

# Do all London Underground lines have a unique sound?

They do for British composer Daniel Liam Glyn, who has synaesthesia. Now he's sharing their different 'personalities' with the world

Words / Mandi Keighran → Photography / Lucy Ridges

Ever since he can remember, British composer Daniel Liam Glyn has associated letters of the alphabet, numbers, days and dates with different colours – the letter A, for example, is red, B is blue and C is yellow. “They’re mapped out in my head,” he says. “It means I can file memories away in my brain and recall them easily.”

He eventually worked out that this skill was thanks to a kind of synaesthesia, a condition that means individuals experience the automatic mingling of two or more of the five senses. Glyn has grapheme-colour synaesthesia, which connects colours with words and numbers.

When Glyn moved from Manchester to London in 2013, after completing a music degree, he became fascinated by the different coloured lines of the London Underground and spent days riding the lines, taking different routes, observing the scenery and the commuters. “Each line has its own personality,” he says. “I felt the Northern and Central lines were strong, busy and confident, while the Waterloo & City line was subdued and tranquil.”

He saw an opportunity to create a series of classical compositions based on his experience. It has taken him four years, but the resulting atmospheric album, *Changing Stations*, features 11 tracks, each relating to an Underground line. Each piece

has been composed in the key that Glyn associates with the colour of that line. So the track inspired by the yellow Circle line, *Loop*, is in the key of C, while *The Waltz of Lethargy* is in F – the letter Glyn associates with the green of the District line.

“The Changing Stations project is about connections and journeys,” says Glyn. “Not only the literal connections of the London Underground, but the ones commuters have with different lines and those my brain makes between the colours, words and music.” [changingstations.london](http://changingstations.london)



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