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New Information Regarding the Futurist Radio Manifesto

by Margaret Fisher

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Abstract

Pino Masnata, co-author with Filippo Tommaso Marinetti of the 1933 Futurist Radio Manifesto, wrote a forty-four page explanation of the manuscript in 1935, connecting many ideas expressed in the manifesto to the "new" physics of the twentieth century—Einstein's Special and General Theories of Relativity, breakthroughs in the understanding of cellular structure, and the development of quantum physics. Masnata's gloss, archived with the Marinetti Papers at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, dispenses with the cult of the machine to suggest the "metallization of the body" could result from advances in molecular biology. Masnata distinguishes the new acoustic art of radio from the other arts, positing it as an art of infinite space and time. This article consists of a background and introduction to Masnata's manuscript, including occasional analysis or interpretation of the significance of the scientific references to the poetry of the Radio Manifesto. A listing of the section headings of the manuscript with a very brief synopsis of each follows at the end.

One of the last important Futurist manifestos, the Futurist Radio Manifesto *La Radia* was coauthored by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti and Pino Masnata, surgeon, poet and Marinetti's most loyal "lieutenant."¹ *La Radia* first appeared in the Torino *Gazzetta del Popolo* on September 22, 1933, and soon after, across Europe and South America. The Manifesto received international press and the co-authors made numerous promotional tours around Italy and Southern Europe. In 1935 Masnata wrote his 44-page exegesis, or gloss, citing a need for clarification,

The Futurist Radio Manifesto needs some clarifying remarks because it contains synopses of numerous modern scientific and artistic tenets. Only someone who stays informed of current trends in human ideas can understand the full

¹ La Depeche (Toulouse, November 17, 1933), from the Masnata family archive.

significance of our manifesto and dispense with the explanation.²

² Citations that follow below, when not further identified, are from Masnata's gloss.

NOME RADIA TL Il mani festo della radia futurista ha bijogno di qualche chiarificazione perché contiene la sinteri di immerevoli moderne convin CONVI scientifiche ed artistiche. Solo chi & è molto al corrente delle attuali tendense del penjiero umano può capire il nostro manifesto a line LA CELERCORD CO. CO. BO a profondita. fare a meno di spiegas Il manifesto della radia fecturizta è sulla "Gazzetta del Postato pubblicato polo, di Torines il 22 Settembre 1933 ed stato scritto in collaborazione unita Tistetty sul lago di Gourda nella villa dell'avvocato Piccoli che gentilmente ci ospitava. Il manifesto ha avuto enorme successo e vasta rijonanja ; è stato tradot to in francese, tedesco, inglese, spagno lo ; esperanto ; è stato pubblicato su vari giomali, che si Interessano di radio in grande onore sensa o con entusiastia commenti Importanti specialmente gli articoli di World-Radio di Londra e di Comoedia

The first page of Masnata's gloss (Beinecke Library, Marinetti papers)

We don't know why the gloss was never published—perhaps it was never finished, perhaps Marinetti had a different point of view, perhaps it was too difficult for the average reader, perhaps the gloss "explained" too much given an art that placed a premium on immediacy and spontaneity. Translated excerpts from the gloss will appear in *Modernism/Modernity* 19.1 and a dual-language edition of the manuscript will be published next year (Second Evening Art). This article consists of a background and introduction to Masnata's manuscript, including occasional analysis or interpretation of the significance of the scientific references to the poetry of the Radio Manifesto. At the close is a listing of the section headings of the manuscript accompanied by a brief synopsis of each.³

Marinetti and Masnata were late to join the theoretical discussions of radio in Italy. They followed in the footsteps of Italian State Radio's 1930 futurist-inflected public declamations of the power of radio by Vice-President Arnaldo Mussolini (brother to the Duce), and they trailed the first radio manifesto "Radio as a Creative Force" (1931) by Enzo Ferrieri, Artistic Director for Italian radio from 1929.⁴ Ferrari introduced the seminal idea that the source of radio's true, paradoxical power derives from silence. The concept reappears as one of the most provocative topics of *La Radia*. Arnaldo Mussolini's call for an extension of the will through the new medium of radio and Ferrari's placement of silence at the heart of a new radio aesthetic

³ I extend my deep gratitude to Roberto Masnata and his family for their support of this research and for their generous hospitality. Many institutions assisted me in this endeavor: The American Academy in Rome, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Getty Research Institute, MART (Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto), the Archivio Centrale dello Stato at EUR, RAI Biblioteca Centrale Paolo Giuntella, Biblioteca della Storia Moderna and Discoteca di Stato, all in Rome. I wish to thank Gunter Berghaus, Carmella Vircillo Franklin, Luciano Chessa, Bela Kalman, Lisa Kaborycha, Ira Nadel, Elettra Marconi, Franco Monteleone, Enrico Menduni, and Gabriele Balbi, Silvia Bruni and Salvatori Scali. To Ilona Fried, an especial note of gratitude for her friendship, scholarship, and sponsorship of this article.

