

History of the IKG

On the Founding of the ILKS

From November 2003 to May 2009 the so-called "Kestenbergs Project" devoted itself to the life and work of Leo Kestenbergs. This project initiated a collaboration between staff of the *Universität der Künste* Berlin and the *Leo Kestenbergs Musikschule* Berlin, whose major common aim was the organization of an International Leo Kestenbergs Symposium in Berlin. This was realized in December 2005, thanks to numerous partners domestically and abroad, with lectures, concerts, an exhibition opening and a podium and people who experienced Kestenbergs during his lifetime.

Next to distinguished scholars, musicians and music educators, numerous individuals who were actually personally acquainted with Kestenbergs were also invited. So, for instance, the 93-year-old composer Josef Tal from Tel Aviv, who experienced Kestenbergs in the Berlin of the early 1920s, took up the invitation.

The successful symposium has produced a stimulating and sustained after-effect. Amongst various consequences has been the setting-up of this website. A book has also appeared with the scholarly contributions to the symposium, and the preparation of a collected edition of the works of Kestenbergs for publication has begun. Apart from this an intensive collaboration between the university archive of the *Universität der Künste* and the *Israeli Music Archive* of the University of Tel Aviv has developed, and a lively pupil-exchange between the *Leo Kestenbergs Musikschule* in Berlin and the *Givatayim Conservatorium* in Tel Aviv, originally founded by students of Kestenbergs, has come to life. Finally, the idea of founding an "International Leo Kestenbergs Society" took on concrete form.

Since 2009 the International Leo Kestenbergs Society has taken over the aims and tasks of the "Kestenbergs Project" and promotes these where possible. This concerns in particular the co-operation between the *Leo-Kestenbergs-Musikschule* and the university archive of the *Universität der Künste*, Berlin (UDK), as well as the *Israeli Music Archive* of the University of Tel Aviv (TAU).