

Introducing: Rochus Berhandtzky (c. 1660 - † ?).

A lutenist at the Bavarian court.

Rochus Berhandtzky was born around 1660 in 'Schwalbach', however the exact location of this village somewhere in Germany has not been confirmed so far. On 1 September 1682 he became lutenist at the Bavarian Court in Munich. At this time he was already married and father of children. His announcement as 'Court Lutenist' followed shortly after he played in front of Maximilian II Emanuel, Elector of Bavaria (1662 - 1726). Rochus Berhandtzky started his carrier with an annual salary of 100 fl (Gulden); by 1686 his salary increased to 400 fl p.a. From 1686 onwards Berhandtzky names himself as 'Camer Lauttenist' (Chamber lutenist). In 1686, Rochus Berhandtzky followed Maximilian II Emanuel to Austria and Hungary. The royal entourage of the Elector of Bavaria from Munich to Austria and Hungary included 797 persons and 1044 horses and nearly 100 carriages. Prominent members of this voyage were the military commander General Johann Karl Count of Sereni and Marquis de St. Maurisse, both later honoured by Berhandtzky with a Tombeau. The military commander General Johann Karl Count of Sereni was born in 1640 and entered into the Bavarian army in 1664. He managed a significant carrier and became one of the most senior Bavarian military commanders by 1683. He died in 1961 in Munich after serving his country and the Holy Roman Empire in numerous fights in Europe. Due to financial shortage of Bavaria, Ruchus Berhandtzky was released from the Bavarian Court in 1689 but shortly after reintroduced to the Bavarian Court in 1690. In 1692 he amounted significant private dept and was again released from the Court. From 1692, traces of Rochus Berhandtzky became lost. One of his daughters became a servant of Eleanore Maria of Austria (1653 - 1697) at the Royal Court in Innsbruck (Tirol). Eventually, Berhandtzky followed his daughter - but we do not know for sure. At the heights of his carrier as lutenist at the Bavarian Court, Rochus Berhandtzky cared for a household of nine persons including his wife, children, parents and servants. Part of his lute compositions survived in handwritten manuscripts in Vienna and Kremsmünster (Austria).