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978-1-009-15879-4 — Alan Bush, Modern Music, and the Cold War
The Cultural Left in Britain and the Communist Bloc
Joanna Bullivant
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Alan Bush, Modern Music, and the Cold War

This book, the first major study of Alan Bush, provides new perspectives on twentieth-century music and communism. British communist, composer of politicised works, and friend of Soviet musicians, Bush proved to be a lightning rod in the national musical culture. His radical vision for British music prompted serious reflections on aesthetics and the rights of artists to private political opinions, and influenced the development of state-sponsored music-making in East Germany. Rejecting previous characterisations of Bush as political and musical Other, Joanna Bullivant traces his aesthetic project from its origins in the 1920s to its collapse in the 1970s, incorporating discussion of modernism, political song, music theory, opera, and Bush's response to the Soviet music crisis of 1948. Drawing on a wealth of archival sources, including recently released documents from MI5, this book constructs new perspectives on the 'cultural Cold War' through the lens of the individual artist.

JOANNA BULLIVANT has held academic posts at the University of Oxford, University of Nottingham, and King's College London. She has published widely on British composers, modernism, and music and politics. This is her first book.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009158794

DOI: 10.1017/9781139519656

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First published 2017

First paperback edition 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Bullivant, Joanna Louise, 1983–

Title: Alan Bush, Modern Music and the Cold War : the cultural left in Britain and the communist bloc / Joanna Bullivant.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2017. | Series: Music since 1900 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017012142 | ISBN 9781107033368 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Bush, Alan, 1900–1995 – Criticism and interpretation. | Music – Great Britain – 20th century – History and criticism. | Bush, Alan, 1900–1995 – Political activity. | Music – Political aspects – Great Britain – History – 20th century. | Communism and music – Great Britain – History – 20th century.

Classification: LCC ML410.B978 B85 2017 | DDC 780.92–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017012142>

ISBN 978-1-107-03336-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-15879-4 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

Many people have influenced and aided the process of writing this book. First and foremost, Dr Rachel O'Higgins, Alan Bush's daughter and curator of a large collection of his papers, has been constantly supportive, informative, helpful, and generous with her time. She allowed me to make several long trips to examine the material and kindly shared her memories of the journey she undertook with her father to British Guiana in 1959. Many other people have taken the time to share their memories of Alan Bush, some of whom have since passed away, and I am particularly grateful to John Jordan of the Workers Music Association, and the late Paul O'Higgins, Ronald Stevenson, Aubrey Bowman, and John Amis.

This project has involved a significant amount of archival research. Dr Nicolas Bell and other staff at the British Library were unfailingly helpful in navigating Bush's correspondence and manuscripts at a time when the catalogue consisted of a single sheet of A4. I am also indebted to the staff of, in London: the National Archives and the Victoria and Albert Museum; in Berlin: the Stiftung Archiv der Akademie der Künste, the Deutsche Rundfunkarchiv, and the Bundesarchiv; and in Leipzig: the Stadtarchiv.

My work on Alan Bush originated as a doctoral dissertation and has been pursued at academic posts in a number of other institutions. I am extremely grateful to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for funding my doctoral work, and to the Leverhulme Trust and the University of Nottingham for funding the Early Career Fellowship, which made the monograph possible. My doctoral supervisor, Jonathan Cross, and my editor, Arnold Whittall, have provided expert advice and encouragement on numerous occasions. Many other colleagues at Oxford, Nottingham, and elsewhere have read drafts and gamely participated in discussion of my research, including Robert Adlington, Simon Desbruslais, Larry Dreyfus, Annika Forkert, Pauline Fairclough, Daniel Grimley, Ben Harker, Sarah Hibberd, Esperanza Rodrigues-Garcia, and Martha Sprigge. Annika Forkert, Burkhard Schwalbach, and Golan Gur all kindly discussed the translation and interpretation of East German documents with me, and any errors in the latter are my own. Members of the Music Department at Cambridge University Press, especially Victoria Cooper, Kate Brett, Fleur Jones, and Lorenza Toffolon, have been unreservedly helpful in bringing the book to publication. The Faculty of Music at Oxford generously

awarded me the 2016 Donald Tovey Memorial Prize, enabling me to complete final revisions of the manuscript. Finally, Jordan Summers Young gave up her free time to undertake a huge amount of proofreading and formatting.

At a very early stage of my research into Alan Bush, the late John Lowerson, who was then researching his own book on Bush, took the trouble to befriend me and share his profound expertise and knowledge. He was unfailingly supportive up until his sudden death in 2009, and our discussions from, respectively, the perspective of social and economic history and musicology, proved invaluable to the development of my ideas. While he died before writing up his own manuscript, and while this book does not include many areas which he was to cover, I hope he would approve.

The communist composer may be a complete human being; so too may the musicologist. This book has been written in the course of numerous house moves, job changes, and the birth of two children. My constant companion, critic, proofreader, cheerleader, babysitter, and taxi through this has been my husband, Professor Stephen Bullivant. This book is dedicated to him, and to our daughters Grace and Alice, with love.

Parts of earlier versions of Chapters 1 and 7 have appeared in other publications: ‘Modernism, Politics and Individuality in 1930s Britain: The Case of Alan Bush’, *Music & Letters* 90/3 (August 2009), 432–52; ‘The Socialist Composer in the “capitalist concert-hall”: Hanns Eisler and Alan Bush in 1930s England’, in Oliver Dahin and Erik Levi (eds.), *Eisler and England*, *Eisler-Studien* 5 (Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel, 2014), 33–50; ‘Black, White and Red: Communism and Anti-Colonialism in Alan Bush’s *The Sugar Reapers*’, in Robert Adlington (ed.), *Red Strains: Music and Communism Outside the Communist Bloc*, Proceedings of the British Academy 185 (Oxford: British Academy/Oxford University Press, 2013), 193–212; ‘“A world of Marxist orthodoxy?” Alan Bush’s *Wat Tyler* in Great Britain and the German Democratic Republic’, in Pauline Fairclough (ed.), *Twentieth-Century Music and Politics: Essays in memory of Neil Edmunds* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2013), 7–21.

Abbreviations

CEMA	Committee for Encouragement of Music and the Arts
CPGB	Communist Party of Great Britain
DASB	Deutsche Arbeiter-Sängerbund (German Workers' Singers' League)
DDR	Deutsche Demokratische Republik
ENSA	Entertainments National Service Association
GDR	German Democratic Republic
ISCM	International Society for Contemporary Music
LLCU	London Labour Choral Union
RAM	Royal Academy of Music
SED	Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (Socialist Unity Party of Germany)
Stakuko	Staatliche Kommission für Kunstangelegenheiten (State Commission for Artistic Affairs)
VDKM	Verband Deutscher Komponisten und Musikwissenschaftler (Union of German Composers and Musicologists)
WMA	Workers' Music Association

Abbreviations of Archival Sources

ABH	Alan Bush Archive, Histon, Cambridge
AdK-O	Archiv der Akademie der Künste der DDR
BArch	Bundesarchiv, Berlin
BBC/WAC	BBC Written Archive Centre, Caversham
BL/AB	The British Library, Alan Bush Collection
SAAdK	Stiftung Archiv der Akademie der Künste, Berlin
SAPMO-BArch	Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR im Bundesarchiv, Berlin
TNA/PRO	The National Archives, Public Record Office