

Unknown string quintet by Max Bruch

First edition published by G. Henle Publishers. World premiere performance by the Henschel Quartet in London's Wigmore Hall

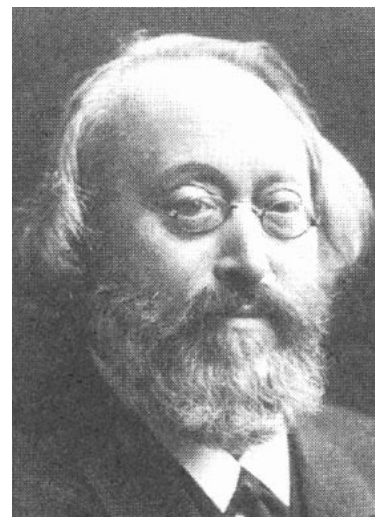
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Max Bruch (1838–1920), composer of the immortal violin concerto, wrote two string quintets towards the end of his life. Whilst the one in A minor is much loved by chamber musicians, the other one has remained completely unknown to the present. Hardly surprising because the music vanished and it was apparently never performed in public. Recently a manuscript of the parts and score of the composition resurfaced and is now in a private collection. It is not Max Bruch's autograph score but a copy by his daughter-in-law Gertrude. Bruch's own manuscript is still missing.

G. Henle Publishers, which owns the exclusive exploitation rights to the work, will soon rouse this gem from its slumber and publish an Urtext edition of the parts as well as a study edition. The editor is the renowned music scholar Dr. Michael Kube. Christopher Fifield, the conductor and pre-eminent expert on the life and works of Max Bruch, describes the rediscovery of the piece and its meticulous publication by G. Henle Publishers as “an extraordinary stroke of luck, which without doubt represents a great gain for the chamber music repertoire.” Bruch's String Quintet in E-flat major is, like its companion in A minor, for two violins, two violas and cello. The music is highly romantic and in the best possible sense “playfully” dignified. The work is stylistically and compositionally challenging, and time and again is infused with refined polyphony. This quintet can also undoubtedly be played by ambitious amateurs (with an accomplished first violinist). The work lasts about

20 minutes in total.

The String Quintet in E-flat major will soon be given a world premiere by eminent musicians in an eminent place: the acclaimed Henschel Quartet, with Kazuki Sawa (viola), will perform it at London's Wigmore Hall on 23 July 2008. Shortly afterwards Henle's Urtext edition will be made available.



Max Bruch (1838–1920)



First page of the quintet score in the hand of Gertrude Bruch



The Henschel Quartet:
Christoph and Markus Henschel, Violins
Monika Henschel-Schwind, Viola
Mathias Beyer-Karlshøj, Violoncello