

Table 1, References to the “Kaffernbund” in the Published Letters of Joachim, J. O. Grimm, and Brahms

Sources / Dates	[Letter 1] 10 Nov. [1854]	[Letter 2] 16 Nov. 1854	[Letter 3] [31 Dec. 1854]	[Letter 4] [Jan. 1855]	[Letter 5] [Mid-Nov. 1854]	[Letter 6] [29 Feb. 1856]	[Letter 7] [beg. Jan. 1864]
J. Brahms – J. O. Grimm letters ¹ (ed. Barth)			14 (Grimm to Brahms): “Kaffer” (noun)	18 (Grimm to Brahms): “Kaffer” (noun) “allerkafferschte Afrika”			
J. Brahms – J. Joachim letters ² (ed. Moser)	73 (J. O. Grimm to J.): “seelenkaffersch” (adjective); “Ur-Kaffer”; “Kaffer” (noun)	75 (J. O. Grimm to J.): “Kaffer” (noun)					
J. Joachim’s letters ³ (ed. Joachim/Moser)					I, 223: “kaffern” (verb); “auf’s kafferischste [...] lachen” (adverb)	I, 320: “Kaffern” (plural)	II, 331: “Hotel Kaffer” (noun)

1) 10 November [1854]

J. O. Grimm, writing from Hamburg (with Johannes) to Joachim:

“And yet I must tell you, how ‘seelenkaffersch’ we are feeling here – if only the ‘Ur-Kaffer’ was here”. The actual reason of the letter was Clara Schumann’s performance in Bremen on the 21st of November, after which she was planning to arrive in Hanover on the 22nd of November, with J. O. Grimm. Grimm hypothesizes that, if Johannes were to join them, they would all meet on the 22nd so that Joachim and his quartet could perform Hermann Grädener’s Quartett No. 3 and Schumann’s F major Quartet. On the 23rd of November Joachim shall arrange for an orchestral rehearsal with his orchestra in Hannover, Grimm requests, so that Clara, Brahms and Grimm could hear Joachim’s three overtures and the Violin Concerto in G minor Op. 3. Julius Otto ends by saying that “our blond friend is the most worthy Kaffer,” presumably referring to Brahms.

2) 16 November 1854

Julius Otto Grimm to Joachim:

¹ Richard Barth, ed., *Johannes Brahms im Briefwechsel mit J. O. Grimm* (Berlin: Verlag der Deutschen Brahms-Gesellschaft, 1908).

² Andreas Moser, ed., *Johannes Brahms im Briefwechsel mit Joseph Joachim*, 2nd ed. (Tutzing: Hans Schneider, 1974).

³ Johannes Joachim and Andreas Moser, eds. *Briefe von und an Joseph Joachim*, 3 vols. (Berlin: Bard, 1911-13).

Katharina Uhde

“Dearest Kaffer! A few things, briefly”. The letter is about some practicalities in relation to the planned private performance in Hanover on Nov. 22.

3) [31 Dec. 1854]

Julius Otto to Johannes:

“Yesterday [there] was [a performance of] the G minor Symphony – and both of us [Joachim and Grimm] full. Mozart is a true Kaffer, and we must admit him [to the ‘Kaffernbund’].”

4) [Hanover January 55]

J. O. Grimm to Brahms:

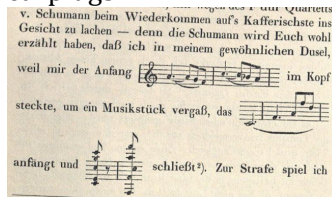
“His variations for viola are intensely glorious – full of sunshine, but a giant expresses himself here. I am looking forward to your joy when you will get to know it – and Schumann. In the ninth and tenth variation the Kaffer encounters a gypsy band, but returns towards the end to the allerkafferschte Afrika; - but you shall see for yourself.”

5) In the fifth letter, written in mid-November 1854,

Joachim to J. O. Grimm:

“We are going to ‘kaffer’ heartily.” (“Wir wollen ordentlich ‘kaffern’”).

Joachim adds: “By the way, I agree with you and Brahms, if, at our reunion, you laugh at me in the most Kaffer-like manner – because as [Clara] Schumann will have told you, I forgot, in my customary confusion, about a piece of music that begins [incipit] and ends [incipit] [Joachim means Schumann’s F major Quartet] for the reason that the beginning of another piece was spooking in my head [Schumann’s Quartet Op. 41 No. 1, first movement]. As a penalty I will play it for you with earplugs.”



Example 1, Johannes Joachim and Andreas Moser, eds., *Briefe von und an Joseph Joachim* (Berlin: Bard, 1911), 223. Letter from Joachim to J. O. Grimm of [Mid-November 1854].

6) 26th of February 1856

The sixth letter is from Joachim to Gisela von Arnim. Joachim gives her a report of one of the orchestra rehearsals in Hanover. It was disturbed by someone in the orchestra, upon which the king, who was on Joachim’s side, wrote an angry letter to the intendant Graf Platen, who was instructed to scold the miscreant. Joachim insisted on his authority, and was later embarrassed about it: “I surely do not have to tell you how embarrassing I found the whole thing; I would much rather play the large drums to the Kaffers’ war songs on pumpkins and jackal furs (‘Schakalsfellen’) than emphasizing my own authority like that (‘meine eigene Autorität so an die große Glocke zu hängen’) – but what should I have done against the this time so stubborn will of the king?”

7) January 1864

Joachim to Grimm: “Come [to Hanover] and stay at the Hotel Kaffer, Haarstr. 4, where you’ll have a nice view [...] and, in my opinion, a rather pleasant housewife” (“ganz angenehme Hausfrau”).