**Chapter 9**

RESEARCH

Search the internet for the university teaching affiliations of 20th century innovative composers Arnold Schoenberg, Igor Stravinsky, Bela Bartok, John Cage, and John Adams. Report your findings to your course discussion board or the textbook Dashboard.

EXPLORE: Milton Babbitt

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic244629.files/Who%20Cares%20if%20You%20Listen.pdf>

New music in the 20th century evoked extreme reactions from audiences unaccustomed to its lack of tonality, expressionistic melodies, and emphasis on rhythm. A famous example of this was the riot of a Paris audience in 1913 at the premiere of Igor Stravinsky’s ballet *The Rite of Spring.* As the work began it was met with loud boos from the audiences, which quickly turned into even louder arguments amongst audience members. Eventually actual fistfights broke out in the aisles and a riot ensued. Reactions like this led many composers of experimental music to retreat from the concert hall to the relative safety of universities. Here is a link to an article by composer Milton Babbitt in which he responds to the public’s rejection of contemporary art music. What do you think are his main points? Are they still valid today? Share your opinions on your course discussion board or the textbook Dashboard. In this article Babbitt claims that composers should not think about what their audiences want or might like when they compose because in so doing music will cease to evolve. Another great American composer, Aaron Copland, thought the opposite. Try to understand Babbitt’s points and decide what you think a composer should consider when writing a piece of music.

PERFORMANCE PRACTICE: *Pierrot Lunaire*

<http://vimeo.com/20252277>

eighth blackbird has become one of the most popular and important chamber music ensembles in the world. In this video they perform Schoenberg’s 20th century avant-garde work *Pierrot Lunaire.* As their introduction to the video states, “music that 100 years later can still astonish audience and challenge the world’s best musicians.”