

Example 2.5.: Colour analyses of *Choral de la Sainte Montagne*

first analysis: Messiaen<sup>1</sup>

second analysis: person 1

third analysis: person 2

The musical score consists of four measures, each with a different time signature: 8/8, 3/8, 4/8, and 3/8. Above the staff, the numbers 2, 3, and 4 are placed above the first, second, and third measures respectively. Below the staff, chord numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed under the notes in each measure. The notes are complex chords with various accidentals.

no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ch. no.	1	2	3	4	4	1	2	3
O.M.	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>
1	grey with a little red	grey-brown	black with a little yellow	green	green	<i>grey with a little red</i>	<i>grey-brown</i>	black with yellow and purple
2	brown, dark red	blue and red	orange	sea blue	sea blue	red with brown shades and turquoise	red, brown and salmon pink	red with dark brown shades

<sup>1</sup> *Traité*, Tome VII, p. 309-315

<sup>2</sup> The colours in *italics* are not in the text in *Traité* because a repetition of a chord usually means the same colour to Messiaen

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>
black with a little yellow	brown-yellow	yellow with orange (warm yellow – not the bluish cold yellow)	orange, pink, yellow	brown-red	grey with a little red	grey with a little brown	filthy brown, even with blue and green
orange	red with dark brown shades	sea blue	purple and brown	sea blue	red, brown	red brown with orange	orange with brown underneath

Musical score for piano, measures 10-14. The score is in 2/8 time and features a sequence of chords and melodic lines. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3-5 in the right hand and 7-11 in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and one flat (Bb).

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>	purple, grey and dark grey	blue violet	goldish yellow, bluish grey, purple	white (with purple and pale-yellow reflections)	<i>purple, grey and dark grey</i>	blue, deep royal blue
blue, yellow, green	greyish brown	brown-pink reddish	greyish blue	purple red	bright red	red with black	orange with black	green with a little orange
orange with purple	brown and orange	sea blue	blueish red, brown	orange, yellow with different brown shades	blue with orange and yellow and brown shades	different green shades	pink, red, brown	dark brown

17

8 12 12 4 13 14

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

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)
grey with yellow	grey with orange	orange!	orange	grey- brown	grey- brown	grey with green/black and bluish green	brown- purple
green with red, brown and orange	green and sea blue	sea blue	sea blue	purple, brown and red	green, brown, red, purple	brown, orange	brown, orange with green

Musical score for three staves (treble, middle, and bass clef) showing chords and fingerings. The top staff has measures 23, 24, and 25. The middle and bass staves have measures 19, 20, 21, 4, and 22. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 19, 20, 21, 4, and 22.

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
grey, yellow, purple	grey, yellow	greyish blue, yellow, purple (colour hurts your eyes)	yellow, but out of tune, so not quite.	idem	brown, green, orange
yellow, brown	yellow, blue	green, yellow	sea blue with dominant yellow	sea blue with dominant yellow	sea blue with green

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>
yellowish orange	grey, yellow, orange, pink	warm brown	grey, red	grey, yellow, brown	green
sea blue	red, pink	red with blue underneath (or blue with red underneath)	brown, red and orange	brown, orange and blue	sea blue

30 31

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
shivering grey and brown. black?	green
sea blue with different brown shades	sea blue