

## Robert Stolz

25.8.1880 - 27.05.1975

A distinguished composer, musician and conductor who in the 1930's, took risks to help smuggle Jews and other political fugitives of the Gestapo to safety.

In 1938 after going into voluntary exile and being abandoned by his then wife, he was left in a French interment camp. It was here in 1939 he met 19 year old Yvonne Louise (Einzi) Urich, who later became his wife for the last 35 years of his life. Einzi found him near death with pneumonia, facilitated his release and nursed him back to health until he was able to resume his career. They started their life together in New York in April 1940, marrying in 1946. He accredits everything he composed during their marriage, to her inspiration and great love. He has written some 2,000 songs, 50 operettas and music scores for 100 films, two films for which he received Oscar nominations. (*Spring Parade* starring Deanna Durbin and Orsen Welles' *The Third Man*)



Einzi and Robert Stolz

Stamps and monuments around the world can be found in memory of his contributions to the music world:



Vienna Stadtpark

Vienna Stadtpark, Bad Hall (Upper Austria), Bad Ischl (Upper Austria), Graz (Styria), Oberwart (Burgenland), St. Wolfgang im Salzkammergut (Upper Austria), Trofaiach (Styria), and Wiener Neustadt (Lower Austria).

In 1970 a forest in Israel was planted in his honour.

A monument in Berlin's Robert Stolz Park, Germany reads:  
*"The years 1924 to 1936, which Robert Stolz spent in Berlin, were happy and busy ones. Here the gifted composer and conductor created a large number of his immortal melodies,*

*helped many of his fellow citizens in those troubled times and after the last war did much to bring about a reconciliation among people."*

Even after his death, Einzi continued to encourage Robert's music to live on. During a visit to Australia in 1982 she honoured Apex by attending the finalist performance in Melbourne University and presenting the Robert Stolz Award to that year's winner, Christopher Wrench.

Apex Australia Robert Stolz Award was the idea of Apexian Jim Buhringer. He saw a need to support musicians in an area so financially competitive for young Australians.

Commencing in 1980, the trust provides a year's funding to one chosen young artist to attend the Vienna Conservatorium of Music, one of the world's premier conservatorium. To name the trust after the distinguished Robert Stolz was most appropriate.

*"If my melodies can find a place in the hearts of all people, then I know that I have fulfilled my reason for living."*

Robert Stolz



*Monument in Robert Stolz Park,  
Germany*