The once highly esteemed composer, conductor and teacher Friedrich Gernsheim can certainly be described as a ‘missing link’, because he managed the feat of forming friendly ties with both Johannes Brahms and his antipode Max Bruch without falling between two stools as a two-bit plagiarist. Whenever his music seems to lean towards the classicist from Hamburg or towards the more rhapsodic composer from the Rhineland, it is actually expressing its own distinctive character. The eloquent piano concerto’s mode of expression with its wonderfully voluptuous dialogues is similar to that of the internationally celebrated concerto that Bruch completed in exactly the same year, 1868; the austere, concise cello concerto of 1903 and the tone poem *Zu einem Drama* from around the same period evoke moods that one only reaches after a very personal journey. Impressive!