



# The Atonal Music of Arnold Schoenberg, 1908-1923

By Bryan R. Simms

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Between 1908 and 1923, Arnold Schoenberg began writing music that went against many of the accepted concepts and practices of this art. Largely following his intuition during these years, he composed some of the masterpieces of the modern repertoire--including *Pierrot lunaire* and *Erwartung*--works that have since provoked a large, though fragmented, body of critical and analytical writing. In this book, Bryan Simms combines a historical study with a close analytical reading of the music to give us a new and richer understanding of Schoenberg's seminal work during this period.

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## **The Atonal Music of Arnold Schoenberg, 1908-1923 By Bryan R. Simms Bibliography**

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### **Review**

"[T]he work of a scholar who not only knows the music he is writing about very well but has strong ideas about its historical position....mastery of source materials."--*Music & Letters*

"[A] significant amount of information about Schoenberg's atonal compositions-their historical background, choice of texts, relationship to the composer's biography and much else besides. Any subsequent scholar who wishes to examine any of these pieces will shorten his or her work considerably by beginning with Simms's discussions. Indeed, anyone wishing a good general introduction to the compositions and their historical background should start here."--*Current Musicology*

"...exhibits the rarest insight that only an author with intimate understanding and sympathy toward both Schoenberg's life and work could bring together...this study assesses Schoenberg's creative impulse and makes it understandable for perhaps the first time. Simms's seamless blend of an awareness of the composer's life with concise abstractions of his theories...makes this book a true achievement, one worthy of not only the scholar and student, but the lover of modern music as well."--*Choice*

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"....Thoroughly researched and meticulous in detail....*The Atonal Music of Arnold Schoenberg* is a highly useful addition to the literature on Schoenberg. It provides an accounting of Schoenberg's development during the atonal period that is especially rich in biographical detail and historical context. The context that Bryan Simms unfolds here will be indispensable for all theorists and musicologists who wish to interpret these works and their history."-- *usic Theory Online*

"I would recommend this as an essential purchase - reliable, readable, enhanced by dozens of music

examples and very reasonably priced. To others unconvinced of Schoenberg's many faceted genius I would equally recommend MacDonald as a most persuasive advocate and guide."--*Classical Music*

#### About the Author

Bryan R. Simms is at University of Southern California.

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