Anthroposophy and the Goetheanum
An Introduction
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The Goetheanum in Dornach

The Goetheanum, center for an active, world-wide network of spiritually committed people, is situated in Dornach, 10 km to the south of Basel in the Jura mountains. It is the home of the School of Spiritual Science and the Anthroposophical Society. 800 events, including lectures, special subject colloquia, exhibitions, theatre and eurythmy performances and major international conferences, draw more than 150,000 people a year to the Goetheanum.
School of Spiritual Science

The School of Spiritual Science is the heart of the Anthroposophical Society. Established by Rudolf Steiner in 1924, its role is based on the understanding that the world will be the way we think it. Thus transformation, sensitization and enhancement of thinking hold a central position. ‘Change your heart and mind’ expresses both its method and goal: to reach new insights about the world through continual practice of observation and sentient response, through spiritual-scientific schooling and meditation. Its central teachings are offered through a series of classes and meditative mantras given by Rudolf Steiner.

The Sections

The task of the School of Spiritual Science is to conduct research in the sphere of the spirit and to offer encouragement, coordination and further training in fields with an anthroposophical orientation. This work is done by its 12 sections, which specialize in areas such as education, medicine, agriculture, art, natural and spiritual science and the spiritual striving of young people. All sections are involved in the practical study of spiritual science and meditation as related to their specific fields. They also work with general spiritual questions about destiny and reincarnation, religion and the meaning of life.
General Anthroposophical Society

The Anthroposophical Society brings together spiritually minded people from many different cultural backgrounds and different religions. Members meet in local or special subject groups. They discuss questions concerning spiritual life-styles or involve themselves in cultural initiatives. This creates a lively network and spiritual exchange about Anthroposophy today. Study groups, courses, lectures and artistic events shape the life of the Anthroposophical Society just as much as its international conferences.

Within the Anthroposophical Society one meets people to discuss approaches to meditative life or to get involved in social projects. Numerous publications provide for cohesion and mutual inspiration. Anyone wishing to get to know the Anthroposophical Society is invited to contact a local group or the Goetheanum itself. Addresses under: www.goetheanum.org/adressen.html or contact the membership office: sekretariat@goetheanum.ch

The Society’s publication in English is the monthly newsletter Anthroposophy Worldwide (for members only). Online order: www.goetheanum.org/aw.html

The Society’s publication in German is the weekly Das Goetheanum. Sample copies are available on request: www.dasgoetheanum.ch
Courses, Conferences, Congresses

Courses, conferences and congresses reflect both the arts and the scientific work done in the Sections. These range from general anthroposophical topics to special subject conferences and workshops – for teachers or banking specialists, hand weavers, beekeepers, oncologists or geneticists for example. Currently up to 200 such courses and conferences of variable size and duration are held each year at the Goetheanum.

Goetheanum Stage

A rich programme of plays, eurythmy performances, recitations and concerts is offered at the Goetheanum theatres (1000, 450 and 100 seats). These are either staged by the Goetheanum Stage Ensemble or by companies and ensembles offering guest performances from around the world. Regular performances of Rudolf Steiner’s four Mystery Dramas and Goethe’s Faust also take place.

Eurythmy is a movement art developed by Rudolf Steiner. It makes the spiritual aspects of speech and music visible.
What is Anthroposophy?

All human beings must face the task of having to set their own guidelines for everything they do or think if they want to avoid being swept along by all that the material world has to offer. This is the significance and challenge of our time and it often awakens the need for a conscious relationship with the spiritual world. It was Rudolf Steiner’s lifetime achievement to develop a method of gaining insight into the reality of the spiritual world akin to natural science in its integrity. Anthroposophy (awareness of our humanity) not only encourages individuals to develop an independent spiritual orientation, but also provides impulses in all cultural fields. It has enabled many notable people to open new horizons in their cultural work and ideas. Work done on the basis of Anthroposophy in education, medicine, agriculture and architecture has attracted world-wide attention. This applies particularly to the last third of the 20th century when spiritual ideas came to be increasingly accepted in the public domain. More than 10,000 anthroposophical establishments such as clinics, schools, farms and care homes have gained recognition throughout the world. Cultural initiatives are evolving in areas of social conflict such as South Africa, South America and the Middle East.

