



International Conference
Call for Papers

wozzeck100
Composing | Publishing | Performing Opera, 1918–1939

mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
Alban Berg Foundation Vienna
Vienna State Opera

Vienna, April 9–11, 2026

On December 14, 1925, Alban Berg's opera *Wozzeck* was given its world premiere at the Berlin State Opera. It was the culmination of a lengthy process involving numerous individuals, groups, and institutions – from Berg's initial search for a subject through various stages of composition, to the preparation and production of the performance material and negotiations with theaters, in which the Viennese publisher Universal Edition played a pivotal role, to the musical and scenic realization on stage.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its premiere, the conference "**wozzeck100: Composing | Publishing | Performing Opera, 1918–1939**" aims to explore the complex interactions between the numerous individuals and institutions involved. These interactions were not only integral to the genesis of a work and its sources but also reflect the social, economic, and political conditions that shaped the vibrant opera culture during the interwar period. The conference thus widens the discussion far beyond Alban Berg, *Wozzeck*, *Lulu*, and Universal Edition Vienna to consider a broader range of topics such as:

- The effects of political and social conditions upon opera production, including new notions of freedom and democracy, the rise of authoritarian regimes, censorship, and emigration and exile.
- The challenges and opportunities of new media from recording, radio, and film, as well as the corollaries for transmedial marketing and distribution.

- The institutional frameworks of public and privately managed opera houses and their effect upon repertoire, casting, staging, and public outreach.

The conference is closely related to the FWF-funded research project "Composing | Publishing | Performing Opera: The Making of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* and *Lulu*" (Alban Berg Foundation Vienna), which is devoted to investigating and documenting the creation of Alban Berg's two operas within the broader cultural context of the period. A central part of this project includes the publication of relevant documents in the database of the Alban Berg Foundation (<https://www.absw.at/datenbank>).

The conference, in German and English, envisions 20-minute presentations, follow-up discussions, and the timely publication of a conference report based on contributions submitted by April 30, 2026.

Please submit an abstract (max. 250 words) and a short biography (max. 150 words) by **June 6, 2025**, to wozzeck100@albanbergstiftung.at. The selection of contributions will be made by July 2025.

For questions, feel free to contact Annaktrin Babbe (babbe@albanbergstiftung.at) and Nastasia Heckendorff (heckendorff@albanbergstiftung.at).

Idea and concept: Annkatrin Babbe, Martin Eybl, Nastasia Heckendorff

Chair of the research project: Martin Eybl