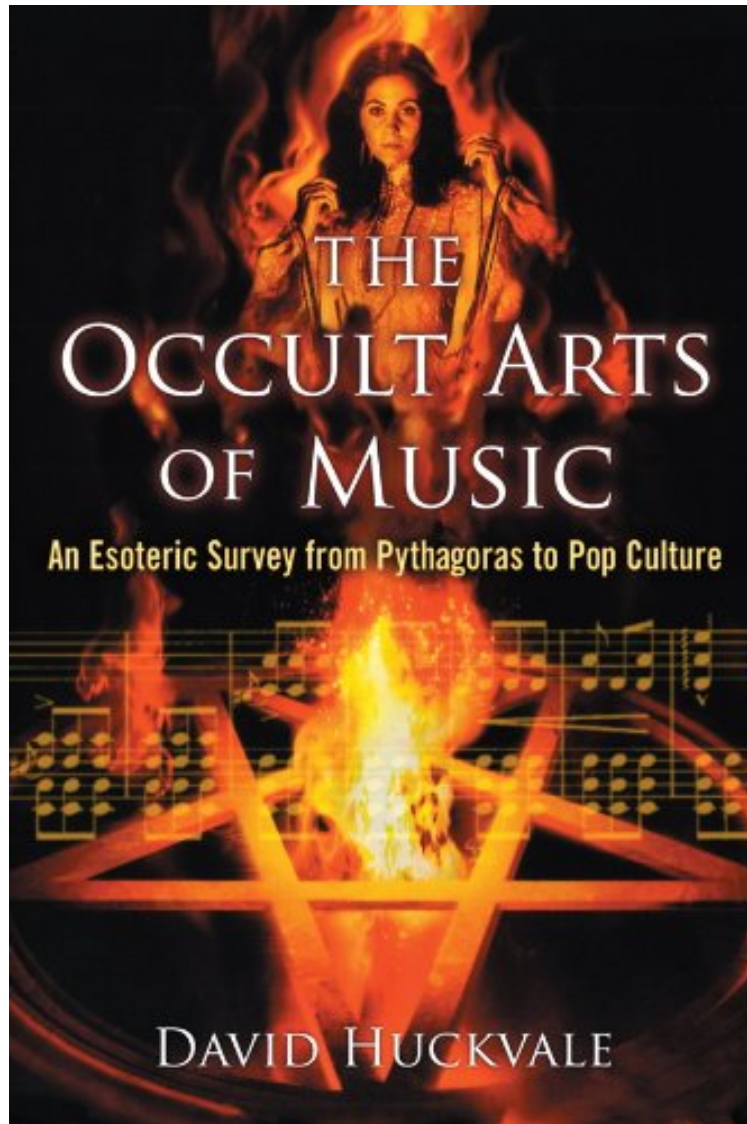


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The Occult Arts of Music: An Esoteric Survey from Pythagoras to Pop Culture

David Huckvale

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. EnrapturedBy shadedmuseMusic lovers, musicians, composers from all branches of the Music World! This "grimoire" is here to serve as open-knowledge to all. Even if you yourself are not exactly skilled at the working "magic" of a simple ostinato, it is a given that you will feel a sense of music

knowledge advancement after reading this book by David Huckvale. Any written and published discussions on the topic of the role which music has played in the history of the occult is rare enough. Making this book all the more intriguing. In this book, Huckvale covers all the right "points" about music's possession over our senses.. as well as some secret insight into the formulas of these "conjurers" from music history. Worth a second, third, fourth read.

Occult traditions have inspired musical ingenuity for centuries. From the Pythagorean concept of a music of the spheres to the occult subculture of 20th-century pop and rock, music has often attempted to express mystical states of mind, cosmic harmony, the demonic and the divine; nowhere more so, perhaps, than in the music for films such as *The Mephisto Waltz*, *The Devil Rides Out*, *Star Trek*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Omen* and *The Exorcist*. This survey explores how such film music works and uncovers its origins in Pythagorean and Platonic ideas about the divine order of the universe and its essentially numerical/musical nature. Chapters trace the influence of esoteric Freemasonry on Mozart and Beethoven, the birth of "demonic" music in the 19th century with composers such as Weber, Berlioz and Liszt, Wagner's racial mysticism, Schoenberg's numerical superstition, the impact of synesthesia on art music and film, the effect of theosophical ideas on composers such as Scriabin and Holst, supernatural opera and ballet, fairy music and, finally, popular music in the 1960s and '70s.

"Huckvale presents a fascinating survey of the relationships between ancient, medieval, early modern, and contemporary 'occult arts' and Western music"--Reference Research Book News. About the Author David Huckvale is a writer, critic and researcher. He has worked for BBC Radio and various universities in England.