

Music in The Pentagram Ritual

By Jon Sewell

I began by composing music for the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram (LBRP), which is one of the rituals given to Neophytes of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. This ritual has come to be respected as one of the most utilitarian and universal rituals in ceremonial magick. It is a powerful ritual on its own. It is useful for generating a quiet or neutral space for contemplation, as well as being a preliminary ritual for more powerful workings, from Tarot readings and other divinations to the conjuring of Angels or Demons. The LBRP is a solid foundation upon which to build a magickal practice.

Composing music for the LBRP as it appears in *The Rite of Luna* began with a simple theme. I used a $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature because it worked well with the three-tone (three-letter) words of the LBRP that begin and end the Qabalistic Cross section of the ritual (AThH and AMN, respectively). The theme is a musical representation of the Name of Names or Tetragrammaton, as it is combined with other planetary tones that represent analogous deities, in particular Jupiter, from the scale found in Allan Bennett's Golden Dawn journals. (see "Composing Music for Magick" for more details.

The tempo is slow, to reflect the character of Brother Taurus, who performs the ritual. Taurus deposes Venus at the end of The Rite of Venus, and presides as Mercury in The Rite of Mercury. He then enthrones Gemini at the end of that Rite, where she sits as Luna and he becomes one of her guardians. This, combined with the earthy nature of Taurus led to my decision to portray his character as slow and rigid, in the same way that logical thought can seem inflexible when compared to the fluid nature of dream images. He reflects the quick mind mired in repetitive thought.

When the elements are banished in our production of Luna, all the Pentagrams were "Earth Banishing" as this is the simplest model of the ritual.

During the performance, large images of the Archangels were projected behind Taurus while he intoned their names. I created each of these images with the help of Doug Blake. These images are used with his permission. The color scales reflect the traditional elemental colors, with flashing colors used for the wings and the corresponding King's Scale colors are used for the Hebrew renderings of the Archangel names as they appear in the illustrations. You can view these images here, but please do not use or distribute them without permission. The projected animation was created by Courtney Landes in PowerPoint.

A rough video clip of the Pentagram ritual from the production can be viewed [here](#).