Alma Schindler Mahler Reading List, Discography, and Filmography

by Mary Sharratt, author of ECSTASY

**General Reading List:**

*Alma Mahler-Werfel: Diaries 1898-1902*, selected and translated by Antony Beaumont, Faber & Faber, London, 2000.

Alma Mahler-Werfel and E. B. Ashton, *And the Bridge is Love: Memories of a Lifetime*, Hutchinson & Co, London, 1959.

Alma Mahler-Werfel, *Gustav Mahler: Memories and Letters*, edited by Donald Mitchell and Knud Martner, University of Washington Press, 1975. (Alma’s daughter Anna Mahler thought this memoir was a far truer depiction of her mother and her life than *And the Bridge is Love,* which may have been at least partially ghost-written.)

*Gustav Mahler: Letters to his Wife*, edited by Henry-Louis de La Grange and Günther Weiss, in collaboration with Knud Martner, translated by Antony Beaumont, Faber & Faber, London, 2004.

Alma is overdue for a fair and balanced English language biography that addresses her music and intellect, and not just her sexuality and relationships. For those who read German, I highly recommend Susanne Rode-Breymann’s *Alma Mahler-Werfel : Muse, Gattin, Witwe*. As co-editor of the German edition of Alma’s diaries and a professor of music, Dr. Rode-Breymann has unparalleled insights into Alma’s life and work. I also recommend Sandra Marchl’s *Alma Mahler-Werfel in der Biographik: die Dekonstruktion einer Legende*.

**Alma as a Composer: Reading List**

Diane W. Follet, “Redeeming Alma: The Songs of Alma Mahler,” weblink: <https://symposium.music.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=2210:redeeming-alma-the-songs-of-alma-mahler>) *College Music Symposium*, Vol. 44, 2004.

Sally Macarthur, “The Power of Sound, the Power of Sex: Alma Schindler-Mahler’s Ansturm,” *Feminist Aesthetics in Music*, Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut, 2002.

For those who read German, I highly recommend Susanne Rode-Breymann’s book, *Die Komponistin Alma Mahler-Werfel*

**Alma as a Composer: Discography**

Alma Schindler Mahler: *The Complete Songs*, performed by Charlotte Margiono (soprano) and members of the Brabant Orchestra. Conducting and orchestral arrangements by Julian Reynolds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0uh-MPPiDg&feature=youtu.be>

Alma Schindler Mahler: 5 Lieder, performed by Angelika Kirchschlager

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnT8pFzWvRE>

**Filmography**

The best film I have seen that addresses the complexities of Alma’s character is *Mahler on the Couch* (Austria/Germany, 2010). Barbara Romaner gives an outstanding performance as Alma. In one interview she stated that she literally rewrote the script to give deeper insights into Alma’s emotional experience. Read more here: <http://www.jewishfilm.org/Catalogue/films/mahleronthecouch.htm>

A new film, Dieter Berner’s *Alma & Oskar*, about Alma’s relationship with artist Oskar Kokoschka, is scheduled for release in 2019.

<http://variety.com/2018/film/global/berlinale-picture-tree-oskar-kokoschka-1202698434/>