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Eurythmy on the Global Stage: Interconnecting Eurythmy and Indian Temple Dance

In the context of a growth in Waldorf Schools and interest in Anthroposophy around the world, how can we make our understanding of the past and future potential of eurythmy more global?

In my research, I have engaged with the above question at three levels. 1) Historically, by linking the early history of eurythmy with the cultural exchanges between early modern dancers in Europe and the US and bharatanatyam temple dance in India. 2) Anthropologically, by comparing the practices and embodied experiences involved in the training for eurythmy and bharatanatyam, and 3) Choreographically, by developing a fusion eurythmy choreography which uses both eurythmy sound gestures as well as mudras for exploring the qualities of the Indian goddess of wisdom and arts, Saraswati, and how her qualities may relate to eurythmy.

In the thesis I argue that if we have a global perspective on eurythmy, it can be used to explore other spiritual philosophies and religions than that of anthroposophy, and that in doing so, these traditions move closer to one another. This would be an example of the metamorphosis of the souls of East and West that Rudolf Steiner believed would be defining for the future.

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