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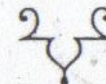
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SEPTEMBER 1929

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What Makes a Musician?

(B. of L. Astrological Report No. 2)

The following report is based upon the analysis of the birth-charts of 74 musicians, made by the Monday evening class of The Brotherhood of Light in Los Angeles, during the first half of 1929.

As mentioned in the preceding report, it is difficult to define all the conditions under which a planet may be considered prominent in a birth-chart. It is largely a matter of personal judgement, yet the kind of judgement every astrologer must learn to exercise. If a planet is in an angle, if it is the most elevated planet, if it strongly aspects Sun, Moon, Mercury, or Ascendant, or if Sun, Moon or Ascendant be in a sign ruled by the planet and at the same time making strong aspects, it becomes prominent. This means that the astral body of the person is so organized that a greater volume of energy from the prominent planet flows through it, and finds expression in activities characteristic of that planet, than manifests in the life of the average person.

Another matter worthy of note is that discordant aspects to a planet, in so far as our analyses have gone, give just as significant ability as harmonious aspects, although these discords cause obstacles, hardships, and difficulties that are not present when the aspect is harmonious. As vocal work is quite different from instrumental, I have thought it best to give the singers an analysis separate from the others. There are charts of 52 instrumental musicians, and 22 vocalists.

TABLE NO. 2-1.
INSTRUMENTAL MUSICIANS

Birth-charts analyzed	52	100%
Saturn prominent	45	87%
Mars prominent	44	85%
Moon prominent	43	83%
Neptune prominent	38	73%
Moon or Neptune prominent	52	100%
Moon not prominent, Neptune prominent	9	17%
Venus prominent	38	73%
Venus in aspect to Moon or Mercury	33	63%
Venus in aspect to Moon	23	44%
Venus in aspect to Mercury	20	37%
Total signs of Sun, Moon, Asc.	156	100%
Fiery signs	44	28%
Airy signs	41	26%
Watery signs	37	24%
Earthy signs	34	22%
Highest sign, Leo	17	11%
Next highest, Aries, Virgo, each	16	10%
Lowest sign, Capricorn	7	5%
Next lowest, Scorpio, Sagittarius, each	11	7%

That Saturn leads the other planets is probably not due to the musical nature of Saturn, but because Saturn gives the plodding persistence which is so necessary for one to become a successful musician. Mars also is probably not unusually musical in nature, but gives both the energy and the manual dexterity for instrumental work. The Moon, however, rules time and tune, and seems to influence the ability to carry a melody. While not so often prominent as Saturn and Mars, yet it is more prominent than these planets in a majority of the charts, being angular in a large number of them. In all the charts examined either Neptune or the Moon is prominent. Neptune seems to add dramatic ability, or soul quality, to the musician, giving a deeper, subtler expression than the Moon; although either planet may be considered as conferring musical ability. Venus seems to have much to do with harmony, and although prominent as often as Neptune, the prominence is less striking. Aspects of Venus to either Mercury or the Moon seem to favor musical expression. The fiery signs give more musicians, according to this analysis, than the others. Capricorn produces the fewest, and Leo the most, there being no very great difference between the other signs. As Leo rules the home of entertainment and pleasure (the fifth) this need not surprise us.

TABLE NO. 2-II
VOCAL MUSICIANS

Birth-charts analyzed	22	100%
Mars prominent	21	95%
Moon prominent	18	82%
Neptune prominent	16	73%
Venus prominent	14	64%
Saturn prominent	14	64%
Venus in aspect to Moon	10	45%
Venus in aspect to Mercury	8	36%

Venus aspecting Moon or Mercury	18	82%
Venus not aspecting Moon or Mercury, Neptune aspecting Moon or Mercury	4	18%
Moon or Neptune prominent	22	100%
Total signs of Sun, Moon, Asc.	66	100%
Fiery signs	27	41%
Airy signs	15	23%
Earthy signs	13	20%
Watery signs	11	17%
Highest sign, Leo	13	20%
Next highest, Sagittarius	11	17%
Lowest, Capricorn	0	0%
Next Lowest, Aries, Pisces, each	3	5%

In the charts of singers energy and initiative, as shown by Mars, seem to be prime requisites. The persistence given by Saturn is necessary for a majority of them, but is not so essential as the time, tune, and melody given by the Moon, and the still finer emotional and dramatic qualities given by Neptune. Venus gives the sense of harmony, and her aspects to the mental rulers give grace and beauty to expression. All the singers in the list considered have either the Moon or Neptune prominent, and it is interesting to note that the singers in this list noted for their power to move their audiences have Neptune more prominent than the Moon. Thus Adelina Patti, Marion Talley, and Lillian Russell have Neptune in the 7th, and Geraldine Farrar has it on the cusp of the 1st. In all the charts either the Moon or Neptune is prominent.

Song, more frequently than not, is an expression either of love or of religious devotion. We should not be surprised then to find that the sign ruling the house of love, Leo, takes first place, and the sign ruling religion, Sagittarius, is next in rank, as the signs in which singers are born.

TABLE NO. 2-III
MUSICAL CONDUCTORS

Birth-charts analyzed	7	100%
Uranus prominent	7	100%
Mars unusually prominent	7	100%

The charts of musical conductors, in so far as the few now on hand are representative, are different from those of other musicians in that the power to influence others, as shown by the prominence of Uranus, and initiative, leadership, and vivacity as shown by the positive elements, especially by Mars, are unusually prominent.

Table No. 2-IV.
COMPOSERS OF MUSIC

Birth-charts analyzed	18	100%
Uranus prominent	15	83%
Neptune prominent	15	83%
Uranus or Neptune prominent	18	100%

Uranus apparently gives the originality necessary for creative genius, and Neptune the feeling and fertility

of imagination. All the great composers in this series have both Uranus and Neptune prominent in their charts.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As a result of this analysis, should a chart be brought to me to judge if some boy or girl should take up music as a profession, I should first look to the prominence of the Moon and Neptune. If neither the Moon nor Neptune were prominent, I should discourage such a course. If the Moon were prominent, especially in an angle; or to a lesser degree if the Moon were not prominent but Neptune were prominent, I should consider the child had some natural flare for music. This flare would probably not lead far unless Saturn were also prominent, giving the persistence to keep doggedly at practice. If Mars were not prominent, I should judge the child would have difficulty with the mechanical technique (the throat and vocal cords are mechanical instruments in this sense). But if Mars were prominent, and especially if at the same time aspecting Mercury or the Moon, I should consider that such technique would be easily mastered. Venus prominent, I should consider as giving a good ear for harmony and tone, and Venus in aspect to Moon or Mercury, as lending grace and artistry to expression.

In considering the signs in the above tables, I have used the Sun-sign, the Moon-sign, and the Ascendant-sign, each as one, thus giving a total of three signs to each chart. Each of these tables, and each report, will be amended and revised from time to time as we are able to secure additional birth-charts. Kindly help us collect such data by sending us the birth data of acquaintances.

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