



Collaboration on the production of *Manfred* by Robert Schumann, 1970

Directed by Carlo Quartucci, music by Robert Schumann.

Performances: Turin, Auditorium RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana, 9 January 1970 (conductor Piero Bellugi. Fourth concert in the series “I concerti di Torino”, 1969-70 season).

“At one time RAI in Turin would regularly hold a season of radio concerts, open to the public, in the auditorium built by Carlo Mollino. This performance, conceived for radio, marks the beginning of the collaboration between Paolini and Quartucci, who directed many important performances aired on the radio. It is the opening night of the season. Paolini’s contribution to the performance begins one hour prior to the concert. The concert hall is empty save for a solitary actor who enters and takes his place on stage (where, as for other performances, the orchestra has been relocated) sitting down next to the conductor’s podium. On the podium is a music stand [...] with a large book, and on each of the pages, in chronological order, is the name of a composer written in large letters. The solitary actor begins to leaf through the pages very slowly (the public must be able to read the names on the pages) and appears to be totally engrossed in what he is doing; at the same time the orchestra members arrive – and begin tuning their instruments – as do the spectators. The concert will not begin until the actor reaches the name ‘Schumann’. The book remains open to that page and the actor leaves the stage; he will only resume his place at the end of the performance during the applause, at which point he will continue leafing through the book, reading the names that come after Schumann, while the public exits” (L. Cherubini, in *Sipario. Balla, De Chirico, Savinio, Picasso, Paolini, Cucchi*, exh. cat., Rivoli/Milan: Castello di Rivoli Museo d’Arte Contemporanea and Edizioni Charta, 1997, pp. 255, 257, revised translation).

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