⁴ Enzo Ferrieri, "Radio come forza creativa" in *Il Convegno, rivista di letteratura e di tutte le arti* (June 1931). Enzo Ferrieri (1896–1969) was a theater director and editor of *Il Convegno*. See the posthumous edition of his work, *La Radio! La Radio? La Radio!* (2002).

culminate in the Futurist *La Radia*, the most influential document of the pre-WWII conversation about avant-garde radio.

Since the 1920s, Masnata had experimented in the field of theater to eliminate boundaries between the real and unreal, and thought and action, as described in his manifesto *Visionic Theatre*. On December 20, 1931 Masnata as librettist and composer Carmine Guarino made history when they broadcast the first Italian opera written specifically for radio (arguably the first radio opera), the fifteen-minute *Tum tum ninna nanna* or *Wanda's heart (Il cuore di Wanda*).⁵

⁵ The editor of *Futurismo*, Mino Somenzi, took issue with the change in name, "A work disguised by E.I.A.R. with the ridiculous title *Il cuore di Wanda*" ("Futuristizziamo la Radiofonia," *Futurismo*, Vol. II.18 [January 8, 1933]: 1). The original onomatopoeic title, he believed, was characteristic of *parole in libertà*.

Other collaborations with Guarino included melodramas and ballets: *Il ritmo e la gelosia* [published in *Nicia* (Milan, December 1932) and *Futurismo* (Rome, 1933), as well as *Il mantello sulla strada, Fantasia per pianoforte e orchestra, Nicoletta*, and *La casa sul fiume* (Verdone, *Teatro del tempo futurista* [Rome: Lerici, 1969, 360).



Il maestro Carmine Guarino e il poeta Pino Masnata, autori della prima opera-radio italiana.

Un'opera lirica per la Radio

Leggendo di questi giorni sui gior-nali la nolizia d'un primo saggio di radio-melodramma trasmesso in Germania, il mio pensiero corse al macstro Carinine Guarino, il quale si ri-prometleva, ahimè, d'essere il primo a lanciare nel mondo della radiofonia un'opera-radio. Mi parve quindi in-teressanle senlire in proposito il pen-siero e il giudizio dell'egregio macstero e il gittalio dell'egregio mac-stro. Il quale non poteva essere più cortesemente compilo, giacchè al convegno fissatomi fece intervenire anche il... suo librettista, il Masnata.

cortesemente compilo, giacchè al convegnò fissalomi fece intervenire anche il... suo librettista, il Masnata. — Hai visto? — furono le prime parole del maestro — ci hanno tolto il primato. Ma paziensa, verremo buoni secondi. Ed è per questo che abbiamo resistito a tutte le proposte venuteci dall'estero, alcune delle quali vantaggiosissime, per la con-cessione della nostra radio-opera, la quale invece deve nascere, non può nascere che in Italia. — Molto bene, ma come puòl sup-porre, caro Guarino, brucio dal de-siderio di... sapere qualcosa di più... — Ma se ti ho fatto venire ap-punto per questo. Anzi... ecco: Il mio anico Pino Masnata seprà dirii meglio che poleva occorrere per un tentativo come quello cui ha po-sto mano con la collaborazione del valoroso e geniale maestro. Futuri-sta della più bell'acqua, il suo ul-timo odume « Anime sceneggiale », corredato di un'ardente prefazione di F. T. Marinetti, ha destato un mondo di critiche e di discussioni, ma ha costituito la più brillante af-fermazione del suo fresco ingeno. — Purtroppo, come le ha detto subito il maestro, il sogno di far trasmetlere, primi nel mondo, la prima opera-radio ci è stato un po' sciupato. E non per colpa nostra. Ma non ci disperiamo per questo, perchè vedrà che finiremo con l'aver ragione lo stesso... perchè il nostro è un sogno chiaramente e nettamen-te italiano. Ma eccomi a rispondere a qualcuna almeno delle domande che leggo nel suo volto. Mi permette un po' di... prolusione? F la vita moderna antitetica all'arte? Noi — noi futuristi — non crediamo. F viste intere popolazioni interessarsi d'arte, come oggi avviene, sia pure

