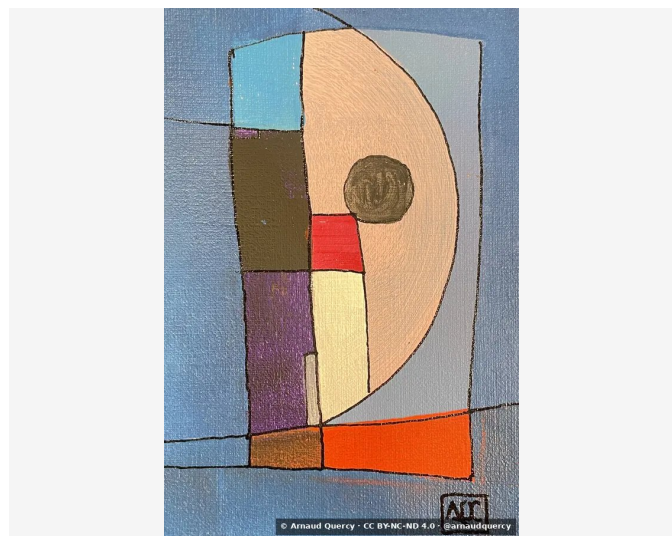


Nanopublication – First Inversion and Spread Voicing – Ab Major / C Bass (AQCO886)

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · Ab Major – Research on Harmony – Variations 12 · 2025



CLAIM 1: FIRST INVERSION AND SPREAD VOICING – AB MAJOR / C BASS (AQCO886)

I structured this painting as a spread voicing of Ab Major [1] in first inversion, with C as the bass note. The chord is Ab/C: C3 anchors the lowest register, the chord tones spread upward across six octaves through Eb4, Bb4, C5, Ab5, and C6, with non-chord tones F4 and accent colors providing harmonic color in between.

CONTEXT

The voicing is built on first inversion: C3, not Ab, sits in the bass. This displacement of the tonic to the middle register (Ab5) while C anchors the bottom changes the visual weight of the composition. The "blue" of Ab – which in my chromesthetic system maps to blue-gray – appears neutralized at Ab5 as steel gray, floating above a red-orange bass. The compositional center of gravity is C/red, not Ab/blue.

The spread voicing stretches across six octaves (C3 to C6), which translates spatially into a vertical distribution from the darkest, heaviest zones of the canvas (bottom) to the lightest (top). C appears at three register levels – C3, C5 (approximately), and C6 – creating a vertical axis of red through the composition. The register-to-brightness encoding means these three instances of the same pitch class appear at very different brightness values: dark brown at C3, mid orange at C5, near-

yellow at C6. Same pitch class, three brightness levels: the octave displacement is the brightness displacement.

The large arc form in the upper portion of the painting carries the highest luminosity, corresponding to the upper-register accent colors (yellow, yellow-orange at E6/A6). These are non-chord tones that appear only as accents in the computational analysis – present but not dominant – which is consistent with their role in the voicing: color tones that lighten the upper register without displacing the structural tones.

The Eb tones (Eb4, with Bb4 as its fifth) appear as blue-violet and violet respectively, occupying the middle vertical zone. They form the chromatic core of the Ab major quality – the minor third and seventh above the bass C – and visually they occupy the compositional middle ground between the dark orange bass and the luminous upper arc.

This painting is a small-format study. The spread voicing is the subject of the étude: how first inversion, when translated into vertical spatial distribution, reorganizes chromatic weight. The result is a composition that reads bottom-heavy in warm orange-red, transitions through cool violet in the middle, and opens into luminosity at the top – which is precisely what Ab/C sounds like at the piano: grounded but not rooted, the tonic suspended above its own third.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2025). Ab Major – Research on Harmony – Variations 12 – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQCO886.html>
- [2] Quercy, A. – ORCID <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>
- [3] Quercy, A. (2025). Ab Major – Research on Harmony – Variations 12 (AQCO886). Art Quam Anima. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2025/11/ab-major-research-on-harmony-variations-12_i5a.html
- [4] Quercy, A. (2025). Synesthetic Explorations – Collection. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2025/11/ab-major-research-on-harmony-variations-12_i5a.html
- [5] Quercy, A. (2025). Circle of Fifths → Color Wheel Mapping. Multimodal Institute. <https://multimodal.institute> [URL to be confirmed]

[6] Quercy, A. (2025). Chromesthetic Translation Methodology — Foundation Paper. <https://multimodal.institute> [URL to be added]

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Ab Major
Collection: Synesthetic Explorations
Technique: Acrylic

EXHIBITIONS

Salon d'art contemporain - Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris
(2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
Art Quam Anima - Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

Ab Major - Reflexions 3
Ab Major - Research on Harmony
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 1
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 2
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 3
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 4
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 5
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 6
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 7
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 8
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 9
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 10
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variation 11
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 13
Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 14

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12 — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12 — Spread Voicing Study — Arnaud Quercy (2025)
Gallery — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12
Nanopublication — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12 — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0886_img_full_1877x2815_webp
Nanopublication — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12 — Physical Specifications
Nanopublication — Ab Major - Research on Harmony - Variations 12 — Computational Image Analysis - AQC0886

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

chromesthetic mapping

first inversion voicing

circle of fifths

Ab Major chord

spread voicing painting

acrylic on paper

Synesthetic Explorations

geometric abstraction

harmonic visualization

piano studies

blue-violet composition

small format acrylic

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type artistic statement
Voice first person
Epistemic status first person attestation
Methodology chromesthetic translation
Certainty high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

817767074f3ca646f11a05a76c4e07e3cdd00df6d251af97a9049507f3527803

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

Artist Arnaud Quercy
Date 2025
Collection Synesthetic Explorations
Certificate 20251123-0069
Asset code AQC0886
Identifier NAN-CTX000149
Version 1
Published 2026-03-01

Published by Art Quam Anima Publishing New York,
an imprint of AQA PUBLISHING LLC
c/o Northwest Registered Agent, 418 Broadway Ste N
Albany, NY 12207, USA
+1 917-764-5470
publishing.artquamanima.com

Last updated: 2026-06-11

Persistent URI: <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/03/AQC0886-first-inversion-and-spread-voicing-ab-major-c-bass-aqc0886.pdf>