



## **Josef Matthias Hauer – composer, music theoretician**

born March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1883 in Wiener Neustadt, Austria; died 1959 in Vienna. 1897-1904 studies at Teachers College in Wiener Neustadt; musical studies in organ, piano, cello, voice; first compositions. 1904-1914 teacher at Wiener Neustadt, various musical activities. 1912-1939 produced works with opus numbers, among them also theoretical writings concerning the Twelve-Tone-Technique he originally devised. 1919 Opus 19 „Nomos“: first deliberate Twelve-Tone composition. After Op. 89 „Zwölftonmusik für Orchester“, J.M. Hauer called his compositions „Zwölftonspiel“ (Twelve-Tone-Game), of which he wrote approximately 1000 for various instruments and ensembles. 1942 first „Twelve-Tone-Game with totally defined monodic construction-laws“. 1954 awarded the title Professor, 1956 awarded the Great Austrian State Prize for Music.

### Chronological table:

1883 Josef Matthias Hauer born March 19<sup>th</sup>, in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.  
1888 received first musical instructions from his father, playing the zither.  
1897-1902 attended the Teachers College in Wiener Neustadt.  
Musical studies in organ, piano, cello, voice.  
1904-1914 teacher at Wiener Neustadt (nowadays there is a commemorative room for J.M. Hauer at the local highschool/college, and the town's Music Conservatory bears his name).  
1907 marriage to Leopoldine Hönig  
Three children: Martha born in 1908, Bruno 1912, and Elisabeth 1922  
1912 Opus 1, „Nomos in Sieben Teilen“ (Nomos in Seven Parts) for piano (2 and 4 hands)  
1915 After four years of military service, move to Vienna  
1917 theoretical discourse „Farbenkreis der Temperatur“ (Colour-Cycle of Equal Temperament), manuscript.  
1918 Theoretical discourse op. 13 „Über die Klangfarbe“ (On Tone-Colour), dedicated to Dr. Viktor R.v. Bauer.  
1919 „Sonnenmelos“ (Sun-Melos) in the piano work „Nomos“ op. 19 marks the first deliberate application of the „law of the twelve notes“. Development of a twelve-tone script. Friendship with painter Johannes Itten. Retirement from teaching-position at school on account of very poor health.  
1920 theoretical discourses: „Vom Wesen des Musikalischen“ (On the Essence of Musicality); „Deutung des Melos“ (Interpretation of Melos) – A Question for Artists and Thinkers of our Times.  
1921 discovery of the 44 „Tropen“ (Tropes; complementary six-tone-constellations). Theoretical discourse „Atonale Melodienlehre“ (A-tonal Rule of Melodies), manuscript.  
1925 Theoretical discourses: „Vom Melos zur Pauke“ (From Melos to Timpani)- An Introduction to Twelve-Tone Music, dedicated to Arnold Schoenberg; „Zwölftontechnik. Die Lehre von den Tropen“ (Twelve-Tone-Technique. The Law of the Tropes), dedicated to Hermann Heiß.  
1927 awarded the Artists' Prize of the City of Vienna  
1934 death of his wife Leopoldine.  
1938 discriminated against, and all public activity prohibited by the Hitler-Regime.  
1939 op. 89 „Zwölftonmusik für Orchester“ (Twelve-Tone Music for Orchestra) is his last work with an opus number.  
1940 first „Zwölftonspiel (Twelve-Tone Game). Until 1959, Hauer composed about 1000 of the „Twelve-Tone Games“, which were numbered by production date.  
1946 friendship with artists Herbert Boeckl, Josef Dobrowsky, and Fritz Wotruba  
1953 honorary member of the „Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft“  
1994 awarded the title of Professor,  
1996 awarded the Great Austrian State Prize.  
1959 died on September 22nd in Vienna.