Microtonal Music of a Maverick

Harry Partch, At a Glance

American composer Harry Partch was a rebellious, radical, and pioneering artist who defied convention and forged his own path to create unconventional music. He not only invented his own unique musical notation system, but also an orchestra of original hand-built instruments, the only ones that can be used to perform his distinct, otherworldly soundscapes. Below, a brief overview of the composer’s innovations.

The Instruments

A timeline featuring some of Harry Partch’s original creations, loosely divided by types.