Rudolf [Rudolph] Réti

born Uzice, Serbia, Nov 27, 1885; died Montclair, NJ, Nov 27, 1957

Documents associated with this:

Diaries

Pianist, composer, and music theorist.

Career Summary
Réti studied at the Vienna Conservatory (= Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst) and Vienna University. As a concert pianist, he gave the first performance of Schoenberg’s *Drei Klavierstücke* Op. 11 (1909) in 1911. In the 1930s, he worked as a music critic. He emigrated to the USA in 1938, where in three books (1951, 1958, 1967) he developed a theory of motivic cells and a theory of pantonality:

*The Thematic Process in Music* (New York: Macmillan, 1951)

Réti and Schenker
On March 4, 1913, Réti invited Schenker to attend a lecture entitled "An attempt to explain modern harmony," which Schenker declined (diary, OJ 1/12, p. 320); Réti replied on March 10 (ibid., p. 322: Schenker’s comment: "his only gift is arrogance, thus [he is] ungifted"). On April 14, 1913 (ibid. p. 334), Schenker responded angrily to an article by Réti in *Die Musik* that cited him. Further diary entries ensued thereafter.

Correspondence with Schenker
One letter survives from Réti to Schenker as OJ 13/22 (1913), and one from Schenker to Réti as OC 1/B 12 (1913). An article by Réti published in *Die Musik* for April 1913, pp. 67-88, entitled "27 Paragraphen über das musikalische Einzelphänomen mit einem Erklärungsversuch zeitgenössischer 'Moderne Harmonik'," is preserved in Schenker's scrapbook (OC 2/p.45).

Diaries

Diary entry by Schenker for 4 March 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-03/r0004.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 10 March 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-03/r0010.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 17 March 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-03/r0017.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 20 March 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-03/r0020.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 14 April 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-04/r0014.html]
Diary entry by Schenker for 15 April 1913
[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-04/r0015.html]