Urtext celebrates its birthday – G. Henle Publishers is 60

This year G. Henle Publishers is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Günter Henle founded his “publishing house for Urtext editions of music” on 20 October 1948. He realised that up till then there had scarcely been any editions that had accurately reproduced the composer’s musical text. It was then that Henle came up with his unusual idea. Today, sixty years later, G. Henle Publishers offers the “discerning musician what he cannot find in similar quality and presentation anywhere else”, as CEO Dr. Wolf-Dieter Seiffert says.

On 21 September 2008, an anniversary concert was given in front of over 200 guests at the Künstlerhaus in Munich. Illustrious musicians with close ties to the publisher performed, including András Schiff (piano), Yuuko Shiokawa (violin), the Henschel Quartet with Hariolf Schlichtig (viola), Yaara Tal and Andreas Groethuysen (piano duo) and András Adorjan (flute). One of the musical highlights was the German première of the String Quintet in E-flat major by Max Bruch – the first edition of which we have just published. The guest speakers were Dr. Stephen Roe (Sotheby’s, London) and the Bavarian Minister of State for Sciences, Research and the Arts, Dr. Thomas Goppel.

A hearty party at the Munich Oktoberfest with guests and the Henle employees rounded off the celebrations on 22 September 2008. Ad multos annos!