All over the world the Anthroposophical Society offers space and opportunity for spiritual development, furtherance of the arts and involvement in civil society issues.
Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925)

Rudolf Steiner is a 20th century pioneer in many fields of natural and spiritual science and above all in a spirituality that relates to practical life. Connecting to the Christian esoteric tradition of Europe, he links the widest possible range of spiritual insight with clear conceptual thinking. His insights give impulse to a vast number of cultural initiatives in education, agriculture and medicine, sociology, natural sciences and the humanities. His work includes 40 volumes of writings and 270 volumes containing records of more than 6,000 lectures. His ideas and work gave rise to new developments in arts such as architecture and the art of movement (eurythmy).

During the 150th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner’s birthday in 2011 his work and its meaning for our time received wide attention in exhibitions at major museums (Vienna, Stuttgart, Wolfsburg, Weil) and in numerous publications.

‘Live with a love for doing, and let live, understanding the intentions of another – that is the fundamental principle for the free, independent human being.’
Rudolf Steiner,
Philosophy of Spiritual Activity
The First Goetheanum had its foundation laid in 1913, was opened in 1920 and then destroyed by fire on New Year’s Eve 1922/23. It was an impressive wooden building with two cupols and a richly carved and painted interior. With this building Rudolf Steiner developed an organic style of architecture that is similar to a plant because every part, every form and every colour has an inner relationship to the whole. The whole is then differentiated into detail through metamorphoses. In March 1924, Rudolf Steiner created the model for the second Goetheanum which was built in reinforced concrete between 1925–1928. It was the first monumental building in architectural history where this material was used in sculptured forms.

The building remained unfinished and was still essentially a shell when it opened in 1928. Different architects developed it step by step over the next 70 years, until 1998. These developments include:

- Staircase in the south (1930)
- Grundsteinsaal (450 seats, 1952 and 1989)
- West Entrance (1930)
- Englischer Saal (200 seats, 1970)
- North Wing (1985–89)
The heart of the building is the Main Auditorium with 1000 seats and the stage (23 m wide, 20 m deep, 23 m high). On entering, the visitor is met with the theme of ‘Evolution’ on three levels: in twice seven capitals, plinths, and architraves, the sculpted concrete walls portray earth evolution from the world’s beginning to the distant future. The twelve motifs in the painted ceiling show images of human evolution from the creation of man through the different cultural periods to the present day. The nine windows in colored cut glass tell of the human being’s cosmic and individual development. All these themes relate to motifs from the First Goetheanum, though form and style have evolved from the architecture of the second building.

*The Main Auditorium at the Goetheanum – organ and gallery to the west – make it possible to perform major works of music as well as theatre and eurythmy.*
The Representative of Humanity

The third central work of art by Rudolf Steiner, besides the Goetheanum building and the Mystery Dramas, is the Representative of Humanity, a large sculpture in wood. It shows the human being in confrontation with two forms of evil and was created in collaboration with English sculptor Edith Maryon. At the time of the fire in the first Goetheanum it was still being completed in the Carpentry Workshop. It has thus survived and is now exhibited on the fifth floor of the South Wing.
The Goetheanum Grounds

Rudolf Steiner was not only involved in designing the Goetheanum building but also the grounds and surrounding buildings. The circular landscape feature to the west of the Goetheanum, the pathways, the ‘Felsli’ feature and the shaping of the terrain, all go back to the time of the First Goetheanum. Over the years, a park landscape has evolved, providing possibilities for rest and recuperation, practical use, biological variety and ecological sustainability. The buildings designed by Rudolf Steiner are shown on the map. The Goetheanum, the Duldeck House, the Glass House and the Felsli were put under a preservation order by the local canton (county/state) and federal republic in 1989–2004.

