

Lesson 5 Leipzig's history and Schumann's tragedy(Düsseldorf)

Leipzig is an important city, full of German spirit. But this city was not so popular for Japanese. After World War II, the city became a part of the East Germany under the control of Soviet. But before that, Mori Ogai (森鷗外), Taki Rentaro(滝廉太郎) went there to study.



Let us look at its history. It is famous for international book fair. The development of this city is linked with printing industry. The Lutheran (ルター派) reform started here. Luther's statements were immediately printed and spread across the Europe. This speed was realized by high-level publishing industry.

By about 1700, Leipzig became the foremost German commercial center, based on the trade between the west and east of Europe.



St. Thomas Church

Johann Sebastian Bach worked here as a *Kapellmeister* (music director) from 1723 until his death in 1750.

Many wars:

Battle of Leipzig, fight against Napoleonic France



The Leipzig region was the arena of the 1813 Battle of Leipzig between Napoleonic France and an allied coalition of Prussia, Russia, Austria and Sweden. It was the largest battle in Europe before the First World War and the coalition victory ended Napoleon's presence in Germany. That elevated German's spirit.

World War II



One-fourth of Leipzig was destroyed in the last years of **World War II**. After the devastation of the war, the reconstruction of the city were carried out under the communist policies of East Germany.



under the influence of Soviet,
Socialist country

The unification of Germany started here.



The reunification of Germany, started here, pushed by citizen's passion for liberty and democracy. That moved the world history.

In October 1989, after prayers for peace at St. Nicholas Church, established in 1983 as part of the peace movement, the Monday demonstrations started as the most prominent mass protest against the East German government.

Historic landmarks including the statue of Mendelssohn were restored after both World War II and German reunification.

Leipzig and Jewish people

On 22 May 1930, Carl Friedrich Goerdeler was elected mayor of Leipzig. He was well known as an opponent of the Nazi regime.

in 1937 in his absence, his Nazi deputy ordered the destruction of the city's statue of Felix Mendelssohn.

On Kristallnacht (ユダヤ人迫害運動) in 1938, the Leipzig synagogue, one of the city's most architecturally significant buildings, was destroyed.

Goerdeler was later executed by the Nazis on 2 February 1945.

Beginning in 1933, many Jewish citizens of Leipzig, a large Jewish religious community spread throughout **Germany, Austria and Switzerland**.

In October 1935, they helped found the Lehrhaus (a house of study) in Leipzig to provide different forms of studies to Jewish students.

As with other cities in Europe during **the Holocaust**, the Jews of Leipzig were greatly affected by the **Nuremberg Laws**. However, due to the **Leipzig Trade Fair** and the international attention, Leipzig was especially cautious about its public image.

Despite this, the Leipzig authorities strictly applied anti-semitic measures.

Polish Jews living in the city were expelled.

Leipzig as a music center: Gewandhaus and Music university

Leipzig has long been a major centre for music, both classical and modern. The Opera Leipzig is one of the most prominent opera houses in Germany.

Leipzig is home to the University of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy".

The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, established in 1743, is one of the oldest symphony orchestras in the world. Mendelssohn was music director there and Schumann's Symphony no.1 was performed in this Gewandhaus in 1843.

Mendelssohn founded the music university. He worked with Schumann for this event and offered Professor position.



First Gewandhaus (1781)



Current Gewandhaus

Schuman's life with Clara

Clara's father, Professor Wieck was always against the marriage of Schuman and Clara.

He did not allow them to stay in Leipzig. Then they moved to Vienna to start their lives. But Prof continued to attack Schuman's activities.

Schumann was quite creative during his stay in Vienna (**Humoresque**, **Arabesque** etc) . He found out the score of Symphony of Schubert in his house and sent it to Mendelssohn.

But his attempts to obtain posts in Vienna had also been abortive.

Orchestra, Lieder (リート、歌曲) ,
Chamber music

Clara had been pressing him to widen his scope, to launch out in other media—above all, the orchestra.

In January–February 1841 he composed the *Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major*, which was performed under the composer Felix Mendelssohn at Leipzig.

Also: **Overture, Scherzo, and Finale (April–May)**
Phantasie for piano and orchestra (May).

He started to compose Lieder as well.

Inferiority complex

The few months of 1844 were spent on a concert tour of Russia with Clara, which depressed Schumann by making him conscious of his inferior role because Clara became gradually famous as Piano virtuoso.

On returning to Leipzig he resigned the editorship of the *Neue Zeitschrift*.

Aural nerve trouble

In 1845 he began another symphony, *No. 2 in C Major*, but because of aural nerve trouble it took nearly 10 months to finish.

By 1852 a general deterioration of his nervous system was becoming apparent.

From the mid-1840s he suffered periodic attacks of severe depression and nervous exhaustion.



Schumann's attempt of suicide in 1854

On Feb. 10, 1854, Schumann complained of a “very strong and painful” attack of the ear malady followed by aural hallucinations.

On March 4 he was moved to a private asylum at Endenich, near Bonn, where he lived for nearly two and a half years, unable to correspond for a time with Clara. He died of pneumonia in 1856.

Schumann and Brahms

Schumann lived in Düsseldorf, accepting the post of municipal director of music.

Brahms based in Düsseldorf, visited Schumann in October 1853, with a letter of introduction from Joachim. He was welcomed by Schumann and Clara. Schumann, was greatly impressed by the 20-year-old's talent, published an article entitled "Neue Bahnen" ("New Paths") in the 28 October issue of the journal *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik* nominating Brahms as one "fated to give expression to the times in the highest and most ideal manner".

This praise may have aggravated Brahms's confidence. He wrote to Schumann in November 1853 that his praise "will arouse such extraordinary expectations by the public that I don't know how I can begin to fulfil them".

Clara was not allowed to visit Robert until two days before his death, but Brahms was able to visit him and acted as a go-between. Brahms began to feel deeply for Clara, who represented an ideal of womanhood.

After Schumann's confinement in a mental sanatorium near Bonn, Brahms supported the household and dealt with business matters on Clara's behalf. Clara with 7 children worked so hard as pianist. She witnessed the death of 5 children.

Their intensely emotional platonic relationship lasted until Clara's death. In June 1854 Brahms dedicated to Clara his Op. 9, the *Variations on a Theme of Schumann*.

Clara supported Brahms's career by programming his music in her recitals.

Schumann was mentally unstable all his life, possessed by fears of insanity since the age of 18. Sometimes, he suffered from (probably enjoyed) the increasing angularity = coming of angels and devils.

But he survived in spite of these mental illness. The changing style in themes and harmony are still so beautiful. (**Don't you think so ?**)

Schumann can be considered an advanced composer in his day, and he stands in the front rank of German Romantic musical figures.

Even his critical writing, which is fantastic, subjective, and lyrical, constitutes a valuable document of the trend and period.

**How do you think
Musician's mental illness,
and his beautiful music ?**