“Schoenberg’s ‘Advice for Beginners in Composition with Twelve Tones’”

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This file includes the abstract, and extensive keyword list, acknowledgements, and bibliography for the video essay, “Schoenberg’s ‘Advice for Beginners in Composition with Twelve Tones’” by J. Daniel Jenkins, SMT-V 3.3 (2017). This essay may be found at https://vimeo.com/societymusictheory/videocast3-2Jenkins.

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Abstract for “Schoenberg’s ‘Advice for Beginners in Composition with Twelve Tones’” by J. Daniel Jenkins, SMT-V 3.2 (2017).

In 1951, Schoenberg received a letter from composer Humphrey Searle asking Schoenberg to record a lecture for the BBC radio program “Music Magazine.” Schoenberg immediately proposed a subject, “Advice for Beginners in Composition with Twelve-Tones,” and requested to use television rather than radio because his musical examples “were perhaps less easily to realize by the ear than by the eye.” Although Schoenberg wrote a script, he died before he could record it. Only recently has this fascinating document been published, providing keen insights into Schoenberg’s compositional process, and posing interesting questions about the reception of twelve-tone composition after his death.

Extensive Keyword List


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- Lawrence Schoenberg
- www.schoenberg.at
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Bibliography


