

CONTENTS

Introduction	v
<i>Musicalische Vorstellung Einiger Biblischer Historien / Biblical Sonatas</i>	
Suonata prima. Il Combatimento trà David e Goliath	
Program	2
Music	7
Suonata seconda. Saul malinconico e trastullato per mezzo della Musica	
Program	22
Music	24
Suonata terza. Il Maritaggio di Giacomo	
Program	42
Music	46
Suonata quarta. Hiskia agonizzante e risanato	
Program	64
Music	69
Suonata quinta. Gideon Salvatore del Popola d'Israel	
Program	76
Music	80
Suonata sesta. La Tomba di Giacob	
Program	90
Music	94

First Sonata

The Combat between David and Goliath.

The portrait of the great Goliath drawn in the Scriptures is a rather strange one. For here is depicted a freak of nature—a giant, strong as a tree. Should one wish to determine his height, a measure of six cubits would not suffice. The tall brass helmet he wears on his head contributes not a little to the appearance of his hugeness. The scaly coat of mail, and the cuisses he wears around his legs, together with the weighty shield, with which he clothes himself, as well as the spear, long as a weaver's beam and heavily sheathed with iron, show clearly enough that he must be imbued with strength, and that all this load of hundred-weights cannot burden him in the least. If one is already nearly horror-struck at the mere description of this man, how terrified must the poor Israelites have been when they came face to face with their enemy in the flesh. For there he stands before them as if he were trying to outshine the sun with his metallic armor, making an uncommon din with the metal disks that hang like scales one over the other, and snorting and bellowing as if he wants to devour the Israelites all at once. To their ears, his words sound like terrible thunder. He pours scorn on his enemies and their equipment, challenging them to send forth a champion from their camp. This fight is to determine on which party's shoulders the yoke of servitude is to lie. He can easily imagine that by this means the scepter over the Israelites must come into the hands of the Philistines. But behold the miracle! While all of Israel's heroes lose their nerve; while everyone takes flight whenever the giant merely shows himself; and while the giant warrior continues to call out his customary taunts against his enemies, David, a small, brave young shepherd-lad, announces that he is willing to do battle with the iron-eater. For this he is considered presumptuous. Nevertheless, David is not to be deterred. He persists in his heroic resolution and reports at his audience with King Saul that he recently, with God's help, fought with a bear and a lion that had stolen a sheep from him; that he not only tore their prey out of the savage beasts' jaws, but also killed them: thus he hopes that he will also succeed in the fight with the bear and lion of the Philistines. Hereupon, with a firm trust in the help of his God and armed with a sling and a few carefully chosen stones, he goes forth to face the mighty giant. The Philistines presently think: now the great hero will blow away the tiny foe like a speck of dust, or kill him like a fly, particularly since Goliath is becoming very wrathful, fulminating against David with horrible curses to the effect that he regards him as a dog, coming to him not with arms worthy of a soldier, but with a shepherd's staff. But David is not dismayed. Instead, he calls upon his God, and he prophesies that his adversary will very soon fall to the ground without sword, spear, or shield, will lose his head, and will yield his carcass to the birds and wild beasts to feed on. Hereupon David rushes toward the Philistine and, with a sharp stone slung deeply into his forehead, wounds him so sorely that he tumbles down in a heap. Before he can struggle to his feet again, David seizes the excellent opportunity, slays him with his own sword, and bears his severed head away from the battleground as a trophy. While heretofore the Israelites had fled from the snorting and stamping of the huge Goliath, so now the Philistines flee at the victory of little David, thus giving the Israelites an opportunity to hasten after them and to fill the road with the corpses of slain

Suonata prima

Il Combattimento trà David e Goliath

1700¹⁰ pp. 3-21

Le bravate di Goliath.

