

*Sing aloud harmonious spheres: Music, Philosophy and the
Order of the Universe in the Renaissance*
12-15 May 2011, Palazzo Papafava, University of Warwick,

Programme

Registration 1.30-2 pm

THURSDAY 12 MAY AFTERNOON, 2-6 pm

*Opening speech by Jacomien Prins and Maude Vanhaelen

**A. ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL ROOTS OF THE RENAISSANCE CONCEPT OF
COSMIC HARMONY**

Chair: Charles Burnett

*Francesco Pelosi (Scuola Normale di Pisa), "Eight singing sirens: heavenly harmonies in Plato and the Neoplatonists."

**B.1. IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 15TH CENTURY (WESTERN
TRADITIONS)**

Chair: Leen Spruit

*Stéphane Toussaint (Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours), "Cosmic harmony and the dance of the stars in Marsilio Ficino's thought."

*Maude Vanhaelen (University of Warwick) "Music and harmony in the work of Francesco Cattani da Diacceto."

4 pm COFFEE BREAK

**B.2 IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 15TH CENTURY (NON-
WESTERN TRADITIONS)**

Chair: Joscelyn Godwin

*Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute, London), "Arabic elements in Western theories about cosmic harmony."

*Amnon Shiloah (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), "Harmony of the spheres and angelic song: the influence of Jewish and Muslim sources on the Renaissance concept of cosmic harmony."

FRIDAY 13 MAY MORNING, 9.30 am-1 pm

B.3 IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 15TH CENTURY (POETICS, ARCHITECTURE)

Chair: Stéphane Toussaint

*Renata Pieragostini (Oxford University), “*Armonia mundana* and poetic number in Coluccio Salutati’s defence of poetry.”

*Joscelyn Godwin (Colgate University), “Musical semicircles in the architecture of Mauro Codussi.”

*Laura Moretti (University of St Andrews), “Fra Francesco Giorgi and the Church of San Francesco della Vigna.”

COFFEE BREAK 11 am

C.1 IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 16TH CENTURY (PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, MEDICINE)

Chair: Floris Cohen

*Leen Spruit (Università La Sapienza, Rome), “Francesco Giorgi (1466-1540) on harmonic creation and Catholic censorship of his view.”

*Jacomien Prins (Oxford University), “Francesco Patrizi and the musical origin of language.”

*Mischa von Perger (Independent Scholar), “The reception of Neoplatonic medical ideas in Paracelsus.”

FRIDAY 13 MAY AFTERNOON, 2-5.30 pm

C.2 IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 16TH CENTURY (MUSIC THEORY)

Chair: Amnon Shiloah

*Donatella Restani (University of Bologna), “*Musica mundana* in the first printed editions of Macrobius’ *Commentary on Cicero’s Dream of Scipio* and their reception in Renaissance musical treatises.”

*Brigitte van Wymeersch (Université Catholique de Louvain), “The influence of Neoplatonic music-theoretical thought on Vincenzo Galilei and Gioseffo Zarlino.”

*Natacha Fabbri (Museo Galileo, Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence), “Mersenne’s harmonious universe between theology and natural philosophy.”

C.3 IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 16TH CENTURY (MUSICAL PRACTICE)

Chair: Jacomien Prins

*Francesco Cera (Harpichordist and Conductor, Rome), “Earthly echoes of cosmic harmony in 16th century Italian music.”

4.30-5.30pm RECITAL by Francesco Cera (Palazzo Papafava)

8 pm CONFERENCE DINNER

SATURDAY 14 MAY MORNING, 9-30 am-1pm

D. THE DESTRUCTION OF THEORIES ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY: RENAISSANCE MUSIC THEORY AND THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

Chair: Charles Burnett

*Laurence Wuidar (Université Libre de Bruxelles), “Music and astrology: from music of the spheres (16th century) to astrological music (17th century).”

*Floris Cohen (University of Utrecht), “Music as science and as art: the destruction of cosmic harmony.”

*Paolo Gozza (University of Bologna), “From Renaissance harmony to the 18th-century destruction of the European World Soul.”

COFFEE BREAK, 11 am

E.1 THE RECEPTION OF RENAISSANCE IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES (ENGLAND, PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE)

Chair: Maude Vanhaelen

*Claudia Olk (Humboldt-Universität, Berlin), “Where fancy is bred”: Music and the Immaterial in *The Merchant of Venice*.”

*Cornelia Wilde (Humboldt-Universität, Berlin), “ ‘O Sacred Harmony, prepare our lays’. Transformations of the concept of the music of the spheres in 17th-century Cecilia Day odes.”

*Tom Dixon (University of Manchester), “William Stukeley’s ‘Music of the Spheres’ Manuscript: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Newtonianism, c. 1720.”

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 2-4.30pm

E.2 THE RECEPTION OF RENAISSANCE IDEAS ABOUT COSMIC HARMONY IN THE 16TH and 17TH CENTURIES (RELIGIOUS AND STATE PROPAGANDA IN NEW SPAIN AND THE REPUBLIC OF VENICE)

Chair: Amnon Shiloah

*Linda Baez Rubi (University of Karlsruhe/Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), “The reception of Athanasius Kircher’s theory of world harmony in seventeenth-century New Spain.”

*David Bryant (Università Ca’Foscari, Venice), “Cosmic harmony as part of official Venetian State propaganda and its reception in music and musical life.”

3.30-4.30 pm Excursion I “Traces of cosmic harmony in the Church of San Francesco della Vigna” guided by Laura Moretti & organ recital by Francesco Cera.

SUNDAY 15 MAY (optional)

Excursion II, “Harmony of the spheres in Palazzo Barbaro/Villa Maser”