

Tongues Wag Over Schoenberg's New Violin Concerto

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7. (AP)—Maestro Leopold Stokowski's latest presentation—and his innovations are an old story to Philadelphia audiences—sent musical tongues clacking today.

He conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra yesterday through the world premiere of a violin concerto by Arnold Schoenberg, Austrian modernist now living in Hollywood who composes in a 12-note scale under an atonal system of harmony which he invented. Traditional melodic sequence structure is not a part of the system.

A score of dowagers left their seats, during the 30-minute performance, one remarking "It sounds like Market St. on New Year's Eve."

Edwin H. Schloss, the Record's music critic, declared the concerto "combines the best sound effects of a hen yard at feeding time, a brisk morning in Chinatown, and practice hour at a busy conservatory."

"The violinist," wrote Linton Martin in the Inquirer, "slithers his bow around, apparently at random, pauses to pluck at a string here, and poke at another there. While this is going on, the orchestra is busy playing a game that sounds like every man for himself."

1940