

The Harlan Trio (1930-1933) and Its Contributions to the Foundation of Historical Performance Practice

Poster Abstract

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Cornelia Schröder-Auerbach (1900-1997) was the first woman to receive a doctorate in musicology from the University in Freiburg (Breisgau), where she studied with W. Gurlitt. Her studies were specifically directed at early music. As a performer, she played keyboard instruments and recorders (Blockflöten). During the 1920s, she traveled with W. Gurlitt's Collegium Musicum, performing Medieval and Renaissance music. In the late 1920s, she and her husband, the composer and violist Hanning Schröder (1896-1987) met the instrument maker Peter Harlan (1908-1966). Peter Harlan played lute instruments and had specialized in building historical instruments. Cornelia Schröder-Auerbach, Hanning Schröder, and Peter Harlan formed the "Harlan-Trio" - one of the first professional ensembles to travel throughout Germany (until 1933) and perform Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music. Cornelia Schröder-Auerbach was the driving force for this ensemble, who not only organized most of these public concerts, but also lectured on early music and on historical performance practice. As a Jew, she had to discontinue her public work, after Hitler seized power. Her disappearance marked the end of the Harlan-Trio's activities.

The poster will give a glimpse of the importance of the Harlan Trio for the rediscovery of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music. It will list concert repertoire, provide newspaper critiques of performances, as well as biographical information on each performer.