

Arnold Schoenberg Overview

⇒ Bibliographical

Born Arnold Franz Walter Schoenberg
September 13th, 1874, Vienna
Died- June 6th, 1951, US, ashes buried in Vienna
Came from a Jewish family of Hungarian ancestry
Oldest of 3 children

⇒ Musical Training

Violin lessons at eight years old
Soon after a self-taught cellist
Wrote duets, trios, & quartets

⇒ Zemlinsky

Schoenberg's first music composition teacher
Introduced him to the music of Wagner

⇒ Schoenberg & Bach

Schoenberg admired Bach more than any other musician
There are passages in Schoenberg's music that can be related to Bach
Schoenberg even performed Bach motets

⇒ Schoenberg's Innovations in Music

Invented twelve-tone serialism- (matrix, calculations, inversions, etc.)
Based on atonality- not relevant to a key

⇒ Schoenberg as a painter

Became serious as a painter
Became good friends with Wassily Kandinsky
Some of his work was featured at Kandinsky's exhibits

⇒ Schoenberg as a teacher

Students- Berg, Webern, Cage most famous
Taught at Second Vienesse School between 1903-1925
Taught private lessons to Hollywood composers
Professor of Music at UCLA, taught composition at USC

- Author of "Fundamentals of Composition," & "Theory of Harmony."

"For if I saw something I did not leave it at that; I acquired it, in order to process it; I worked on it and extended it, and it led me to something new. I venture to credit myself with having written truly new music which, being based on tradition, is destined to become tradition."- Arnold Schoenberg.