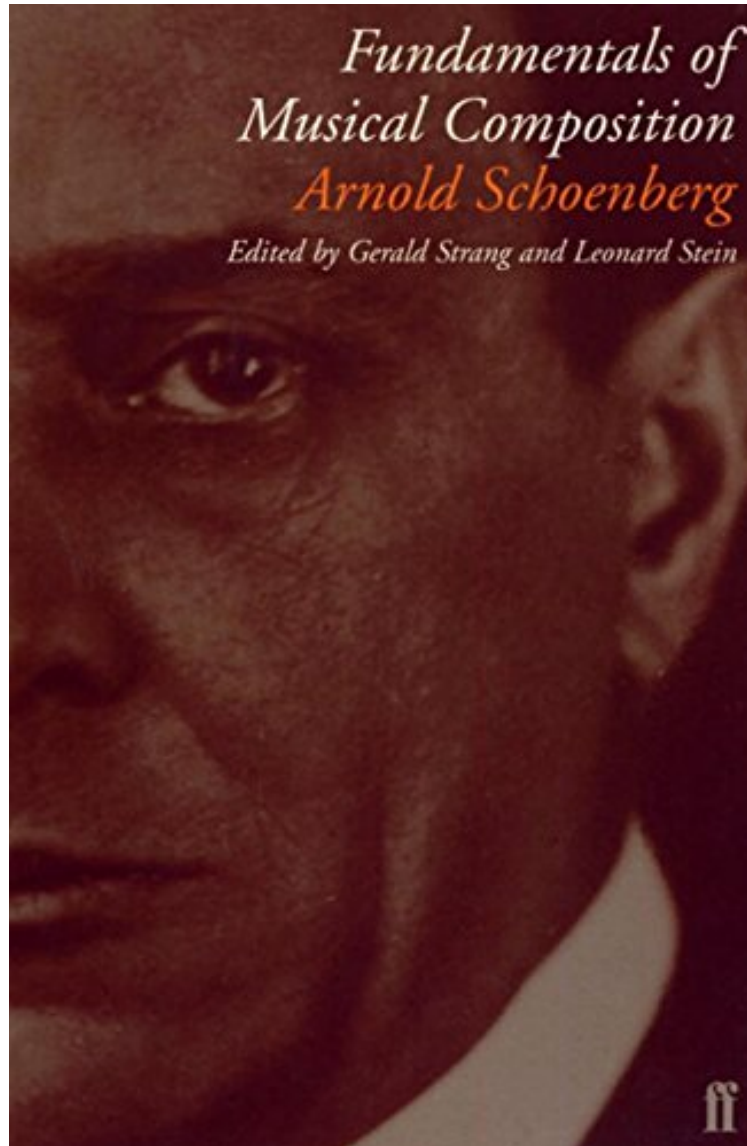


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Fundamentals of Musical Composition

Arnold Schoenberg

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Arnold Schoenberg : Fundamentals of Musical Composition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fundamentals of Musical Composition:

27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Best damned book on traditional music composition By Darius Sarrafil have studied a lot of books on composition and in my opinion this is the best damned book on how to write music. Although Schoenberg gave us atonality, this book is all about learning how to write traditional music. The book is very systematic in its approach and relies on Arnold's own mastery of traditional music. If you don't believe me,

listen to Jacob's Ladder and other works prior to his serial music. Please keep in mind that this book requires knowledge of rudiments of music theory. If you need to brush up on that, may I suggest Paul Harder's fantastic book on the subject: *Basic Materials in Music Theory*. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Much more advanced than the title suggests. By Adam This is FAR beyond "fundamentals." A bigger problem, though, is that he uses his own vocabulary (the preface specifically states this is the case). So if you've read anything music theory/composition related written in the last 40 years, you're going to be confused by his quirky word choices. I'm saving it for the future, in case I ever get that far, but I'm a bit disappointed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Fundamental" in most meanings of the word. By Jack Leightcap This was definitely a great read on music composition... just be aware that it is far from the "Fundamentals." I'm fairly well versed in musical and harmonic analysis and found it to be a very slow read. The first half-or-so of the book is Schoenberg describing what the fundamental 'elements' of music. While he uses traditional musical terminology; if you were to begin the book halfway through, you wouldn't be able to understand what he's talking about at all because of his usage of his own personal musical dictionary. After slogging through Schoenberg defining his terms, the book is definitely worth the read. The book largely focused on musical examples, and after each chapter is 2-5 pages of examples that are referenced in that chapter. This is definitely very helpful. Sometimes he'd describe a musical idea that seems extremely obvious, but the examples provided can really show how far these ideas can go. For example, he'd describe the methodology for writing a harmony to a melody, then provide an example of a Beethoven piano sonata that I've played. These examples really help everything click.

Fundamentals of Musical Composition represents the culmination of more than forty years in Schoenberg's life devoted to the teaching of musical principles to students and composers in Europe and America. For his classes he developed a manner of presentation in which 'every technical matter is discussed in a very fundamental way, so that at the same time it is both simple and thorough'. This book can be used for analysis as well as for composition. On the one hand, it has the practical objective of introducing students to the process of composing in a systematic way, from the smallest to the largest forms; on the other hand, the author analyses in thorough detail and with numerous illustrations those particular sections in the works of the masters which relate to the compositional problem under discussion.

About the Author Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) was an Austrian composer, later moving to the United States, and was leader of the Second Viennese School. In the 1920s, Schoenberg developed the twelve-tone technique, and his approach, both in terms of harmony and development, is among the major landmarks of twentieth-century musical thought. The extraordinary scope of Schoenberg's intelligence, and the often prophetic character of his insights, make his writings on music an indispensable source for anyone interested in the complex history of twentieth-century music.