

The Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Waterloo



Inaugurated on 12 July 1939, the **Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel** provides high-level training to exceptional young talents. A training center of excellence with an international scope and reputation, its program is reserved for outstanding musicians (the musical elite of tomorrow) in the disciplines of piano, violin, cello, viola, chamber music and voice. The Music Chapel is a sort of "modern Villa Medici".



Elisabeth of Bavaria, Queen of Belgium (1875-1965) wish that the level of excellence of the Music Chapel will help young talents to give their best and to create an international musical elite, beyond borders and cultures.



Eugène-Auguste Ysaÿe (1858-1931), was a Belgian virtuoso violinist, composer and conductor. He was regarded as "The King of the violin". He was also close friends with Queen Elisabeth, whom he taught violin despite her lack of talent.



Built by Yvan Renchon's plans, the Music Chapel was inaugurated on 11 July 1939. It is a specimen of architecture in transition between Art Deco and modernism. The public authorities listed the original building and its park in 1994.

Each year the Music Chapel welcomes about 70 young talents in residence, both from Belgium and abroad. The Music Chapel aims to occupy a leading position among the best institutions of this type in the world.



FDC on silk realised by Chesnot (France) with mistake in the Flemish notation: Muziekkapel Koningin Elisabeth.



Printed variety: white dot on the dress in the right stamp.



Copy of the original stamp Brussels 1 May 1940.

The Music Chapel stamps edition of 1940 (6 value) is unique in Belgian philately. Due to war problems and disagreements between the Postal Administration and the Music Chapel Foundation, these stamps were not allowed to be used. It was possible to order canceled stamps only for the benefit of the Music Chapel. This series will never be seen on letters.



Color proofs (head of Prince Albert sculpted by Queen Elisabeth) from this edition 1 May 1940 with black administrative vertical deprecation stripes that normally must have been burnt (Source Dr. Jacques Stes).