

**PAUL HINDEMITH**  
**1895-1963**

**Sehr langsam (Sonata No. 1)**

It is fascinating to study the history of music along stylistic developmental lines. By the time of Paul Hindemith, serious music composition was in, among other things, a “neo-Baroque” frame of mind. The return to the Baroque side of that style was characterized by the increased use of counterpoint, the use of small performing forces, a somewhat improvisatory feeling within a more or less strict meter, and shorter movements. The contemporary side of the neo-Baroque included the avoidance of triads and other harmonically defining characteristics, which in Hindemith’s case included a heavier use of stacked fourths rather than thirds. The present movement, marked *sehr langsam* (“very slowly”), is excerpted from Hindemith’s first of three organ Sonatas.