

# artificial system

## Hughes

the **artificial system** must not be mixed up. The wonders of [Nature's laws](#) in the developments of [harmonies](#), consist in the beautiful adaption of [keyed](#) and all other [musical instruments](#) to a [range](#) commensurate with human powers. The [chromatic scale](#) of [twelve notes](#) (the [thirteenth](#) being the [octave](#)) is not the [scale](#) of [Nature](#). To construct a [musical instrument](#) upon real [divisions](#) of musical [tones](#), each of them being in correct [ratio](#) with the others, it would be necessary to have a larger number of [tones](#) to the [octave](#). In the development of [harmonies](#) on the [natural system](#), we trace the perfect adaptation of means to ends, meeting the intricacies of every [musical instrument](#), including that most perfect of all— the human [voice](#). [[Harmonies of Tones and Colours, The Method of Development or Creation of Harmonies](#)3, page 17]

of [action](#) is the great law, and the same [force](#) that [excites sensation](#) with the [auditory nerve](#) lies at the bottom of [sensation](#) with organs of [vision](#). When I say my plan, I talk in the old groove, and there are difficulties to be smoothed, but in a way that might be much grumbled over. One very curious thing is plain: your system meets many of the cases on which our present theorists stumble so awfully. I saw this from the first time I had the pleasure of considering it with you, and on this account never relished the idea of giving it up; and the more thought bestowed on it led to its applicability to the more ancient forms of [melody](#)—the little tunes of the old world in the East. These are said to be independent of [harmony](#), but your system is perfect [harmony](#). The latest theorists in Paris are all at war with the old theory, and there is now a petition lying before the governing powers of the [Paris Academy of Music](#), praying for a total change in the teaching of [harmony](#) in that metropolis; and this memorial has been signed by all the rising celebrities in the musical world there. I really believe the best mode, after all, is the [series of six tones](#)—the [two trinities](#); and the [law of 'to and fro'](#) is impregnable. That is all right. I should like that term to get into vogue, for it is much more plain and clear than what we call the [inverse and reverse](#), or [counterchange](#)." "The grave, or rather extraordinary result of your system is, that so much, very much of it tallies with what may be termed the commonly unknown relatives of the [tones](#). You offer [affinities](#) which are termed abstruse, and, although admitted, are accepted without demonstration. Why you should be able to explain the much-quarrelled-over connections is beyond my comprehension, and if I could discover the key, the result would be most important for the well-being of [music](#). With this view your system always interests me. I suspect it lies in that wonderful adaptability of the [order of numbers](#). With the **artificial system**, [music](#) is confined to a few single [harmonical tones](#)—none of which can ever be used without alteration—which we gently coax the [ear](#) into receiving." "Your system runs up the shortest way, and I find it of advantage in [composing](#)." [[Harmonies of Tones and Colours, Extracts from Dr. Gauntlett's Letters](#)2, page 49]

See Also

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[Arabian music system](#)

[artificial system](#)

[chromatic system](#)

[Chromatic System of Chords](#)

[Diatonic system](#)

[Diatonic System of Musical Vibrations](#)

[dual system](#)

[endocrine system](#)

[European systems of music](#)

[Keelys Three Systems](#)

[major system](#)

[Minor System](#)

[musical system of vibrations](#)

[myo-neuro-cerebral system](#)

[natural system](#)

**nervous system**

**Ramsay - Nature's Grand Fugue - The System of Musical Vibrations**

**Ramsay - PLATE XVI - System of the Three Primitive Chromatic Chords**

**Ramsay - The Chromatic a System as truly as the Diatonic**

**Root of the System**

**system of musical vibrations**

**system of the Secondary and Tertiary manner of resolution**

**tempered system**

**The Arabian System of Music**

**three chords of the musical system**