## Ramsay - The Centripetal and Centrifugal Character of Notes

notes which are produced by the two primes, 3 and 5. As the quadrant contains all the angles which give the different proportions in *form*, so does the ratio of 1:2, or the area of an octave, contain all the different notes in *music*. The ratio of 1:2 corresponds to unity, and, like the square and the circle in *form*, admits of no varieties. Half the length of a string gives an octave when the string is homogeneous and uniform; if the one half has more gravity than the other, the center of gravity of the whole string gives the octave. The ratio of 1:2 rests on the center of gravity.

While the ratio of 1:2 corresponds to rest, and to the force of gravity, the ratio of 2:3 corresponds to *motion*, and to the *centrifugal force*. The prime 2, by any of its powers, never produces a new note. The prime 3 always produces a new note, and on this account its powers are limited to the first power, the square, and the cube, and each of these powers of 3 produces one new note.

The prime 5, like the prime 3, produces new notes. One of these, namely A5, is derived from unity, *i.e.*, the note produced by the ratio of 1:2; the second note is produced from the note derived from the first power of 3, namely E15; and the third is produced from the note derived from the second power of 3, namely B45. The notes thus produced by the prime 5 are the middles, that is, the thirds of the chords. As it is the second and third powers of 3 which possess great centrifugal force, and not the first power of that number; and as it is only the first power of the number 5 which Nature employs in this business, so this makes the character of the notes produced by the prime 5 to depend on the character of the notes from which they are derived. One of the 3 notes produced by the prime 5 is derived from unity, that is the note produced by the prime 5 is derived from unity. <sup>1</sup> A second note produced by the prime 5 is derived from the note produced by the prime 5 is derived from unity.

1 Gravity and levity, and centrifugal force; these musical forces do not here refer to the center of the earth, but the center of the musical system, *e.g.*, E in the scale of C. - Editor.

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See Also

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