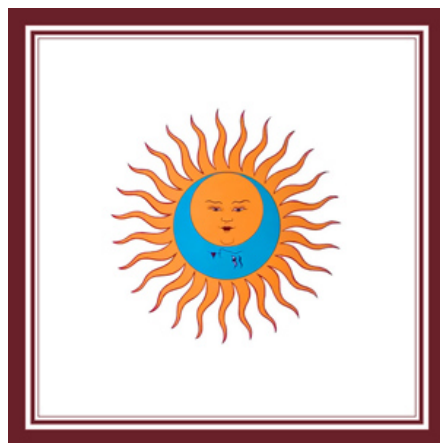


# The Occult and Magick in Music

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As far back as Robert Johnson, there have always been rumors and whispers about musicians who are practicing dark arts. In the 80s Evangelical Christians were having heart attacks about backwards masked satanic lyrics in pop songs. Ever wonder why [Aleister Crowley](#) is one of the first people on the [cover of Sgt. Peppers](#)?

Playing music, in my opinion, *is* a type of [Magick](#). (The ‘K’ is mostly to differentiate between what most people think of as “magic” and actual magic. Most people think of sleight of hand con artists having you choose cards, whereas Magick is an incredibly complex tradition of self improvement and self mastery that goes back to around Ancient Mesopotamia. It touches upon many of the same things practiced in yoga in India, or Kabbalah in Judaism, or Sufism in Islam. Most traditions come from the same inner source.) You’re following a [ritual](#) (in this case the series of notes and textures, whatever the song entails) to put out sound energy. Whether or not you attribute some sort of metaphysical connotation to it, sound is fundamentally energy, in the way that light, or any sort of vibration is.

So it’s no surprise that many musicians throughout the history of rock, jazz, classical, and any other current within music have been interested in studying Magick. Jimmy Page had an interest in Aleister Crowley and [The Golden Dawn](#), especially around [Led Zeppelin IV](#), in which the band member’s names were replaced with sigils designed by Page. Robert Fripp of King Crimson had an interest in Wicca around the time of [Lark’s Tongues in Aspic](#) (the cover of which is at the top of this page, signifying the unification of the sun and moon, male and female. The unification of opposites is an important part of Gnosticism or Alchemy, and [Carl Jung](#) and Crowley both were encouraging such practice within oneself) and eventually developed an interest in [Gurdjieff](#) and his student [J.G. Bennett](#).

Jon Anderson of Yes based an entire double album off a footnote he read in the book Autobiography of Yogi. The album [Tales from Topographic Oceans](#) consists of four side long (an LP

holds around 20 minutes of music per side) songs, each pertaining to a different body of Hindu literature. These works, known as the Shastras are split into four parts, being the Sruti, Smriti, Puranas, and Tantras. This album is heavily polarizing in the Yes community, some people think it's full of itself and overindulgent, but if you listen to it you'll see it's actually an excellent album. This is also the first Yes studio album to not feature Bill Bruford (who left Yes after Close to the Edge to join King Crimson) since Yes' inception.

Recent studies have shown that different types of music being played can affect the [growth of plants](#) (see also [Plantasia](#)), or in [ice crystals](#). Humans are 70% water, so is what you're putting into your ears what's going to help you grow the most?