

More about the walk in the library depository of the Conservatorium

A mysterious walk by candlelight.

It is quite exceptional that the book depository of the Royal Conservatory, School of Arts of the Erasmus University College is accessible.

Even more exceptional is that, especially in the context of this Heritage Day, the theme "The Night" is followed quite literally: it will be a nocturnal walk through the storage rooms, in the dark and by candlelight. Just like the legendary sleepwalking scene from Verdi's Lady Macbeth.

But with some updating. The candlelight with which Lady Macbeth wandered through the corridors will be replaced, for obvious safety reasons, by flickering LED lights. And because water is a great enemy of paper, we replaced the Lady's obsessive hand washing with a disinfectant gel on entering.

During the walk through the shelves, we will exhibit a selection of "nocturnal scores". The night and its mystery has been an inexhaustible source of inspiration for composers. The range goes from the 17th century to the present, from the cantata "Ich suchte des Nachts" by Dietrich Buxtehude to the score "Nightmare for orchestra" by Luc Brewaeys. Very often the nocturnal element becomes the theme for the designer in order to make the score more attractive. The number of title pages with a full

moon and a starry sky is impressive. It seems very likely that an image of the mysterious night had a positive influence on the sales figures.

