

Gustav Nottebohm

born Lüdenscheid, Nov 12, 1817; died Graz, Oct 29, 1882

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German musicologist, teacher, composer, pioneering scholar of Beethoven source materials.

Nottebohm was a close friend of Brahms, compiler of thematic catalogues of Beethoven's and Schubert's works (Leipzig c. 1868, 1874); author of *Beethoveniana* and *Zweite Beethoveniana* (Leipzig and Winterthur, 1872 and 1887), *Beethovens Studien* (Leipzig, 1873), and *Ein Skizzenbuch von Beethoven aus dem Jahr 1803* (Leipzig, 1880).

Nottebohm and Schenker

Schenker credited Nottebohm with having revealed Beethoven's intentions through study of the sketch materials and autograph manuscripts and copies, thereby refuting the editorial activity of others (WSLB 47). In 1912, [Mandyczewski](#) gave Schenker access to unpublished notes by Nottebohm (WSLB 143, 167), of which Schenker states in the "Vorbemerkung zur Einführung" (Preliminary Remark to the Introduction) of *Die letzten fünf Sonaten von Beethoven ... op. 109*: [I]n the interests of the most complete and accurate possible reproduction of the master's intentions, the editor insisted on inspecting other model texts, too. In particular, use was made of the notes by Nottebohm that he inscribed in his own handwritten copy on the basis of a copy revised by Beethoven himself. (p. 22)

In Schenker's *Beethovens Neunte Sinfonie*, the "Literatur" (Secondary Literature) sections begin by presenting Nottebohm's evidence before proceeding to attack other commentators; as Schenker says in his Preface: Let it be noted at once [...] that absolutely no polemical purpose underlies the excerpts occasionally cited at the beginning of the literature rubric from *Beethoveniana* and *Zweite Beethoveniana* by Gustav Nottebohm, as the sketches derived therefrom are intended rather to show the object [under consideration] from the most interesting aspect--specifically, the initial origin of the ideas. (p. XXIV; Eng. trans., p. 17)

Thus Schenker was able to use Nottebohm's findings as the basis of his own polemics against Wagner, von Bülow, and others.

Bibliography:

Jonas, Oswald, "Gustav Nottebohm," *Allgemeine Musikzeitung* lix/43 (October 28, 1932), 543-44 [discusses Nottebohm]

Correspondence

[WSLB 47 Diary entry by Schenker for 9 November 1909](#)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-47.html>]

Schenker resists attending a meeting with Hertzka and von Wöß regarding the printing of his edition of the Chromatic Fantasy & Fugue; asserts his rights as an author to control over his own material; and makes claims for the introduction to his Instrumentations-Tabelle, which was not accepted for inclusion in 1908 reprinting.

[WSLB 66/67 Diary entry by Schenker for 19 October 1910](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-66-67.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-66-67.html>]

Schenker cancels their Thursday meeting. — He argues for sweeping changes to the draft contract for Beethovens neunte Sinfonie. — He defends his own free speech in the face of Universal Edition's commercial interests. As with his Chromatic Fantasy & Fugue edition, UE will never regret publishing the Ninth Symphony monograph. — He also lauds the prospective editions of the last five Beethoven piano sonatas and volume of J. S. Bach toccatas in a lofty vision for future publications. — He appends a list of recipients of complimentary copies of the Chromatic Fantasy & Fugue.

[WSLB-Hds 94478 Diary entry by Schenker for 10 May 1911](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-Hds-94478.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-Hds-94478.html>]

Schenker reports the completion of work on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and enlists Seligmann's help in placing notices in Viennese newspapers advertising a planned series of lectures on modern music (cacophony).

[OC 1A/1-2 Diary entry by Schenker for 30 May 1911](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-1-A-1-2.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-1-A-1-2.html>]

Schenker requests Graf to publish an announcement of lectures in the autumn of 1911, which are to anticipate the subject of the Der freie Satz. He regards a book by Nottebohm that he has often been consulting recently as exceptional.

[OC 1A/3 Diary entry by Schenker for 30 May 1911](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-1-A-3.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-1-A-3.html>]

Schenker requests Graf to publish an announcement of lectures in the autumn of 1911, which are to anticipate the subject of the Der freie Satz. He regards a book by Nottebohm that he has often been consulting recently as exceptional.

