

Goffredo Petrassi , Nonsense

Goffredo Petrassi (1904-2003) is considered one of the most influential Italian composers of the twentieth century. Petrassi was musical director of the opera house, *La Fenice*, and from 1959 taught composition at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory and at the Salzburg Mozarteum, where a large number of notable European composers studied with him. Petrassi's early work was part of an attempt by several Italian composers to create a national "Italian" revival in classical music, resulting in a characteristically neoclassical style influenced by composers such as Bela Bartók, Paul Hindemith and Igor Stravinsky. In subsequent years, he turned to experimentation, as did many European composers, with musical directions suggested by the work of the Second Viennese School, and particular by the music of Anton von Webern. The text for *Nonsense* is by the well known English poet Edward Lear.

Program notes © copyright 2015 by Richard Festinger