings. The [Music](#) series consists of printed music for Alban Berg's solo songs, chamber works, and orchestral compositions. Published articles and programs accompany several items, and Willi Reich signed or stamped three scores.

## Organization of the Willi Reich Collection on Alban Berg

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Papers, 1905-1935](#)
- [Music, 1926-1956](#)

## 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

Berg, Alban, 1885-1935--Correspondence.  
 Berg, Alban, 1885-1935.  
 Berg, Alban, 1885-1935.  
 Berg, Alban, 1885-1935. Works. Selections.  
 Reich, Willi, 1898-1980--Correspondence.  
 Reich, Willi, 1898-1980.  
 Reich, Willi, 1898-1980.

### Subjects

Chamber music--Scores.  
 Composers--Austria--Vienna--Correspondence.  
 Songs (Medium voice) with orchestra--Scores.  
 Songs with piano.

### Titles

*Alban Berg/Willi Reich collection, 1912-1950*

### Form/Genre

Articles.

Chamber music.  
Clippings (Information artifacts)  
Concertos.  
Personal correspondence.  
Programs (Documents)  
Scores.  
Song cycles.  
Songs.  
Writings (Documents)

## Description of Series

### Container

BOX 1

### Series

#### Papers, 1905-1935

This series primarily consists of approximately 250 letters between Willi Reich and Alban Berg that date from 1928 October 25 to 1935 November 4. The majority of this correspondence is typescript but also includes a few holograph or signed letters. This series also contains a small number of telegrams, clippings, and other writings.

Arranged by format and chronologically therein.

BOX 2

#### Music, 1926-1956

This series consists of eight compositions by Alban Berg published between 1926 and 1956.

These printed works include solo songs, instrumental chamber music, and orchestral music. Notably, Willi Reich signed the music for *Adagio* (1956) and the full score for *Fünf Orchester Lieder* (1953), and stamped the cover of *Vier Stücke für Klarinette und Klavier* (1924). Related articles and programs accompany the music for Berg's *Violinkonzert* (1936), *Le Vin der Wein* (1930), and the undated conductor score for *Fünf Orchester-Lieder*.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Papers, 1905-1935</b> <p>This series primarily consists of approximately 250 letters between Willi Reich and Alban Berg that date from 1928 October 25 to 1935 November 4. The majority of this correspondence is typescript but also includes a few holograph or signed letters. This series also contains a small number of telegrams, clippings, and other writings. Arranged by format and chronologically therein.</p> <p>Correspondence</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	1928 October 25-1929 December
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</b>	1930 January 12-1930 November 9
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</b>	1931 Fall-1931 October 6
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	1932 January 29-1932 December 1
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</b>	1933 February 27-1933 December 28
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/6</b>	1934 January-1934 December 24
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</b>	1935 May 15-1935 November 4
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</b>	Telegrams, clippings, and writings, 1905, 1934, and undated
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Music, 1926-1956</b> <p>This series consists of eight compositions by Alban Berg published between 1926 and 1956. These printed works include solo songs, instrumental chamber music, and orchestral music. Notably, Willi Reich signed the music for <i>Adagio</i> (1956) and the full score for <i>Fünf Orchester Lieder</i> (1953), and stamped the cover of <i>Vier Stücke für Klarinette und Klavier</i> (1924). Related articles and programs accompany the music for Berg's <i>Violinkonzert</i> (1936), <i>Le Vin der Wein</i> (1930), and the undated conductor score for <i>Fünf Orchester-Lieder</i>. Arranged alphabetically by title.</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</b>	2 Lieder, 1955 Text by Theodor Storm Piano-vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/3</b>	<i>Adagio aus dem Kammerkonzert</i> , 1956 Score; parts <i>Note:</i> Signed by Willi Reich
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/2</b>	<i>Fünf Orchester-Lieder nach Ansichtskartentexten von Peter Altenburg</i> , op. 4, 1953 Conductor score <i>Laid in:</i> Printed article: Rene Lebovitz, "Alban Berg's Five Orchestral Songs."
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</b>	<i>Fünf Orchester-Lieder nach Ansichtskartentexten von Peter Altenburg</i> , op. 4, undated Full score <i>Note:</i> Signed by Willi Reich
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</b>	<i>Kammerkonzert für Klavier und Geige mit dreizehn Bläsern</i> , 1926 Piano-conductor score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	<i>Vier Stücke für Klarinette und Klavier</i> , 1924 Score for piano and clarinet <i>Note:</i> Stamped with Willi Reich's name and address

## Music, 1926-1956

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Le Vin der Wein, 1930 Score for piano <i>Laid in:</i> Articles
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Violinkonzert, 1936 Score <i>Laid in:</i> Articles and concert programs