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An Exploration of Eurythmy in Different Languages



“...The gestures of eurythmy are cosmic, meaningful gestures. They do not derive from anything arbitrary in the human soul.” Rudolf Steiner, *Eurythmy as Visible Speech*

For my paper, I decided to research Steiner’s indications for eurythmy in languages other than German. Having grown up in Waldorf school my whole life, I had the amazing experience of learning the eurythmy gestures naturally, as one learns a second language through immersion, without someone explaining to me what each gesture meant. I have always had an interest in languages, and I had many questions about eurythmy in my native English, and the language spoken in my eurythmy training: Spanish. Should I follow the sounds or the orthography? How do I represent English’s strange vowels? What about sounds that are specific to Mexican Spanish? While eurythmy began in German, Steiner does give many specific indications for eurythmy in other languages as well, such as French, English, and Russian. These indications, passed down from the first eurythmists, I found compiled in Stefan Hasler’s book *Rudolf Steiners Angaben zur Eurythmie in verschiedenen Sprachen*. Unfortunately, there are no indications for eurythmy in Spanish, but after my research my conclusion is that a part of our work as eurythmists is to observe with attention, diligence, and openness the sounds, character, and spirit of the language within which we are working, so that we may represent it faithfully and truly.

The full paper is written in English.