

Artur Schnabel · *Music and the Line of Most Resistance*



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A QUIET . . . . .  
RESIDENTIAL HOTEL  
OVERLOOKING  
CENTRAL PARK

## Hotel Peter Stuyvesant

CENTRAL PARK WEST ° AT 86<sup>TH</sup> STREET, New York 24, N.Y.

First lecture, page 9, line 2:  
access | From the one newspaper serving  
me all the information I can swallow  
I have here a clipping which illuminates  
that "mother of taste" problem very nicely.

I quote. || Unquote. Well, that is  
quite a salad (even in this abstract version)!  
Musical works of the nineteenth century  
characteristic for being much too long for the taste of  
the present. ~~Now to me.~~ Now to me. With the  
exception of Wagner, Brahms and Mahler (he belonging to  
our century already) I cannot guess who was meant.  
Albinus' effort bigger than Beethoven's? Also  
the mesnet, perhaps? Percussion as colour instruments,  
again new to me. Los Nocos an emanation of rhythm?  
I thought it to a confirmation of rhythm.

Comparison of simultaneous sounds with successive  
sounds — very original! || line 2:  
Now, if we accept  
etc.

CENTRAL PARK — YOUR FRONT LAWN

Artur Schnabel: Handwritten draft from the year 1949 for the first of two Harvard lectures, *Music – its Function and Limitations*, Academy of Arts, Berlin, Artur Schnabel Archive 1337, fo. 4r. The letter paper used by Schnabel for his drafts was supplied by the Hotel Peter Stuyvesant at Central Park, Schnabel's residence in New York.

Artur Schnabel

*Music and the Line  
of Most Resistance*

Edited by  
Lynn Matheson and Ann Schnabel Mottier

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Publication Note:

The *Reflections on Music* were written in German by Artur Schnabel and translated into English by César Saerchinger.

Acknowledgements:

*Music and the Line of Most Resistance*: Princeton, Princeton University Press 1942.

Drafts and manuscript: Academy of Arts, Berlin, Artur Schnabel Archive 518-520

*Music – its Function and Limitations*: Unpublished. Manuscript and typescript with handwritten annotations: Academy of Arts, Berlin, Artur Schnabel Archive 1170-1171 and 1337

*Reflections on Music*: New York, Simon and Schuster 1934. German original and translation manuscripts and typescripts: Academy of Arts, Berlin, Artur Schnabel Archive 511-512

First Edition 2007

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and Akademie der Künste Berlin, Musikarchiv

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Wolke Verlag Hofheim

Typesetting in Simoncini Garamond

Cover design by Friedwalt Donner, Alonissos, with two photographs:

Recording session of the Mozart Triple Concerto with Helen and

Karl Ulrich Schnabel as well as Ilse von Alpenheim, ca. 1956,

Schnabel Music Foundation, Stamford, Connecticut

and Artur Schnabel at recording session, London 1947,

Academy of Arts, Berlin, Artur Schnabel Archive 1097

ISBN 978-3-936000-51-1

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## ABOUT THIS EDITION

The present book is the first of several volumes presenting my grandfather's writings and correspondence. The next, a volume of letters, is now being prepared, as is a new edition of the lectures held by Schnabel in 1945 at the University of Chicago. Those lectures were partly abridged for their first publication in 1970 as *My Life and Music*. Offering the books with the lectures and letters represents one of the three aims pursued by the *Schnabel Music Foundation*, a company located in Stamford, Connecticut. The Foundation's two other goals are to make all of Artur Schnabel's completed compositions available in print, and to reissue historic recordings by Therese Behr Schnabel, Helen Schnabel and Karl Ulrich Schnabel. It is our good fortune to have the help and support of dedicated advisors at three companies: The Wolke Verlag, Hofheim, Germany, has joined us for the publication of the writings; the compositions are being published by Peermusic Classical, New York and Hamburg; and TownHall Records, Chatham, New York, is in charge of issuing the remastered recordings. We are privileged to call all the participants our friends.

My husband and I founded the *Schnabel Music Foundation* five years ago. The motive for this was tragic: in August 2002 our son, Claude Mottier, was killed, the innocent victim of a traffic accident. He was a very gifted pianist who was not allowed to pursue his calling past his bachelor's degree in piano performance due to an illness. His chosen vocation being impossible, he redirected his energies toward a scientific occupation, but at the same time Claude enthusiastically began to put his energy into promoting the accomplishments of his musical family. We have taken on the task of continuing his work and bringing it to fruition.

Our work would be unthinkable without the help of the Archive of the Academy of Arts in Berlin. Since 1999, the Academy houses the archives of all the artists of the Schnabel family; the musicians Artur, Therese, Karl Ulrich and Helen Schnabel, and the actor Stefan Schnabel, Artur Schnabel's second son. The Music Archive of the Academy had been working for many years with the Wolke Verlag where a number of books about Artur Schnabel were published: the German edition of *My Life and Music*, titled *Aus dir wird nie ein Pianist* (1991), the catalog of the Berlin Exhibition *Artur Schnabel. Musiker Musician. 1882-1951* (2001), the *Artur Schnabel. Werkverzeichnis* (List of works) (2003) as well as the collection of papers presented at the 2001 conference in Berlin, *Artur Schnabel. Bericht über das Internationale Symposium Berlin 2001* (2003).

I thank my co-editor Lynn Matheson, Berlin, for her support in preparing this volume; Werner Grünzweig, head of the music department at the Academy of Arts; Peter Mischung, head of the Wolke Verlag; Patricia Lutnes, Newtown, Connecticut; and my husband, François Mottier. Our special thanks go to Mary Virginia Foreman Le Garrec, Biarritz, France, whose generous financial support made the Foundation possible.

Stamford, August 2007, Ann Schnabel Mottier

