

Example 2.4: Messiaen's colour analysis<sup>1</sup> of *Choral de la Sainte Montagne*

no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chord no.	1	2	3	4	4	1	2	3
	bluish green, on acid green almost black	acid green on bluish green, completely faded by black	violet and pink on green	red	more emphasized red	<i>bluish green, on acid green almost black<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>acid green on bluish green, completely faded by black</i>	<i>violet and pink on green</i>

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5	3	4	6	4	1	2	3
bluish green and light purple on orange faded by black	<i>violet and pink on green</i>	<i>red</i>	gold and brown	<i>red</i>	<i>bluish green, on acid green almost black</i>	<i>acid green on bluish green, completely faded by black</i>	<i>violet and pink on green</i>

<sup>1</sup> The colours of Messiaen are my own translation from French

<sup>2</sup> The colours in *italics* are not noted by Messiaen because there is a repetition of a chord (that usually means the same colour to Messiaen as before)

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	3	4	7	8	9	10	7	11
<i>bluish green and light purple on orange faded by black</i>	<i>violet and pink on green</i>	<i>red</i>	<i>purple, grey and dark grey</i>	<i>blue violet</i>	<i>goldish yellow, bluish grey, purple</i>	<i>white (with purple and pale yellow reflections)</i>	<i>purple, grey and dark grey</i>	<i>blue, deep royal blue</i>

26	27	28	29	30	31
8	12	12	4	13	14
<i>blue violet</i>	<i>pale green with a little yellow, silver grey, red and black</i>	<i>pale green with a little yellow, no grey, more red and a little black</i>	<i>red</i>	<i>orange, gold and milky white, orange dominates</i>	<i>grey and purple with a little red and at the top a little bit of blue</i>

32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
15	16	4	4	1	2	17	18
brick red, a little blackened, a little white and very pale green	red and orange, bluish grey	<i>red</i>	<i>red</i>	<i>bluish green, on acid green almost black</i>	<i>acid green on bluish green, completely faded by black</i>	pale blue on green- brown, almost black (with a little acid green)	green- brown on dark blue (with a little light yellowish grey)

40	41	42	43	44	45
19	20	21	4	4	22
red-brown on bluish grey	white (C- maj.) on black and gold (C#- min.) with light bluish grey	grey, with black and gold patches, and a little bit of red	<i>red</i>	<i>red</i>	gold and brown, with a little red

46	47	48	49	50	51
4	23	11	3	12	4
red, with a little brown because of the lower register	brown with gold and a little black	<i>blue, deep royal blue</i>	<i>violet and pink on green</i>	yellowish green on grey, gold and black	<i>red</i>

52	53
24	4
quite dark grey, with a little white and orange	the red of the last bar is deep red, quite dark, where the carmine red of the upper fifth and the black red of the low E comes through