[OJ 11/10, \[15\] Diary entry by Schenker for 17 June 1912](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-11-10_15.html)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-11-10_15.html]

In response to Schenker's inquiry as to the locations of autograph manuscripts of Beethoven's last five piano sonatas, Frimmel refers Schenker to the Berlin Academy's Urtext edition and to Nottebohm's writings.

[OJ 13/37, 15 Diary entry by Schenker for 7 August 1912](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-13-37-15.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-13-37-15.html>]

Rudorff is convinced the autograph of Op. 109 was acquired from the Joachim estate by Mrs. Wittgenstein.

[OJ 12/21, \[1\] Diary entry by Schenker for 30 August 1912](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-12-21_1.html)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-12-21_1.html]

Krebs is unable to give Schenker information as to the whereabouts of the autograph manuscript of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E major, Op. 109

[WSLB 143 Diary entry by Schenker for 27 November 1912](http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-143.html)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-143.html>]

Schenker requests another copy of Beethoven Op. 109, and lists the sources he has now consulted, the communications with scholars, the cost and time involved, proclaims the "spectacular" findings made, and the incompetence of all previous editors unmasked.

[BNba 318, \[2\] Diary entry by Schenker for 9 December 1913](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/BNba-318_2.html]

Schenker states that he is writing a letter placing an order for photographs of Beethoven piano sonatas Op. 111, Op. 27, No. 2, and Op. 28, and hoping that Schmidt will extend his permission to cover the latter two manuscripts.

[WSLB-Hds 191.559 Diary entry by Schenker for 6 June 1927](#)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/WSLB-Hds-191-559.html>]

Schenker asks Deutsch to make inquiries at the British Museum on his behalf, concerning the autograph manuscript of Beethoven's Sonata Op. 79. He is annoyed with Hertzka for letting someone else take on the editing of Mozart's piano sonatas for Universal Edition.

[OJ 10/3, \[68\] Diary entry by Schenker for 12 September 1927](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_68.html]

Deutsch has sent Vrieslander's prospectus of the second Meisterwerk yearbook to the publisher almost unchanged, despite overlength. — He reports 200 new acquisitions [for Hoboken's collection], particularly in Mozart, Haydn, and Chopin.

[OJ 10/3, \[70\] Diary entry by Schenker for 11 October 1927](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_70.html]

Deutsch has seen Otto Vrieslander, who surprisingly did not mention the recent publication of his songs. He explains how different early print-runs of Beethoven's works may display telling differences, and how parallel publications in different cities could sometimes show changes attributable to the composer (as is typically found in Chopin).

[OJ 10/3, \[88\] Diary entry by Schenker for 14 June 1928](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_88.html]

Deutsch can show Schenker the reissue (Titelaufgabe) of Beethoven's Sonata Op. 6 if he is interested. -- On the 27th, he is giving a radio broadcast on Schubert's lost symphony; he has obtained funding (\$1,000) for the person who finds it. -- He is giving another radio talk on July 3, on Schubert's incidental music to Rosamunde.

[OJ 89/3, \[10\] Diary entry by Schenker for 18 September 1929](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-89-3_10.html]

Schenker acknowledges check; — comments on Hoboken's work on a Chopin Etude; — discusses an approach by Vrieslander; — explains how the possibility of a professorship at Heidelberg had come about.

[OJ 10/3, \[119\] Diary entry by Schenker for 26 February 1930](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_119.html]

In contrast to the uprightness of Schenker's other pupils, Hans Weisse and Felix Salzer, Hoboken is described by Deutsch as an unsteady, unfocused person who may yet be able to do some good but whose restlessness gives him grounds to fear for the future of his library, and his own future.

[OJ 10/3, \[120\] Diary entry by Schenker for 2 March 1930](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_120.html]

Deutsch has come across information suggesting that there may be parts, even a score, of the "Eroica" Symphony with corrections in Beethoven's hand from the music library of Archduke Rudolph and still located in Olmütz [Olomouc].