forme d'arte e ciò giudichiano — è sempre il Masnala che parla — una grande fortuna per l'umanità. Il sen-timerto, la sensibilità, la poesie, la bellezza, ecc., cacciale dalla porta cusempre il Masnala che parla – una grande fortuna per l'unanità. Il sen-limento, la sensibilità, la porsio, la Spellezza, ecc., cacciale dalla porta cu-trano dalla finestra. Le macchine non hanno ucciso la poesia, ma ne han-no creata una adalla alla loro lut-centezza, semplicità, rapidità, magia, Il chema-sonoro è sulla strada esat-ta per diventare il più completo mez-zo che abbia l'artista creature per esprimere la più semplice verità o la più complicata fantasia. Per quan-to si riferisce alla Radio è facile in-tuire quello che potrà essere domani, se oggi, ancora bambina, è sempli-cemente una meraviglia divina. Non è guindi cosa vana scrivere e profi-garsi per queste due nuove arti del Novecento. Anzi, già superati ci sembrano telterati, poeti, musicisti, seenografi, ecc., che disertano que-sta nobile battaglia. E' con questi sentimenti che io e l'amico Guarino ci siamo accinti a costruire la pri-ma opera-radio. Essa è pronta e non aspetta che lo scocco della sua ora per esser lanciata nell'etere. Le dico subito che la scetta del soggetto fu tutt'attro che facile. Ritenendo per la Radio la necesità di un'accurata scetta di elementi interessanti soto se trasmessi per radio, eliminando, cioè, negli ascottalori la nostalgia della maneanza della visione e po-nendo come capisaldi la brevità, la sintesi, la fantasia e l'originatità, ci siamo orientati nella possibilità di trasmettere paesaggi intini, sensa-zioni, stati d'animo, anche per sfug-gire al pedestre realismo radiofonico. Ed ecode come e perchè è nato il nostro Cuore di Wanda. I lettori hanno capito: Il Cuore di Wanda è il tilolo dell'opera-radio di Carmine Guarino e di Pino Masnala. Alla lettara del liberto, rapido, ser-rato, originalissimo, ha fatto seguito l'audizione al pianoforte concessaci dal maestro. Una cosa semplicemen-te deliziosa. Il M° Guarino ha sa-puto ricamare sulla tenuisisma tra-ma — due soli personaggi, o per dir meglio due anime —, trama le-nusistima tessuta di piccoil brividi di poesia, di cose amare e dolcissime ins

Carmine Guarino and Pino Masnata

RADIOCORRIERE



MILANO-TORINO Kc. 905 Kc. 1096 m. 331,4 - Kw. 8,7 m. 273,7 - Kw. 10,5

GENOVA Kc. 959 m. 312,8 - Kw. 15

10,15: Giornale radio. 10,30: Spiegazione del Vangelc: (Milano): Padre Vittorino Facchi-netti; (Torino): Don Giocondo Fi-no; (Genova): Padre Teodosio da

no: (C Voltri. 10,50: Musica religio-

a: Dischi «La voce del padrone ».

11,15: Disco Fonoglotta: Lezioni 57* e 58* di lingua tedesca (pagine 240, 243, 244, 247 della Guida relativa).

11,20: Consigli agli agricoltori: H melo» (dottore Carlo Rava). 12,30-14:

MUSICA VARIA 13: Segnale orario ed eventuali

comunicati dell'E.I.A.R. 15,40: Trasmissione da S. Siro del

Derby del trotto. 16: Notizie sportive.

16,10: Trasmissione della commedia :

La piccola felicità

di G. ADAMI. Negli intervalli: Notizie sportive

notiziario artistico. 17,30: Musica riprodotta.

18,30-18,45: Giornale radio - No-

tizie sportive. 18,45 (Torino): Radio-giornalino . di Spumettino.

19,5-20,35: Musica riprodotta.

19,40: Comunicazioni del Dopolavoro.

20: Segnale orario ed eventuali comunicati dell'E.I.A.R. - Giornale radio: Notizie sportive. 20,35

Musica corale e orchestrale

direttore Mº Arrigo Pedrollo. Nell'intervallo: Conversazione di Carlo Veneziani. 21,30:

Il cuore di Wanda opera in 1 atto scritta per la radio-diffusione da PINO MASNATA. Musica di CARMINE GUARINO. Direttore Mº ARRIGO PEDROLLO. Notiziario teatrale.

