

Nanopublication — Chromesthetic Translation of the Ab Major Triad

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 1 · 2024

Claim 1: Chromesthetic Translation of the Ab Major Triad

I translate the Ab Major [1] triad — Ab, C, Eb — into my chromesthetic color associations: Ab appears as blue, C as red, and Eb as blue-violet. In this first variation, the two blue-family tones (Ab and Eb) dominate the composition at over 70% combined surface area, while C manifests as a concentrated red-orange accent at approximately 2.5%. The resulting palette is overwhelmingly cool, reflecting the harmonic character of Ab Major as I perceive it synesthetically.

CONTEXT

Ab Major is a chord dominated by cool tones in my chromesthetic system. Both the root (Ab) and the fifth (Eb) fall within the blue family on the circle of fifths to color wheel mapping, while only the major third (C) breaks warm as red. This creates an unusual situation among the major triads: two of three chord tones share a color family, producing a composition where the harmonic identity reads as fundamentally cool with a single warm punctuation.

The k-means computational analysis of this painting confirms the perceptual read. Blue accounts for 46.1% of the surface, blue-violet for 24.6%, and violet for 26.8%, while red-orange registers at just 2.5%. The temperature bias measured at -0.68 (strongly cool) corroborates what the eye sees immediately: this is a blue painting with a red spot. That concentration of the C tone into a small, vivid area — rather than distributing it broadly — reflects how I hear the third within the chord: present, essential to the major quality, but not dominant.

This is the first variation I painted in the Ab Major key within the Research on Harmony series. As a first approach to this harmonic material, it establishes the baseline chromesthetic character of the chord before subsequent variations explore alternative spatial arrangements and tonal balances.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 1 — Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0608.html>
- [2] Quercy, A. (2025). ORCID <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>
- [3] Quercy, A. (2024). Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 1 (AQC0608). Synesthetic Explorations collection. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/06/ab-major-research-on-harmony-variation-1_6so.html

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	empirically grounded
Methodology	circle of fifths color wheel mapping, k-means color extraction
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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