

# Directionality in Twelve-Tone Composition

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This file includes the abstract, keyword list, bibliography, and related material for the video essay, “Directionality in Twelve-Tone Composition” by Christoph Neidhöfer. This video-essay may be found at <https://vimeo.com/societymusictheory/smtv103neidhofer>

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**Abstract for  
Directionality in Twelve-Tone Composition**

**by Christoph Neidhöfer, *SMT-V10.3***

The equal representation of the twelve pitch classes in the twelve-tone row poses a particular challenge: how can a twelve-tone composition convey a sense of direction while constantly cycling through the aggregate, which, unlike diatonic and most other modes, has no intrinsic pitch-class hierarchy, since all pitch classes relate to each other in exactly the same way? This video illuminates how twelve-tone composer Julius Schloss (1902–1972) developed strategies to create directionality, that is, a clear sense in the harmonic, melodic, and phrase-structural organization of the music of moving from one place to another, thereby counteracting the “static” tendency of the twelve-tone method (Adorno [1949] 2006) with its commitment to the pitch-class equilibrium in the row.

**Short Keyword List**

Twelve-tone music, serialism, directionality, form, Julius Schloss

**Extensive Keyword List**

Twelve-tone music, serialism, directionality, form, formal function, Julius Schloss, Impressions, waltz, rhythm, gesture, phrase, tonal direction, tonal hierarchy, syntax, diatonicism, chromaticism, half cadence, authentic cadence, sentence, fragmentation, intensification, closure, twelve-tone series, partition, paradigmatic analysis, Alban Berg, Luigi Dallapiccola, Elisabeth Lutyens, Karl Steiner, Igor Stravinsky

**About the Author**

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## Discography

A performance of Julius Schloss's *Impressions* by Karl Steiner is featured on the following CDs:

- *Music of the Second Generation of the Second Viennese School*. Double-CD. Centaur CRC 2241/42, 1995.
- *Karl Steiner – Ein später Pianist der Wiener Schule / One of the Last Pianists of the Viennese School*. Double-CD. Wissenschaftszentrum Arnold Schönberg, Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien, Österreichischer Musikrat, 2003.

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