

IGNACY ZALEWSKI'S *DIE SPINNERIN* AS A CATEGORY OF 'COLORFUL MINDEDNESS' IN MUSIC

Prof. Katarzyna Szymańska-Stulka

Chopin University of Music, Department of Composition and Theory of Music, **Poland**

ABSTRACT

Color is not only a matter of visual arts but also of music. It can influence how we feel, how we perceive the world, and even tell a lot about one's personal artistic style based on their favorite colors choices. Color is also a powerful means of communication. It can signify action, influence mood, and even physiological reactions. Colors can stimulate creativeness and affect productivity. Some experts tell about the powerful red, restful green, emotional yellow, playful orange or intellectual blue. Colors appear in art as a kind of mix, which is why we can describe art as colourful. Colorful in this context means full of color and therefore rich in various shades, nuances, relationships, contrasts or harmonies. In music, some compositions seem particularly *colorful*. This means not only a wealth of nuances, but also a special kind of texture, as if saturated with colors, hues, and shades of sounds. This reference to colors in music may be indicated in the phenomenon which I term *colorful composing*. To analyse this case I present the musical composition *Die Spinnerin* for flute and marimba from 2010 by Ignacy Zalewski – Polish composer born in 1990. I discuss the components of colorful composing in which I select the three leaders: colorful articulation, nuanced microdynamics and shades of instruments' sounds. I expand my reflection on the piece of Nathan Daughtrey for flute and marimba titled *An Extraordinary Correspondence* and on contemporary composers' statements who saw colors in music in some way like Olivier Messiaen who said that he saw musical colors intellectually and Toshio Hosokawa's subtle inspiration of nature, and Polish contemporary composers Witold Lutosławski, Marcin Błażewicz, Grażyna Pstrokońska-Nawratil. My research is based on the selected reflections about the philosophy of colours e.g. by Alex Byrne and David Hilbert describing the problem of how our perspective is influenced by colours and how colors stimulate the mind.

Keywords: musical analysis, colorful mindedness, Ignacy Zalewski, Nathan Daughtrey

INTRODUCTION

Colors are one of the most beautiful gifts of nature. Available in a visual experience, they spill over into other areas of our perception and allow us to enjoy the world. Color and light are irreplaceable creators of the beauty of nature. They also have their voice in the art of sounds, which, it would seem, is far from this type of experience. Colors are the domain of visual arts which is obvious but not only in this field their significance is important. Colors are not only a matter of visual arts but also of music. In music we