No. 3: 'Re-imagined Busoni Cover Page'

(3)

The original artwork found in the Busoni score comprises of five individual elements, each representing a movement of the piece: (1), (3) & (5) are more architectural, whilst a mythical bird, olive trees & Vesuvius conjure up movements (2) & (4). The combination of the five features into one entity emulates the transference of themes from movement to movement, and Busoni's wish for a fluid, uninterrupted performance.

Additional musical details:

- (1) *Prologue e introito*: Temple of Art & Nature. Rising sun indicates a beginning.
- (2) *Pezzo giocoso*: Magic flower & bird. The movement features quotations from indigenous folk music & Italian traditional melodies.
- (3) *Pezzo Serioso*: The largest structural element visually, reflecting the longest movement and peak of the work.
- (4) All' Italiana: Cypresses & olive trees. Vesuvius depicts the explosive character of the movement.
- (5) *Cantico*: features a 'Winged Being' to represent the nature-mysticism of Oehlenschläger's chorus.

A re-creation of Busoni's original cover page, inspired by The Seraphin Project's 2019 performance, with pianist Karl Lutchmayer.



- Original temple replaced by the Concertgebouw: an iconic modern version of the temple of Art & Nature.
- (2) Lilies and sparrow (national flower and bird of Italy) replace the magic flower.
- (3) Original sphinx reappears as a lioness in front of Kings' College Gatehouse, representing the leadership of Joy Lisney (Seraphin's founder & conductor.)
- (4) Reimagined image of Vesuvius & Italian nature.
- (5) The Winged-Being (Harpy) stands alongside Berlin Cathedral: chosen to reflect the German verse sung by the male chorus & acknowledge the end of Busoni's life (d. 1924, Berlin) and thus the conclusion of his musical creation.

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