

Gustave Charpentier – Julien (2001)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Part 1* 2. *Part 2* Norbert Schittberg - Julien Barbara Dobrzanska - Louise/la Beauté/la Jeune Fille/l'Ad'eule/la Fille Karl-Heinz Lehner - le Pere de Louise/le Hiérophante/le Paysan/ le Mage Sonia Borowski-Tudor - la Mere de Louise/la Paysanne Jeff Martin - l'Acolyte/le Travailleur/l'Etudiant/l'Officiant Churs du Théâtre de Dortmund Orchestre Philharmonique de Dortmund Axel Kober – conductor Dortmund, 10 mai et 13 juin 2001

Julien, ou La vie du poète (Julien, or The Poet's Life) is a poème lyrique or opera by composer Gustave Charpentier. The work is devised in a prologue and four acts and uses a French libretto by the composer. Julien is a sequel to Charpentier's Louise (1900) and describes the artistic aspirations of Louise's suitor Julien. The opera premiered in Paris at the Opéra-Comique on 4 June 1913.

Like Louise, Julien's plot is somewhat autobiographical and requires many characters and chorus roles, with the main female lead portraying four smaller characters in addition to the role of Louise. The opera integrates elements of an earlier piece, La Vie du Poète, a symphony-drama of 1888–1889. The chorus consists largely of 'filles du rêve' (girls of the dream), fairies, and chimeras as well as various men's roles, mainly different kinds of working class men. Charpentier described how, except for the prologue, "Louise and the various characters who surround Julien are not so much real people as an exteriorized realization of their inner souls". The opera was not well received and apart from two productions in 1914, one of which was at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City with Geraldine Farrar and Enrico Caruso in the main roles, it has not been revived. The work did, however, gain the admiration of Gabriel Fauré who admired its expressionist qualities. - wikipedia

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