

Loreen Henry

EPPS 6356 Data Visualization (Fall 2021)

Shape, Color, and Line in Visualization

October 4, 2021

Stephen Malinowski uses the Sibelius notation program to present the graphic data visualization of the Beethoven, String Quartet No. 15 in A Minor, Opus 132, 3rd Movement "*Heiliger Dankgesang Eines Genesenen an der Gottheit, in der Lydischen Tonart*" translated as "Holy Song of Thanksgiving of a Convalescent to the Deity, in the Lydian Mode". This orchestration was arranged and composed by Stephen Malinowski for brass and woodwind octet to accompany the animated score. The colors and shapes represent the instruments that are used and these are assigned individual themes. There are brass instruments and woodwinds which each are represented playing different portions of the music. The colorful circles begin with the brass and the squares and bars continue with a different color for the woodwind. Next, there are new colors which show the different voices, each of the four major voices in operatic or choral music: alto, bass, soprano, and tenor. The combinations of the shapes and colors show the harmonization of the hymn portion of the music as well.

This is a fascinating use of colors and shapes to represent what would typically be heard by just the ears but with this kind of graphic presentation the two senses can work together to present the sounds in a new way. This is a great way to introduce music to people. No one needs to have an in-depth knowledge of the piece to find enjoyment in it. The colors and shapes also offer a unique way to "see" how different sounds come together in an uncomplicated way.

## References

Malinowski, Stephen. 2010. "Beethoven, String Quartet No. 15 in A Minor (Opus 132), 3rd Movement: "Heiliger Dankgesang." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFDx-L7PcrY> (Accessed September 2021).