

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

***SMT-V 3.2 (2017)***

***Society for Music Theory: Videocast Journal***

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**ISSN 2689-5471    DOI: <http://doi.org/10.30535/smtv.3.2>**

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**

Arnold Schoenberg, twelve-tone method, twelve-tone composition, German masters, teaching, British composer musicologist Humphrey Searle, Style and Idea, Music Magazine, BBC radio, record a talk in Los Angeles, television, Dika Newlin, diaries, bought it for the children, Hopalong Cassidy, “TV trays in our laps,” radio broadcast listeners, “the higher educated musician,” Schoenberg's musical examples, type out a script, radio broadcast, T transposition Thema theme, Schoenberg's Variations for Orchestra, row, antecedent-consequent structure, segmentations, “imbue a twelve-tone row with this potential,” consequent inversion, transformation, inversional combinatoriality, antecedent hexachord, ascending and a descending chromatic scale. Wedge progressions, sums of inversion, inversional partners, reorders the pitches, maximizes intervallic variety, reorderings, Composition for Dummies, inversionally combinatorial hexachord, radio lecture, “five leaps and no scalewise motions,” Richard Fish, Masel B. Sweet, UCLA, Lawrence Schoenberg, [www.schoenberg.at](http://www.schoenberg.at), Truetone Radio, Phillips television TV,

### **Acknowledgements**

- Lawrence Schoenberg
- [www.schoenberg.at](http://www.schoenberg.at)
- Arnold Schoenberg Center
- Belmont Music Publishers

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