

address at symposium Graz Oct. 1980

EK's

~~E.K. was born Aug 28, 1900~~. His family stems from what is now
Tschekoslovakia, but since his father, an officer in the Austro-Hungarian
army, was stationed in Vienna, E.K. was born there on Aug 28, 1900
and grew up in Vienna. He received his education at the humanistic
high school and studied philosophy and ~~historical~~ history at the U
of Vienna. Since 1916 he studied composition at the ~~Academy of Music~~ ~~Frank~~
Lieber at the Vienna Acad. of Music and transferred to Berlin
when his teacher was called there as director of the Academy of Music.
From 1923 to 1925 E.K. lived on a scholarship in Switzerland. He
traveled to Paris where he met Stravinsky and the young French composers.
From 1925 to 1927 he was assistant to the director of the opera house in
Karlsruhe, Germany where he composed his opera *Juny Juny* and *and*. His musical
style had changed. He employed ~~the~~ features of early romantic
~~the~~ ~~provids~~ and ~~modern~~ jazy elements of the American entertainment
music of the ~~time~~ ^{contemporary}. In 1927 he returned to Vienna and became closely
acquainted with the circle of Arnold Schoenberg and his disciples. In 1930
he adopted the twelve-tone technique. ~~and~~ His first work in this style was his
most important operatic work, the historic opera *Charles V*. When in 1933 Hitler
came to power in Germany and began to threaten Austria's independence,
E.K. became very active in denouncing the philosophy and politics of the
Nazis. His music was prohibited in Germany and his name appeared on
their black lists. In 1937 E.K. visited the USA for the first time as a
member of an Austrian opera group for which he had adapted a Monteverdi
opera. When the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, he did not return
there, but settled in America permanently. He became a U.S. citizen in
1945. He was professor of music at Vassar College from 1939 to 1942, at Hamline
U. St. Paul MN from 1942 to 1947, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ a guest teacher at summer
sessions at the U. of Michigan, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Hawaii, at Black Mountain
College, and for one semester each at Claremont ~~College~~ ~~College~~, Brandeis U. and
Peabody Institute. Since 1950 he has been traveling to Europe nearly
every year for varying periods of time, conducting his own ~~orchestral~~ ~~and~~ orchestral
and operatic works at broadcasting, TV stations and opera houses. Since 1955
he has become active in the field of electronic music, an interest that he is
pursuing in his own studio in California. Since 1930 he has developed
a lively literary activity; he has published 14 books, both in German & English.

He wrote his
first substantial
works, among them
3 symphonies and
three operas, in
the advanced idiom
of the period.

During these
years he wrote
his first works
for vocal
ensemble,
oratorio,
Op. 24, Three
songs and
Kleine Bläsermusik