



THE MUSIC ROOM

The music room is thus named because of the presence of an English fortepiano and of several pieces of furniture decorated with musical instruments.

The room's current arrangement still recalls the original decoration of the early 19th Century, when the room was destined to be used as Napoleon's office. The Emperor would have enjoyed the spectacular panorama and symbolically dominate the entire city through the room's six large windows.

The decoration of the vault dates back to the years under the French occupation, and it features in the centre a large painting by the Bologna-born artist Pelagio Palagi depicting Julius Caesar while he dictates to his scribes the *Commentarii de bello gallico* and *de bello civili*. Napoleon was a great admirer of Caesar and his literary texts, so much so that, in the painting at the Quirinale Palace, the Roman ruler is portrayed with the effigy of the French emperor.

The decoration of the rest of the vault also derives from the original Napoleonic project and features six tondos portraying the pagan divinities that protected Rome, set against a blue background. The paintings are by Felice Giani, the most original of the Italian neoclassical painters, who enthusiastically supported the revolutionary ideology and the expansionist ambitions of the Napoleonic Empire; for this reason he often worked for French customers and decorated many of the rooms of Napoleon's apartment in the Quirinale Palace. The paintings hanging on the walls were painted at the beginning of the 19th Century and depict several members of the Savoy Royal Family.