

The stumbling stone for Daisy Strauss was laid on March 24, 2023 and donated by the Cäcilienchor Frankfurt.

Daisy Hanna Strauss was born on February 13, 1888, as the first child of Louise and Ernst Strauss in Frankfurt am Main in their apartment at Leerbachstraße 21 at that time.

Ernst Strauss had married the merchant's daughter Louise Burghold on February 6, 1887. They had three children, Daisy Hanna (1888-1942), Maria Anna (1889 -1956) and Fritz Karl Paul (1891-1976). The Strauss family belonged to Frankfurt's upper middle class. All family members sang in the Cäcilienchor Frankfurt

The family business Siegmund Strauss, a 3rd generation textile wholesaler - popularly known as "Spitzen-Strauß" - had its headquarters in Frankfurt and branches in Berlin, Calais, Milan and Gdansk, among others. The company was run as a family business with several owners - since 1878 by Ernst Strauß (or Strauss). As early as 1894, Ernst and Louise Strauss applied to leave the Jewish religious community for themselves and their children and had this notarized. However, this decision did not prevent the family from being considered Jewish and subjected to persecution after the Nazis seized power in 1933.

Ernst Strauss died of natural causes in 1927, on September 1, 1942 at the age of 80 Louise was deported from Frankfurt's Ostbahnhof to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where she died of the inhumane camp conditions on September 19, 1942. Maria was able to flee into exile in France with her husband, the Hamburg merchant Herbert Daus; her brother Fritz survived together with his wife Hanna née Justus in hiding on a farm in the Odenwald.

Daisy attended the Städtisches Oberlyzeum für Mädchen (today's Elisabethenschule) in Frankfurt and after graduating in 1906 began her musical training with Julie Uzielli. The latter was a luminary in her day. In 1908 Daisy Strauss joined the Cäcilien-Verein, where she sang soprano with her mother Louise and probably also took on soloist duties. In 1913, she traveled to England to take lessons from London-based Raimund von Zur Mühlen, who was legendary in his day.

From 1917 to 1919, Daisy Strauss completed her vocal training with Richard and Anni Tömlich - both lecturers at the Dr. Hoch'schen Konservatorium in Frankfurt - and moved to Berlin in 1919, where she signed with the Konzertdirektion Hermann Wolff & Jules Sachs. However, Daisy Strauss was still listed in the Frankfurt address books as a concert singer at Feuerbachstraße 49 until 1927.

From 1915 on, various concert activities in Germany and Switzerland can be found. She sang in Frankfurt at a song recital at the Dr. Hoch'sche Konservatorium in aid of the needy in Alsace-Lorraine on March 8, 1915. In Darmstadt, she took on the soprano part of Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. John Passion" on April 18, 1916, and gave a concert at the Schlosshotel Enderlin in Pontresina in August 1920. There she

sang works by Max Reger and the aria "Höre Israel" from the oratorio "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn. In the early 1920s she gave a series of recitals with works by Gustav Mahler and Frederick Delius, among others.

In Berlin, Daisy Strauss worked as a concert singer from 1920 on and first lived at Nürnberger Strasse 7, later at Güntzelstrasse 63 in Wilmersdorf. She remained single and could not make a living from her work as a soloist. She probably worked as a singing teacher. According to her nephew Ernst Strauss, she also earned some extra money through fashion design. However, until 1926 there is evidence of performances in Berlin, Hamburg, Karlsruhe and Switzerland, among other places.

From the lively Muslim life in Berlin at that time, the so-called "Sufi-Bewegung e.V." (Sufi Movement) developed in 1925, of which Daisy Strauss became a member and vice-chairwoman. The Sufi movement believes in the presence of one God, whose message embraces all faiths equally. It aims at a life in harmony with oneself and one's fellow human beings. Thus, a candle on the Sufi altar also represents the Jewish religion. The meetings of the association, which had only a few members, took place in the "Sufi-Heim" at Nürnbergerstraße 7, which was also the private address of Daisy Strauss. In the protocols of the meetings between 1929 and 1932 she signed with the addition "concert singer".

At the board meeting of the association on April 7, 1933, under the pressure from the new rulers, the five board members passed the resolution "to cease the public activity of the Sufi movement in regard of the current political situation." (Sufi Movement e.V., p. 56). Daisy Strauss then applied for the deletion of the association on behalf of the Sufi Movement in a letter dated April 26, 1933 to the Berlin Mitte District Court. Again and again Daisy Strauss travelled to Frankfurt, where she could have a private stage in her mother's salon, also musically accompanied by Franz Calvelli-Adorno. There is no evidence of any activity on her part in the "Jüdischer Kulturbund," which suggests that she no longer performed publicly as a vocal soloist in the 1930s. In the early 1940s, she was forced to give up her apartment at Güntzelstraße 63 due to the "Law on Tenancies with Jews" of April 30, 1939. From October 1941, she was registered in a so-called "Judenhaus" at Nachodstraße 19 in Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

On January 13, 1942, a very cold Sunday, Daisy Strauss was driven from the synagogue at Levetzowstraße 7, located in the Tiergarten district and misused by the National Socialists as a "collection camp," to the Grunewald train station. As far as is known, the people had to walk the nearly 8 km from Tiergarten to Grunewald being harassed on their way. From platform 17 of the Grunewald freight station, Daisy Strauss was deported to Riga along with over 1000 other Jewish people. It was the so-called "8th Osttransport" from Berlin, train Da 44, 3rd class. In the deportation list her occupation is given as singer, her status as "fit for work". After three days, on January 16, 1942, the train reached Skirotava station on the outskirts of Riga. In the extreme cold, many people died on the transport or days later as a result of frostbite and exhaustion. Many were shot on arrival. The fate of Daisy Strauss on the way to

Riga is unknown. Her date of death was later set by the authorities as January 31, 1942. There is no death certificate or any other proof of her date of death available.

In the 1950s, Daisy Strauss's sister Maria initiated a lawsuit to secure her compulsory share of the Strauss estate. Before a final judgment could be pronounced, she died on March 16, 1956 in Brühl, Baden. Her husband Herbert Daus and her sister-in-law Hanna Strauss filed an application for compensation for Daisy Strauss with the Berlin Compensation Office in the summer of 1958, which was not pursued any further and did not yield any results, partly because the data on Daisy was incomplete or not available.

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