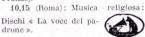
Il signor Bruschino

Farsa giocosa in un atto di G. ROSSINI (Edizione Ricordi). diretta dal Mº UGO TANSINI. Dopo le opere: Ultime notizie.



ROMA-NAPOLI Kc. 680 Kc. 941 m. 441,2 - Kw. 75 m. 318,8 - Kw 1,7

ROMA ONDE CORTE (2 RO) Kc. 3750 - m. 80 - Kw. 14 - 2 RO 10 (Roma): Lettura e spicgazione del Vangelo (padre dott. Domenico Franzè)



10,45-11 (Roma): Annunci vari di sport e spettacoli.

12,55: Disco Fonoglótta: Lezioni 57ª e 58ª di lingua tedesca (pagine 240, 243, 244, 247 della Guida relativa). 13-14,15: Musica riprodotta.

13,30: Segnale orario - Eventuali comunicati dell'E.I.A.R.

16,15 (Napoli): Bambinopoli - Bol-lettino meteorologico - Badiosport.

16,45: Notizie sportive. 17: Trasmissione dall'Augusteo:

Concerto sinfonico

Nell'intervallo: Novella di Angelo Castaldi. 19,55 (Napoli): Cronaca dell'Idro-

porto. 20: Sport - Comunicato Dopolavo-

ro - Notizie. 20,30: Segnale orazio - Eventuali comunicati dell'E I A B -

Dischi « La voce del padrone ». 21:

Concerto variato

Parte prima:

- 1. Mendelssohn: Concerto in mi minore, op. 64, per violino con accompagnamento d'or-chestra: a) Allegro molto appassionato, b) Andante, c) Allegro molto vivace (vio-linista Francesco Antonioni).
- a) Franco Alfano: 1. Mamma, il giovane principe, 2. Egli mormord: amor mio; b) Max Reger: Berceuse; c)

Debussy: Recitativo ed aria di Lia dal *Figliol prodigo* (soprano Margherita Cossa).

Un signore che non parla Commedia in un atte

di U. FALENA. Parte seconda:

- Giordano: Marcella: a) atto secondo: Duetto d'amore, Angelus e scena Giorgio e Drasco; b) atto terzo: Preludio e scena finale Marcel-la e Giorgio.
- Toddi: «Il mondo per traver-so», «Buonumore a onde corte »
- 2. Respighi: La boutique fanta sque, balletto su motivi di Rossini.

22,55: Ultime notizie.

BOLZANO Kc. 815 - m. 368,1 - Kw. 1,5

10,30-11: Musica reli-giosa: Dischi «La voce padrone».

12,30: Segnale orario - Eventuali comunicazioni dell'E.I.A.R. 12,45: Disco Fonoglotta: Lezioni 17* e 18* di lingua tedesca (pagine 80, 83, 84, 87 della Guida refativa). 12.50*

12,50: MUSICA ITALIANA

MUSICA ITALIANA 13,50-14: Le campane del Con-vento di Gries. (17,55: La rubrica della signora. 18-19: Musica da ballo (trasmis-sione dal Circolo Unione Savoia) -Notiziario sportivo. 20: Segnale orario - Eventuali co-municazioni dell'E.I.A.R. - Radio-sport sport.

Musica vocale

e strumentale

Notiziario teatrale.

21,15; MUSICA VARIA

22: Comunicazioni del Dopolavoro Musica riprodotta o ritrasmessa. 22,30: Ultime notizie.



63

Kc. 554 · m. 541.5 - Kw. 3.7 10,40: Musica religio-sa: dischi « La voce del padrone ».

11,5: Dolt. Berna: « Consigli agli

agricollori». 11,15: Disco Fonoglolta: Lezioni 31^a e 32^a di lingua tedesea (pagine 136-139-140-143 della Guida relatival

12,45: Giornale radio.

12,43; Giornale radio.
13-14; Musica riprodotta.
13,30; Segnale orario - Eventuali comunicati dell'E.I.A.R. - Bollettino meteorologico.
14,30; Trasmissione dalla Chiesa di S. Maria di Gesù del

Concerto inaugurale

del nuovo organo

Organista prof. sac. D. Carme-lo Sangiorgi (titolare del Santuario di Pompei). 17,30-18,30: Musica riprodotta e

notizie sportive. 20: Comunicazioni del Dopolavo-

Giornale radio.
 20,20: Araldo sportivo (Mario Tac-

cari) 20,25: Musica riprodotta. Eventuali

21: Segnale orario -comunicati dell'E.I.A.R. 21.5

Concerto sinfonico

diretto dal Mº A. LA ROSA PARODI. Dopo il concerto: CANZONI DI VARIETA'.

