

**LEO KESTENBERG - MUSICIAN, EDUCATOR, AND CULTURAL
POLITICIAN: HIS YEARS IN TEL AVIV AND THE MIDRASHA
LAMUSICA**

W. Gruhn

University of Music, Freiburg, Germany

Leo Kestenberg was one of the key figures in European music education in the early 20th century. He was the cultural administrator and music reformer in Berlin at the 1920s. When he was dismissed in 1932 because of his Jewish descent, he turned to Prague and Paris and finally reached Palestine in December 1938 and took the position of a General Manager of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra which later became the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO). In Israel he re-discovered his Jewish roots, and became extremely influential as a (piano) teacher and music educator. He also kept and fostered his international connections to music educators and became the first global player in international and universal aspects of music education. In this paper I would like to shed light on the times when Kestenberg lived and worked in Tel Aviv. For this, I want to focus on his important impact on music education in this country.