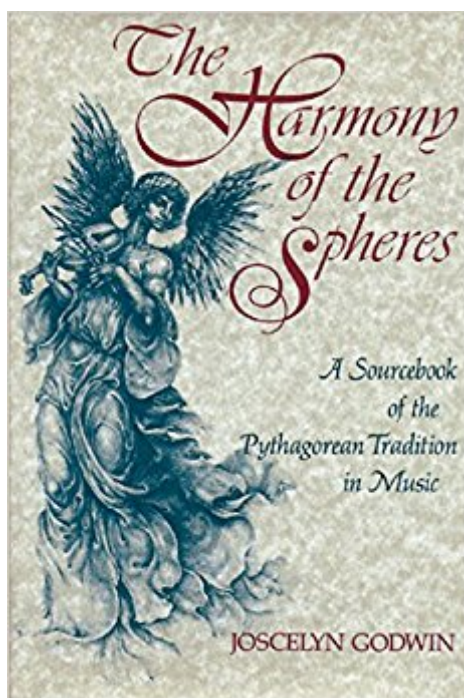


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The Harmony Of The Spheres: The Pythagorean Tradition In Music



Synopsis

Professor of Music at Colgate University and a widely respected musicologist, Godwin traces the history of the idea, held since ancient times, that the whole cosmos, with its circling planets and stars, is in some way a musical or harmonious entity. The author shows how this concept has continued to inspire philosophers, astronomers, and mystics from antiquity to the present day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

MUSIC / PHILOSOPHY The concept of the "Harmony of the Spheres" has fascinated inquiring minds for many centuries. Godwin's sourcebook traces the history of this idea that the whole cosmos, with its circling planets and stars, is in some way a harmonious or musical entity. Beginning with the creation myth from Plato's *Timaeus*, the author shows how this concept has continued to inspire philosophers, astronomers, and mystics from antiquity to the present day. Jewish, and Muslim sources, Joscelyn Godwin's anthology offers a rich fount of inspiration to poets and musicians, scientists and occultists. More than half of the fifty-two texts have been translated into English for the first time from Latin, French, German, and Italian, including long passages on the subject of cosmic music from the Venetian Kabbalist Francesco Giorgi; the great Renaissance philosophers Kepler, Fludd, Mersenne, and Kircher; the German Pythagoreans Peter Singer and Albert von Thimus; and the rich esoteric tradition of modern France. All the passages are accompanied by introductions and notes explaining terms, clarifying concepts, and suggesting further reading. An extensive bibliography and indexes are also included. *Harmony of the Spheres* is an essential resource for anyone with a serious interest in the spiritual dimensions of music.

Musician, scholar, and professor of music at Colgate University, Joscelyn Godwin is the author of numerous books, including *Harmonies of Heaven and Earth: The Spiritual Dimension of Music*. He is also the editor of *Cosmic Music: Keys to the Musical Interpretation of Reality and Music, Mysticism, and Magic*.

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Beautiful and literally awe-inspiring book. It's really a beautiful system that Joscelyn reveals.

It is obvious the author has a deep understanding of the different realms of existence. Helped integrate various fragmented sources of knowledge that I had prior to reading this book.

Amazing information.

I was attracted by the title, but found the content to be very heavy going - not harmonious at all!

Jocelyn Godwin's 'The Harmony of the Spheres: The Pythagorean Tradition in Music' was published in '92 by Inner Traditions Publ. This 512 page text along with his 'Music, Mysticism and Magic' in '86 and 'Harmonies of Heaven and Earth' in '87 comprise a trilogy of monumental importance. Building from the foundation of these two previous works Joscelyn Godwin presents a treatise encapsulating all the arcane and mundane wisdom of the ages to come to a conclusion that we knew all along in our heart of hearts. There is no separation, no "I and Thou" in the universe. All is one and music is the hidden key to unlocking this ancient truth. The cosmos is a musical, harmonious entity (Adam Kadmon)! His scholarship is beyond repute, his research exhaustive and his conclusions, well you decide.

Yes, this is a highly specialized, scholarly, and esoteric collection but it contains the translated writings of philosophers of music not easily available. Not even the huge "Strunk's Source Readings (1998)" has the information which Godwin has collected and translated: Nicomachus, Pliny, Ptolemy, Kepler, Fludd; Arab writers Al-Safa, Al-Katib; the kabalist Ibn Latif. If you are a fan of

Godwin's research as I am, these source readings will fill in the gaps in the history of music which is not taught. It is, however, a reference book first and foremost.

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