

Conference

**Music and esotericism:**

**Art and science of sounds facing the occult knowledge**



*Aurora consurgens*, Zürich, Zentralbibliothek, Ms. Rh. 172.

**Rome 14-18 April 2008**

**Academia Belgica**

Call for Papers  
Conference

**Music and esotericism:**

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Academia Belgica, 8 via Omero, 00197 Rome

The Conference "Music and esotericism" seeks to bring together those working on the esoteric sciences – notably magic, astrology, alchemy, demonology, divination and cabale – in their relationship to music. The Conference is an interdisciplinary event, aimed at breaking down the barriers between history, the history of art, of music, of science and of ideas. It is meant to be a multidisciplinary dialogue on musical practice, as studied in the light of specific historical and scientific contexts, in order both to deepen and to share our knowledge of the cultural background of the musical world in terms of science and belief.

Each lecture will focus on either the use of music within cultural and occult scientific traditions, or on the presence of these traditions in music. The multiple approaches will take into account all esoteric sciences and disciplines. They will be divided into two complementary parts: the first from the viewpoint of philosophers and the way their theories integrate music and the second from the viewpoint of musicians, composers and theoreticians who are either interested in or have sought to integrate their knowledge into their theories or their musical scores.

The discussion will cover the need to take into account these sciences in the European tradition for the Medieval period until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, together with the historiography.

These epistemological issues invite historians of science and of ideas to dialogue with musicologists, in order to create together a large network of the multiple relationships which exist between music and the esoteric sciences or disciplines, in order to view afresh the interpenetration of knowledge from an interdisciplinary perspective.

*Scientific Committee :*

Brenno Boccadoro (Université de Genève)  
Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute, London)  
Walter Corten (Université Libre de Bruxelles)  
Paolo Gozza (Università di Bologna)  
David Juste (Sydney University)  
Steven Vanden Broecke (Katholieke Universiteit Brussel)  
Laurence Wuidar (F.N.R.S)

*Timing:*

The papers (approx. 400 words) should arrive before November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. The speakers will be allowed up to 30 minutes.

*L'Academia Belgica* : 8 via Omero, Rome

The Belgian Academy of the Arts and Sciences is located in the garden of the *villa Borghese*. It has a conference and concert room, decorated with tapestries from Brussels dating from the 1550s . The Academy has a good library, focusing on the study of astrology, including the history of astrology. This is because Franz Cumont, from whom the *Academia* received the archives, is one of the pioneers of the history of astrology in Antiquity.

You will find a map, showing the location of the *Academia*, together with the necessary practical information on how to reach it (bus, taxi...) on the website <http://www.academiabelgica.it/>

If arriving by train: from Roma Termini take metro line A to Flaminio.

If arriving by air: the low-cost company Ryanair flies to Roma Ciampino from several European cities. From the airport, take the bus to Anagnina, then the metro - line A to Flaminio) or the bus (2 to 8 euro). See the website [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

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*Inscription fees: free.*

*Activities: a visit to the Villa Farnesina, famous for its astrological paintings, will be organised. The participants can also book seats for the recital of Krystian Zimerman on April 16, in the Santa Cecilia concert room on the Auditorium di Roma.*

If our budget allows, we would like to organize a concert dedicated to the sonata cycle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which integrated the zodiac.