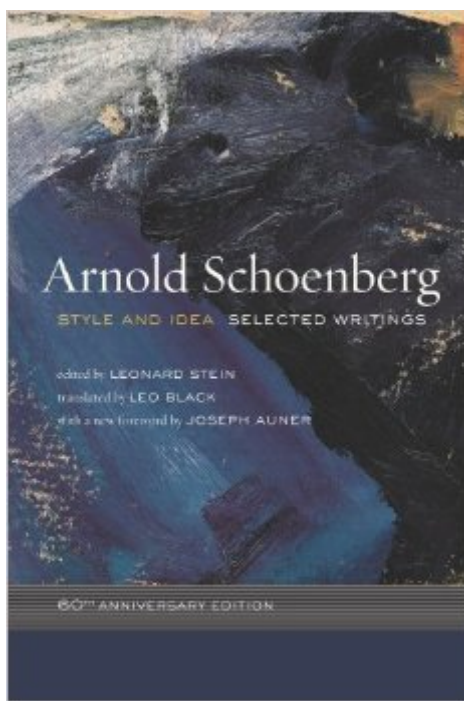


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Style And Idea: Selected Writings



Synopsis

One of the most influential collections of music ever published, *Style and Idea* includes Schoenberg's writings about himself and his music as well as studies of many other composers and reflections on art and society. An interpretive essay by Joseph Auner, Chair and Professor of Music at Tufts University, augments this anniversary edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm afraid that I am totally in love with the work of Arnold Schoenberg, so don't expect this review to be objective. I know that people have problems with his music, but it's never been a problem for me: works like the String Trio, A Survivor from Warsaw, Verklarte Nacht, the Kol Nidre and Moses and Aron have been some of the most rewarding and intense musical experiences of my life. I know that later composers such as Philip Glass and Steve Reich, who grew up with the legacy of twelve-tone music hanging over them, decisively rejected Schoenberg's work and decided to do something completely different, and in my opinion they were just plain wrong; the extreme banality and repetition in most of their music bears me out, I think. (I make an exception for Glass because some of his earlier stuff such as "Einstein on the Beach" has a fiery, rockish energy, but I have never had any time for Reich's twittering.) So, OK, I love Schoenberg. Not only was he a great composer but he was also a fine writer. His literary legacy is sizable, and not all of it is of interest to people who aren't either musicians or fans of his work. Most of his work is pedagogical in intention. The unfinished textbooks "Fundamentals of Musical Composition" and "Structural Functions of Harmony" consist

mostly of carefully chosen musical examples. The earlier "Theory of Harmony" is one of the few books of musical theory that can be read with pleasure by people who can't read music. "Style and Idea" contains a rich selection of the shorter articles, some of which aren't all that short. The musical tradition that Schoenberg inherited and grappled with all his life was the Austro-German one. You won't find anything here about those flighty Italians.

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