

of children participated. Orff prepared programs on his didactic methods for Bavarian radio (1948–52). These broadcasts, together with the series *Orff Schulwerk* (Orff school practice), led to his principles being widely disseminated.

Orff's large-scale compositions consist almost exclusively of works for the stage. *Carmina Burana*, a setting of medieval Latin and German texts, is characteristic of his synthesis of classical Greek tragedy and Baroque opera and of his employment of ostinato and repeated rhythmic and melodic elements over simple triadic harmony. This was followed by the operas *Der Mond* (The moon), 1939, and *Die Kluge* (The clever woman), 1943, the theater piece *Die Bernauerin*, 1947, and the trilogy *Antigoniae*, 1949, *Oedipus der Tyrann*, 1959, and *Prometheus*, 1966, in which he reduced the melodic content to a minimum and relied increasingly on rhythmic devices and percussive forces. As a composer, Orff stands outside the mainstream of international musical developments, although the influence of Igor Stravinsky is not hard to detect.

Gareth Cox

See also Composers; Conductors; National Socialist Germany; Music; Opera; Orchestral Music

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Ossietzky, Carl von (1889–1938)

Born in the same year as Adolf Hitler, the political writer and editor Carl von Ossietzky was the antithesis of the Nazi leader. He was a left-wing intellectual, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who died as a martyr of the fight against Nazism.

Ossietzky was born in Hamburg of a mixed Catholic and Protestant family of modest means. The origin of his noble predicate "von" is uncertain. He took an early interest in politics and literature, and as a young clerk he joined various democratic and pacifist organizations. He also became a believer in Monism, a world view that denies the existence of heaven or hell and that advocates the unity of nature and culture. World War I encouraged Ossietzky to oppose militarism. After the war, as a professional pacifist, he contributed articles on the topic to diverse left-wing journals.

In 1925 he joined the staff of the prestigious *Die Weltbühne*, a weekly journal of cultural, political and artistic affairs, which he edited between 1927 and 1932. He led the publication in a campaign against the German army, the reactionary judiciary and academic profession, and, in his view, a much-too-conservative Republic.

Ossietzky had a somewhat cold, unassuming, and enigmatic personality, very different from that of his chief collaborator, Kurt Tucholsky (1890–1935), and from the other (generally sarcastic and flamboyant) contributors to the journal. But he was uncompromising in his convictions. In 1929, for instance, *Die Weltbühne* published his article denouncing the

secret cooperation between the German and Soviet governments regarding rearmament. Indicted for treason, he argued that he was only defending the clauses of the Treaty of Versailles that forbade Germany to rearm. The army and the prosecution argued that every German had to violate the terms of the dictated peace treaty as a matter of patriotic duty. Sentenced to 18 months in prison, Ossietzky actually spent half a year behind bars between May and Christmas 1932, when he was amnestied. He was rearrested in February 1933, after Hitler came to power.

First held in a prison, then detained at the concentration camp at Papenburg-Esterwegen, he was bullied by Schutzstaffel (SS) guards and presented a pitiful spectacle to the rare foreign visitors admitted to the camp. In November 1936, when an arduous and often frustrating campaign for the Nobel Peace Prize was successfully concluded (the 1935 prize was actually awarded to him in 1936), he was no longer in the camp. Suffering from tuberculosis, he was first transferred to a closely guarded section of a Berlin hospital and then to a private medical facility. Ossietzky died on May 4, 1938, without having been allowed to personally receive his Nobel Prize.

Although never a Communist Party member, Ossietzky supported the Communists in every major crisis. This enabled the German Communists after World War II to celebrate him as one of their own. In fact, he was much too independent a person to fit into any party mold. It is true, however, that he was far too harsh on the Republic that ensured his right to attack it. It is also true that Ossietzky, like nearly all other German intellectuals, gravely underestimated the threat presented by the Nazis.

Istvan Deak

See also *Die Weltbühne*; Journalism; National Socialist Germany; Pacifism and the Peace Movement; Tucholsky, Kurt; Weimar Republic

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Oster, Hans (1888–1945)

Major-General Hans Oster was born in Dresden on August 9, 1888, the son of a Lutheran pastor, and was executed in Flossenbürg concentration camp on April 9, 1945. He was a