

Legrenzi - Il Giustino (2007)



1. Atto primo 54:44 2. Atto secundo 48:16 3. Atto terzo 1:00:43 Anastasio: Georg Nigl (baritone) Arianna: Cornelia Ptassek (soprano) Giustino: Elisabeth Kulman (mezzo-soprano) Eufemia: Delphine Galou (mezzo-soprano) Vitaliano: Peter Kennel (alto) Andronico: Terry Wey (alto) Amantio: Hermann Oswald (tenor) Polimante/Erasto: Manfred Bittner (bass) Balthasar-Neumann Ensemble Thomas Hengelbrock - conductor Rokokotheater, Schwetzingen Festspiele 2007

Giovanni Legrenzi was an Italian composer of opera, vocal and instrumental music, and organist, of the Baroque era. He was one of the most prominent composers in Venice in the late 17th century, and extremely influential on the development of late Baroque idioms across northern Italy.

Giovanni Legrenzi came from a musical family and first studied music with his father. In 1645, he took the position of organist at Santa Maria Maggiore in Bergamo, near Clusone, and held this post until 1656. Like many composers, he entered the priesthood, in 1651. In 1656, he left Bergamo for the more musically prestigious court of Ferrara, where he was named to the position of maestro di cappella at the Accademia dello Santo Spirito, a position he held from 1657 until 1664. He enjoyed great success as both composer and choir master. He left Ferrara at some point in 1665 and little is known about the positions he held or even where he lived until 1670. He was rejected for positions in many cities, including Vienna, Milan, Parma, Bologna, and Venice; and he declined positions in Modena and Bergamo.

In 1670 Giovanni Legrenzi went to Venice, where he became the maestro di coro at the Ospedale dei Derelitti. (Literally named hospitals, "ospedale" were more a cross between boarding homes and conservatories, which specialized, as the names suggest, in the education of orphaned or abandoned girls. Many prominent composers were very closely affiliated with

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these, most famously, Antonio Vivaldi and the Pieta.) In 1671, he also took the post of maestro di cappella at the oratory of the Congregazione dei Filippini. In 1681, Legrenzi became vice maestro di cappella at San Marco (Venice), succeeding Antonio Sartorio in that position, and in 1683, he became maestro di coro at the Ospedale dei Mendicanti. His most prolific years of opera composition began in 1681, during which he produced at least two major works a year. In 1685, he was promoted to maestro di cappella at San Marco and with this promotion, returned the majority of his attention to sacred music.

Il Giustino is an opera in 3 acts. The work uses an Italian language libretto by Nicol Beregan based on the life of Emperor Justin I. ---bach-cantatas.com

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