Butterfly species that have not been seen for a long time have appeared again in the biodynamically managed Goetheanum grounds.
Financing the Goetheanum

As an institution for independent cultural life, the General Anthroposophical Society is a civil society organization with tax exempt charitable status.

Financial support consists of annual subscriptions from about 50,000 members around the world, private donations and funds from foundations and institutions. Additional income comes from theatre and eurythmy performances on the Goetheanum stages, research projects, publications and conferences.

Donations by cheque, credit card or bank transfer
General Anthroposophical Society
IBAN: CH36 8093 9000 0010 0607 1
BIC: RAIFCH22
Raiffeisenbank Dornach, 4143 Dornach/Switzerland

For further information: www.finance.goetheanum.org

Further information

Events and guided tours
We are happy to send more detailed information on conferences, performances, opportunities for study, guided tours and dates and times for tours of the building at your request. You can also keep up-to-date with our Calendar of Events which is published at regular intervals. (Please note: some of these publications are available in German only.)

Archives and Library
Available for private study and research.

Goetheanum Bookshop
As well as leading the field in anthroposophical literature, the Goetheanum Bookshop also carries an extensive range of titles covering art, science and the humanities; many books are also available in English. (www.goethebuch.ch)

Prints and Cards
An exclusive and comprehensive range of art cards, posters, calendars and model casts are available from the Goetheanum’s art collection.

Vital* / Restaurant
At the foot of the Goetheanum hill, the Vital Restaurant offers a menu of organic and biodynamic dishes from around the world. In summer the tree lined terrace is open. In the Goetheanum itself the Vital Café offers a warm welcome.

(*formerly Speisehaus-Restaurant)

Visit our website www.goetheanum.org
Map of the Area

Akademie für anthroposophische Pädagogik (AFAP)
Anthroposophische Gesellschaft in der Schweiz

Eurythmiehäuser
Built in 1920 to accommodate Goetheanum staff. Design by Edith Maryon in collaboration with Rudolf Steiner

Gedenkhain

Glashaus
Built in 1914 for cutting the glass windows for the First Goetheanum; now home of the Science and Agriculture Sections

Goetheanum

Haus Arco
Exhibition rooms and private gallery

Haus de Jaager
Built in 1921 as a studio in memory of sculptor Jacques de Jaager, now: museum and residential house

Haus der Jugendsektion

Haus Duldeck
Built in 1915 as residence for Nelly and Emil Grosheintz, donors of the land on which the Goetheanum was built. Now houses the Rudolf Steiner Archives

Haus Friedwart
Built in 1921, designed partly by Rudolf Steiner, now Goetheanum Guest House

Haus Ganna
Exhibition and class rooms

Haus Haldeck Residential

Haus Hansi
Former residence of Rudolf Steiner, now houses the Albert Steffen Stiftung

Haus Hofmann
Now houses the Medical Section

Haus Jenny
Now houses the Herbert Witzenmann centre

Haus Julian
Student hostel and hall

Haus Martin
Old people’s home

Haus Moldenhauer
Gardening Department

Haus Peter
Residential with eurythmy room

Haus Pirol
Residential with eurythmy room

Haus Reinitzer
Residential with eurythmy room

Haus Schuurman
Built in 1924 for Mr and Mrs Schuurman

Haus van Blommestein
Built in 1920 as a private studio building

Heizhaus
For the First Goetheanum and some other buildings, built in 1914; in 1991, the original coal-burning boilers were replaced by a gas-fired system
How to get to the Goetheanum

by train from Basel SBB Station take the train S3 to the Dornach-Arlesheim Station, and then local bus No. 66 to Goetheanum stop.

by tram from Basel SBB Station forecourt take tram No. 10 to Dornach-Arlesheim Station, and then local bus No. 66 to Goetheanum stop.

by car Motorway H18 Basel-Delémont, Reinach-Süd exit, follow sign for Dornach then signs for Goetheanum.

by foot 15 minutes walk from Dornach-Arlesheim Station.