

Books, Singers et al...

It is rare for two such totally different books to appear on the same theatre within such a short time, but this is the case here...

Grandini, Alfredo *Cronache musicali del Teatro Petrarca di Arezzo - il primo cinquantennio (1833-1882)* Olschki, Florence 1995, 375pp

This book contains both a detailed narrative and a fine formatted chronology. The narrative has separate sections on every production given at the Teatro Petrarca, and usually also mentions productions at the older Teatro La Fenice. The chronology is arranged by season and gives whatever information is available to the author. Casts are generally indicated, but may or may not include the roles actually sung by individual artists. In most cases the dates of the first performance of each production are provided, occasionally they are not. First names of singers are also provided wherever possible.

Finally there is an index of singers and a fairly comprehensive bibliography.

Recognising the limitations of the data that are available to researchers trying to reconstruct nineteenth century performances, this title is just about as good as it is possible for such a volume to be. A magnificent book that could well serve as a model for badly needed books on many other Italian theaters, especially the Teatro della Pergola in nearby Florence.

Rupi, Danilo *Rassegna degli Spettacoli dei primi 150 anni (1833-1983)* Calosci, Cortona 1994, 221pp

The Rupi volume covers a time span of 150 years, and has a day-by-day chronology of all performances given at this theater in the form of a table with various headings such as opera, operetta, prose, concerts and miscellaneous (ballet, cinema etc.), together with receipts. But there are no casts, except in the few playbills which serve as illustrations.

Tom Kaufman