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Intervals and Color

How do we experience Intervals and Colours? Is there a relationship? How can they relate?

When first learning the gesture for green, I felt within me a kinship to the gesture of the fifth. This experience began my curiosity of wishing to learn about colour and the intervals.

These are some of the questions I will explore in this paper:

Trying to find a relationship between what Rudolf Steiner has said about both intervals and colours, and at the same time trying to imagine how one could relate them with the eurythmy gestures. For example: how might one choose a color gesture for a certain interval or phrase in a musical piece. This can be approached from many angles and from various indications that have been given by Rudolf Steiner. In many cases a relationship with Speech Sounds, as for example vowels with color and intervals with tones, suggest such relationships. Steiner talks about the relationship of vowels with major and minor. Steiner gave the eurythmy figures for major and minor, with the colour triads for the step, the rhythm, and the beat. For Vowels we have their relationship to the planets as well as the colours for the eurythmy figures. Consonants have their relationship to the Zodiac with their colour and the circle of 5ths.

There is an amazing amount of research to be carried out in this area. I also tried feeling the color eurythmy gestures and the interval gestures to sense into the mood. I have not been able to find not many materials directly stating a relationships so had to go on my own findings, and feelings, and to make my own connections. I was able to find a more concrete relationship with the interval of the 5th and the colour green, based on what Steiner said about the human thorax and the lungs when he describes them as being the objective and subjective 5th. I was also able to make a connection when reading about the colour green and about Cancer, the thoracic cavity, and having green as its color. The vowel "E" connected to Mars, being red with the complementary color being green.

I also tried finding colour and interval relationships by matching the rainbow spectrum to the scale and looking at the step intervals in a scale. For example: from C to its octave C. I also looked at placing the rainbow to the triangles Light streams upwards (Yellow) and Weight bears downwards (Blue), having the middle diamond in green. These two colours being Goethe's two polarity colours from his prism experiments and nature observations. Warm and cold colours arise from these two giving us the gift of green and magenta, when light and darkness meet. What intervals would have belong to these two colours: green and magenta? Going up from the intervals of prime, second, third which I felt to be the bluish tones, I was confronted with green being in the centre of the scale. What confused me now was the thought that tones are light, and for colour to arise, there has to be an element of darkness. This led me to research of the night rainbow and the spiritual colours, as well as the relationships to diphthongs and deeper spiritual questions.

I have encountered far more questions than answers or conclusions, but have nevertheless learned a great deal during this process.