

## RICCARDO PICK-MANGIAGALLI

David C F Wright DMus

The Italian composer, Riccardo Pick-Mangiagalli, was of mixed Italian and Bohemian parentage. He was born in Strakonitz , Bohemia on 10 July 1882. He studied at the Conservatory Giuseppe Verdi in Milan with Appiani (piano) and Ferrani (composition). He also studied in Prague and Vienna. Among his teachers was Richard Strauss.

Riccardo Pick-Mangiagalli began his career as a successful concert pianist, but later turned exclusively to composition. He was also the duo partner for his violinist brother Roberto . In 1936, he succeeded Pizzetti as director of the Conservatory Giuseppe Verdi, and held this post until his death in Milan on 8 July 1949.

Riccardo Pick-Mangiagalli has produced distinctive work, including number of compositions for the piano, chamber music (the Sonata for violin and piano; the String Quartet, the Ballata Sinfonica and the Humoresque for piano and orchestra, etc.) and many stage works (ballets and operas). His first stage work, Salice d'Oro, a musical fable, was produced at Milan's La Scala in 1913, and was followed by Il carillon magico (1918). Other stage works are Sumitra, a monomimic legend (1917), and Basi e Bote (1919-1920), lyric comedy, the libretto by Arrigo Boito.

### Works

#### Operas and stage works

- Basi e Bote (1919-20; Rome, March 3, 1927)
- Casanova a Venezia (Milan, Jan. 19, 1929; orchestral suite as Scene carnevalesche, Milan, February 6, 1931))
- L'Ospite inatteso (Milan-Turin-Genoa Radio, October 25, 1931)
- Il notturno romantico (Rome, April 25, 1936)
- Dance:Il salice d'oro, ballet (1911-1912; Milan, 1914)
- Sumitra (1917; Frankfurt am Main, 1922)
- Mahit, ballet-fable (Milan, March 20, 1923)
- La Berceuse (San Remo, Feb. 21, 1933)
- Variazioni coreografiche (San Remo, April 13, 1935)

#### Orchestral:

- Notturmo e rondo fantastico (1914; Milan, May 6, 1919)
- Humoresque for Piano and Orchestra (1916)
- Sortilegi, symphonic poem for Piano and Orchestra (Milan, December 13, 1917)
- 2 preludi (Rome, March 1, 1921)
- 4 poemi (Milan, April 24, 1925)
- Piccola suite (Milan, June 12, 1927)
- Preludio e fuga (Rome, March 11, 1928)
- Preludio e scherzo sinfonico (Milan, Oct. 22, 1938)
- Piano Concerto (1944)

#### Chamber:

- Violin & Piano Sonata (1906)
- String Quartet (1909)

#### Piano Pieces

#### Songs

The String Quartet Op 18 is in the structure of composers like Tchaikovsky with a big opening movement and two shorter ones. It is heartfelt and introspective whereas the Symphonic Poem Sortilegi for piano and orchestra fizzes with tremendous excitement. Absolute and total satisfaction

It all points to a composer who is unfairly neglected. His main works were written for the theatre and recordings are not available.

This all highlights the major problem that some interesting and indeed great composers are ignored and lesser composers are elevated

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