

# Music in Flight: Erich Kleiber from Berlin to Buenos Aires and Back, 1933-1956

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Erich Kleiber took the helm of the *Berliner Staatsoper* (Berlin State Opera) in 1923 as a relative unknown, and built a global reputation there. He fled Nazi Germany in 1935 and Europe in 1938 – ironically, with Josef Goebbels’ help – and spent the war in Latin America. Later, he tried and failed to return to the State Opera, in what had then become Communist East Berlin. Kleiber offers a fascinating lens into a wartime cultural migration to Latin America about which we know relatively little. His rich, complicated life sheds light on the Second World War’s impact on the global South, on the legacy of the Habsburg Empire, on the pressures on German-speaking refugees in the Americas, on transatlantic twentieth-century musical politics, and on the difficulties of remigration to Europe after the war.

**Monday, November 6, 2017**

4:30-6 PM

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Building E51, Room 275

Corner of Amherst and Wadsworth Streets, Cambridge, MA

This event is part of the World History Seminar Series sponsored by the MIT History Faculty.  
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