

Igor Stravinsky - Oedipus Rex (1994)

Written by bluesever

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1. Prologue : Verehrtes Publikum 2. Acte 1 : Caedit Nos Estis 3. Sehet Dort Kreon 4. Respondit Deus [play](#) 5. Non Non Reperias Vetus Scelus 6. Oedipus Befragt Den Quell 7. Dedie Exspectamus 8. Dicere Non Possum [play](#) 9. Invidia Fortunam Odit 10. Gloria Gloria 11. Acte 2 : Der Streit Der Fursten 12. Non'Erubescite 13. Der Einzige Zeuge 14. Adest Omniscius Pastor 15. Oportebat Tacere 16. Jez Werdet Ihr 17. Divum Jocaste Caput Mortuum !

Ernst Haefliger - Oedipus Herta Töpfer - Jocasta Kloth Engen - Teiresias Paul Kuen - le Berger Ivan Sardi - Kreon & le Messenger Choeur des Norddeutschen Rundfunks Choeur de Chambre RIAS Orchestre Symphonique de la Radio de Berlin Ferenc Fricsay - conductor, 1960

Stravinsky's Rite of Spring caused a riot in Paris and Oedipus Rex caused similar outrage when premiered in 1928. The work is not an opera in the traditional sense but more of an oratorio. The libretto was written by Jean Cocteau and is based on Sophocles original tragedy.

Oedipus, having become king of Thebes by murdering his father marries Jacosta without knowing that she is in fact his mother. When the truth comes out as a result of a curse that has befallen the city, Jacosta kills herself and Oedipus takes out his eyes to wander the land. Here we listen to Oedipus impose self-exile on himself until the conclusion of the work. The entire opera (or oratorio, however you look at it) is sung with the singer's faces covered with masks. The singers were not to sing to one another but to direct their voices at the audience. This would cut away the individual tragedy and focus more on the fatal elements of the story. This is almost like Petrushka, the same puppet-like fatalistic qualities. In terms of music, Stravinsky is showing quite a bit of his neo-classicist bend here.

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