

**“LUIGI NONO, CONTRAPPUNTO DIALETTICO ALLA MENTE” IS PRESENTED AT
FONDAZIONE PRADA IN VENICE ON 24 NOVEMBER 2022, AS PART OF THE FESTIVAL
LUIGI NONO ALLA GIUDECCA**

Venice, 10 November 2022 – The event “Luigi Nono, Contrappunto dialettico alla mente” will take place at Fondazione Prada’s Venice venue on Thursday, 24 November 2022, at 6.30 pm, as part of the fifth edition of the Festival Luigi Nono alla Giudecca titled “Contemporanei e allievi”. Admission is free upon booking and subject to availability.

“Luigi Nono, Contrappunto dialettico alla mente” establishes an ideal dialogue with “Human Brains: It Begins with an Idea”, the exhibition on view until 27 November 2022 at Fondazione Prada’s Venice venue, Ca’ Corner della Regina. The show results from a long and intensive research process undertaken by Fondazione Prada and the scientific board of “Human Brains” chaired by Giancarlo Comi. The exhibition, curated by Udo Kittelmann in collaboration with Taryn Simon, navigates a history of neuroscientific knowledge-making marked by rigor, breakthrough, and discovery, as well as error and uncertainty. It traces the outlines of consciousness, the gaps in scientific research, and what is known and unknown in our understanding of the human brain.

The event on Thursday 24 November 2022 is composed of three different moments. It starts with a conversation between philosopher Massimo Cacciari, neurologist Daniela Perani and sound director Alvis Vidolin. It continues with a video screening featuring Nanni Balestrini reading the text from *Contrappunto dialettico alla mente* realized by Luigi Nono in 1968. It ends with the acousmatic listening experience of the same composition, which includes Celia Sánchez and Nanni Balestrini’s texts and the manifesto of the Enraged Women of Progressive Labor Party in Harlem.

Contrappunto dialettico alla mente is the result of a commission from the Prix Italia, an international contest by RAI, that, in February 1968, invited Luigi Nono to compose a piece for radio broadcasting. The work was excluded from the competition due to its explicitly political contents. Performed in public for the first time on 27 December 1968 in Palermo, it was used for Giuseppe Urbani’s choreography *Intolleranza* in 1972. *Contrappunto dialettico alla mente* is a passionate accusation against the politics of the United States government charged by Nono with racial discrimination and repression of dissent. The composition starts by evoking the murderer of Malcolm X and closes with a statement by an Afro-American women’s organization against the war in Vietnam. The piece includes a poetic text written by experimental author Nanni Balestrini, which demonstrates a specific affinity with the poetics of the Italian neo-avant-garde also due to its parody-like nature towards compositions of the past. The political manifesto’s harshness and irreducibility combine with the nonsense of play on words, the lyricism with everyday life, and the individual interiority with the vitalism of the masses, as it often happens in Luigi Nono’s works.

For Fondazione Prada, which since 2018 has developed projects exploring classical and contemporary music genres, this second collaboration with Fondazione Archivio Luigi Nono is an opportunity to expand its scope to music further. After Virgilio Sieni's choreographic project "AURA | SUL TOCCARE LE COSE", presented in 2021 as part of the fourth edition of the Festival Luigi Nono alla Giudecca, "Contrappunto dialettico alla mente" is a relevant occasion to collaborate again with Fondazione Archivio Luigi Nono. This approach to experimental music is part of an intellectual investigation based on the hybridization of languages and carried out by Fondazione through various projects to broaden the scope of knowledge and investigate other research tools beyond the visual arts.

Press contacts

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Program

"Luigi Nono, Contrappunto dialettico alla mente"
Event of the fifth edition of Festival Luigi Nono alla Giudecca "Contemporanei e allievi"
24 November 2022, 6.30 pm
Fondazione Prada, Venice

Conversation between Massimo Cacciari (philosopher), Daniela Perani (neurologist), Alvisé Vidolin (sound director).

Screening of a video accompanied by Nanni Balestrini's reading of the text from *Contrappunto dialettico alla mente* (Luigi Nono, 1968).

Acousmatic listening experience of *Contrappunto dialettico alla mente* (Luigi Nono, 1968).

Texts by Celia Sánchez, Nanni Balestrini, a manifesto by Enraged Women of Progressive Labor Party in Harlem.

Sound direction by Alvisé Vidolin

Video length: 3 minutes

Composition duration: 20 minutes

Information for the public

The complete program of the fifth edition of the Festival Luigi Nono alla Giudecca "Contemporanei e allievi" is available on Fondazione Archivio Luigi Nono's website: www.luiginono.it

Access to the event “Luigi Nono, Contrappunto dialettico alla mente”, which will take place on Thursday, 24 November 2022, at 6.30 pm at Fondazione Prada is free upon booking at <https://www.fondazioneprada.org/project/contrappunto-dialettico-alla-mente/?lang=en>
The venue has a limited capacity.

Each spectator, as part of the public, accepts and authorizes any audio, video and photographic recordings (as well as in any other way made and/or used), simultaneously granting full release for any use.

Spectators with reduced mobility who need wheelchair access or dedicated assistance are required to contact +39 041 8109161.

Address and contacts

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