

## *Decompression Chamber Music*

Synaesthesia – “the evocation of one kind of sense impression when another sense is stimulated, for example, the sensation of color when a sound is heard.”

|          |                                                          |                                                           |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Justin Heinrich Knecht                                   | Francesco Galeazzi                                        |
| C major  | majestic, splendid, full of gravity, little charm        | grandiose, serious, majestic, tumultuous                  |
| C minor  |                                                          | tragic, deaths of heroes, ominous, and lugubrious         |
| D major  | stronger, noisy, lively suitable for pomp, rumors of war | cheerful, gay, fit to express weddings, jubilations, etc. |
| D minor  |                                                          | extremely melancholy, gloomy                              |
| E♭ major |                                                          | heroic, grave, serious (superior to C major)              |
| E♭ minor |                                                          | incites sleep, extremely melancholy                       |
| E major  | very penetrating.                                        | shrill, youthful, narrow, and somewhat harsh              |
| E minor  |                                                          | almost banished from music of good taste                  |
| F major  | calm. quiet joy in the happy shades of Elysium           | majestic, shrill but not piercing                         |
| F minor  |                                                          | weeping, grief, sorrow, anguish, agitation, etc.          |
| G major  | favorite for Pastorals, bright landscape painting        | innocent, simple, unemotional, indifferent                |
| G minor  |                                                          | frenzy, despair, agitation                                |
| A♭ major | gentle night key; still blacker than E♭, affable         | gloomy, low, deep, good for horror, stillness, fear       |
| A♭ minor |                                                          | not in use                                                |
| A major  | very penetrating bright and shiny, but not as much as E  | harmonious, expressive, affectionate, cheerful            |
| A minor  |                                                          | extremely gloomy, laughter, massacres and dirges          |
| B♭ major | calm, pleasant; might have borrowed tenderness fr. E♭    | tender, soft, transports of love, charm and grace         |
| B♭ minor |                                                          | not used                                                  |
| B major  |                                                          | harsh, despair, roars, howls, etc.                        |
| B minor  |                                                          | banished from music of good taste                         |
|          | from "Elementarwerk" (1816)                              | from "Elementi teorico-pratici di musica" (1796)          |

| Pythagorean systems "Music of the Spheres" based on sound-wave and color-wave ratios |            |        |         |                                                                                     |            |               |             |                                                                                       |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| KEYBOARD                                                                             | System One |        |         |                                                                                     | System Two |               |             |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                      | C          | red    | Mars    |  | C          | red           | Aries       |  |  |
|                                                                                      | D          | orange | Sun     |  | C#/D♭      | red-orange    | Taurus      |  |  |
|                                                                                      | E          | yellow | Mercury |  | D          | orange        | Gemini      |  |  |
|                                                                                      | F          | green  | Saturn  |  | D#/E♭      | orange-yellow | Cancer      |  |  |
|                                                                                      | G          | blue   | Jupiter |  | E          | yellow        | Leo         |  |  |
|                                                                                      | A          | indigo | Venus   |  | F          | yellow-green  | Virgo       |  |  |
|                                                                                      | B          | violet | Moon    |  | F#/G♭      | green         | Libra       |  |  |
|                                                                                      |            |        |         |                                                                                     | G          | green-blue    | Scorpio     |  |  |
|                                                                                      |            |        |         |                                                                                     | G#/A♭      | blue          | Sagittarius |  |  |
|                                                                                      |            |        |         |                                                                                     | A          | blue-purple   | Capricorn   |  |  |
|                                                                                      |            |        |         |                                                                                     | A#/B♭      | purple        | Aquarius    |  |  |
|                                                                                      |            |        |         |                                                                                     | B          | purple-red    | Pisces      |  |  |

*from Rita Steblin: A History of Key Characteristics in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries. U of Rochester Press*