[OJ 10/3, \[123\] Diary entry by Schenker for 1 April 1930](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_123.html]

Deutsch suggests that Schenker should get Breitkopf & Härtel to publish his study of the "Eroica" symphony, on a commission basis. -- He thinks that Hoboken will continue to study theory with Schenker while he improves his piano technique in Berlin. -- He has found a published version of Beethoven's song "Neue Liebe, neues Leben," which predates its publication in Op. 75 by about three years, and asks Schenker to compare the two version with a sketch from 1798 that was published by Nottebohm.

[OJ 5/9, \[2\] Diary entry by Schenker for 3 April 1930](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-5-9_2.html]

Schenker confirms that a Beethoven sketch for "Neue Liebe, neues Leben" is related to the earlier of his two settings of the song. Although he is grateful for Nottebohm's work on the Beethoven sketches, he transcribed only from the surface, not from the depths of the composition. -- In a postscript, Schenker complains that, in a recent feuilleton, the music critic Julius Korngold has quoted his terminology (e.g. Auskomponierung) but failed to mention his name.

[OJ 10/3, \[124\] Diary entry by Schenker for 4 April 1930](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-10-3_124.html]

Deutsch thanks Schenker for confirming the relationship of a Beethoven sketch to his song "Neue Liebe, neues Leben," which Gustav Nottebohm had misunderstood.

[OC 54/315 Diary entry by Schenker for 30 July 1930](#)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-54-315.html>]

Deutsch makes further reports on the anticipated costs of the third Meisterwerk yearbook. -- He has come across an arrangement of Beethoven's Op. 74 Quartet as a symphony and found some important early editions of the Op. 22 Sonata. -- He would like Schenker to meet his friend [Leopold] Liegler, whose theories about literature resonate with the concept of Uralinie.

[OC 54/318 Diary entry by Schenker for 27 August 1930](#)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-54-318.html>]

Deutsch has no objection to Schenker adding a note about a possible source for the "Eroica" Symphony in his notes on the text of the work. -- He is happy that reading the proofs of the third Meisterwerk yearbook has been useful. -- He suggests that the [Austrian] Minister for Education ought to see the letters that Leo Kestenbergh has written about Schenker's work. -- He asks Schenker for a possible journalist contact in Aussig.

[OC 54/324 Diary entry by Schenker for 3 October 1930](#)

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OC-54-324.html>]

Deutsch has learned that the sources that may have once been in Archduke Rudolph's collection in Olmütz were not transferred to Kremsier, and that the last footnote (NB) on p. 87 of the third Meisterwerk yearbook ought to be changed.

[OJ 12/6, \[24\] Diary entry by Schenker for 2 October 1932](#)

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/correspondence/OJ-12-6_24.html]

Jonas acknowledges OJ 5/18, 16 (not surviving); is pleased his article has Schenker's approval; sends [text of] lecture for Schenker's judgment; result of subscription [for Einführung] so far depressing.

Diaries

Diary entry by Schenker for 24 April 1907

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-06_1907-04/r0018.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 22 October 1912

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-11_1912-10/r0026.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 12 November 1912

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-11_1912-11/r0016.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 16 April 1913

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-04/r0016.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 15 May 1913

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-12_1913-05/r0018.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 23 September 1913

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-01-13_1913-09/r0031.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 3 June 1921

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-02_1921-06/r0003.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 20 September 1922

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-03_1922-09/r0020.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 6 September 1923

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-04_1923-09/r0006.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 25 February 1927

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-03-09_1927-02/r0025.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 2 October 1928

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-02_1928-10/r0002.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 2 April 1930

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-03_1930-04/r0002.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 3 April 1930

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-03_1930-04/r0003.html]

Diary entry by Schenker for 4 October 1930

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/diaries/OJ-04-04_1930-10/r0004.html]

Lessonbooks

OC 3/1-2: Oct 1912-Jun 1913 Diary entry by Schenker for 23 November 1912

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/lessonbooks/OC-3-1_1912/r0136.html]

OC 3/1-2: Oct 1912-Jun 1913 Diary entry by Schenker for 17 January 1913

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/lessonbooks/OC-3-1_1912/r0262.html]

OC 3/3: Oct 1919-Jun 1920 Diary entry by Schenker for 30 June 1920

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/lessonbooks/OC-3-3_1919/r0018.html]

OC 3/3: 1920/21 Diary entry by Schenker for 30 June 1921

[http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/lessonbooks/OC-3-3_1920/r0003.html]