

## Rudolf Reissig

(1874 – 1939)

Rudolf Reissig was a significant Czech musician and teacher. Besides his educational work he also acted as a choir-master and conductor and played on concerts as a soloist and chamber player. He played on violin, viola and the viola d'amore.

The viola d'amore was that time a little known, almost forgotten instrument; its subtle tone could not assert itself in the great orchestral compositions of that time period.

Rudolf Reissig studied at Prague Conservatory and started to teach at a music school at Kroměříž, later on in Brno. For two years he worked as the choir master of the Brno Philharmonic Choir „Beseda“. In the years 1903 – 1909 he taught at Brno Organist School, led by Leoš Janáček. It is highly probable that it was the tone of Reissig's viola d'amore, which inspired Janáček to many solo parts in his operas and the original version of his string quartet „Intimate letters“.

After foundation of Czechoslovak Republic, in the years 1919 -1920, Rudolf Reissig became professor at Brno Conservatory, then he was professor at Prague Conservatory. Among his students, it was František Slavík alone, who intensively devoted himself playing the viola d'amore, besides his demanding technical profession. He became a top specialist in thermics of silicates.

Jan Matys