

Zsombor Németh:

Sándor Jemnitz and the Early Music

Sándor (Alexander) Jemnitz (1890-1963) is mainly known in the context of modern music and as a kind of ambassador of the Second Viennese School (especially of Arnold Schönberg) in Budapest. But surely it was not the only impulse he got from his studies. In 1908-09 Jemnitz was studying in Leipzig. He attended the organ class of the leading figure of the early 20th century Bach-cult, Karl Straube; and he was also studying violin with the ex-leader of the Bach Verein in Leipzig, Hans Sitt. It may be hypothesized that the two men introduced Jemnitz in the music and performance practice of Bach, his contemporaries and his predecessors. I am presenting the views of Jemnitz about early music through his critics and writings about music: what was his opinion about playing works written centuries before, what was his ideal about performing these works.