22,55: Ultime notizie.

TRIESTE

Kc. 1211 - m. 247,7 - Kw. 15 9,55: Le campane di S. Giusto. 10: Messa cantata dalla caltedrale Giusto. di S.

12,30: Giornale radio - Bollettino delle nevi - Dischi «La

12,55: Disco Fonoglotta: Lezioni 9ª e 10ª di lingua tedesca (pagine 9* e 10* di lingua tedesca (pagine 48, 51, 55, 55, della Guida relativa). 13: Segnale orario ed eventual: comunicati dell'E.I.A.R. 13-13,45; Musica varia: 16,30: Musica da ballo. Neg!; intervalli: Nolizie sportive. 20,15: Radio giornale dell'Entt -Bollettino delle nevi - I dieci minuti del Donolavoro - Notizie varie - No-

del Dopolavoro - Notizie varie - Nosportive. tizie

20,30: Dischi « La voce del padrone z. 21: Segnale orario ed eventuali

comunicati dell'E.I.A.R.

Concerto variato

Nell'intervallo: Notiziario teatrale.

22,25: Musica varia.

Direttore-responsabile: GIGI MICHELOTTI Tipografia Società Editrice Torineso Via dei Quartieri, 1



Masnata's radio-fantasy *The Sick Child (La Bambina ammalata)* was published in *Oggi e domani* (Rome, August 31, 1931), but not realized in his lifetime.⁶

On June 15, 1933, the Second Futurist Congress named Masnata National Poet Champion (*Poeta campione nazionale*). His trophy was an aluminum helmet (*casco alluminio*) sculpted to resemble radio headphones by Enrico Prampolini. Marinetti wrote of Masnata's poetry, "[There is] absolutely no resemblance to the Free-Word Tables (*tavole parolibere*) of my *Zang tum tum* and my *Futurist Words in Freedom* (*Mots in liberté futuristes*). Nor any point of contact, then, between the Free-Word Tables of Pino Masnata and the Words-in-Freedom (*parole in libertà*) and Free-Word Tables of [Futurists] Paolo Buzzi, Luciano Folgore, Corrado Govoni, Benedetta, Cangiullo, Depero, Bruno Corra, . . . Bruno Sanzin . . . The Free-Word style of Pino Masnata is original, expressive, aggressive, condensed and suggestive like a slab of ice in the sun. He mixes up a violent cocktail combining obscure states of mind with lyrical landscapes in clear prose."⁷

Giuseppe Masnata of Stradella (1901–1968) joined the Futurists in Milan at age eighteen. A member of the Fascist Party, or PNF (Partito Nazionale Fascista), from 1919 he helped to found political *fighting groups*, the *fasci di combattimento*, in Pavia and Stradella, and participated in the March on Rome in October 1922.⁸ Masnata was a practicing surgeon at Milan's hospital *Maggiore*. His professional training prepared him to follow the latest research in cell biology and sub-atomic particles—the latter the *lingua franca* of nuclear physics.

There were other Futurists more fully engaged with radio in Italy. Contributors to the cultural and commercial sectors of early radio, they were writers and producers of program

⁶ It is also published in *Il teatro futurista. Sintetico (dinamico-alogico-autonomo-simultaneovisionico). A sorpresa. Aeroradiotelevisivo. Caffe concerto. Radiofonico* (Naples, CLET 1941). The play was first broadcast in 1986 in Italy on RAI Uno.

⁷ Marinetti, F. T., review, "Canti fascisti della metropoli verde' di Pino Masnata" (1935) in *Collaudi futuristi*, Ed. Glauco Viazzi (Naples: Guida Editore, 1977), 132. Also see, Elemo d'Avila in *Futurismo* (Rome, October 16, 1932).

⁸ "Profilo, Pino Masnata," *Nicia* (Milan, January 1934). The translation "fighting groups" is from F. T. Marinetti, "Art and the State—VI. Italy," *The Listener* (Vol. XVI.405 [London, October 14, 1936]: 731).

content as well as critics of the new technology. Luciano Folgore, Balilla Pratella, Guido Sommi-Picenardi and Italo Bertaglio worked for Italian State radio—known as URI (Unione Radiofonica Italiana, 1924—1929), and later as EIAR (Ente Italiano per Audizioni Radiofoniche, 1930–1944).⁹

⁹ EIAR was formed in 1928 but was not officially introduced to the public until the beginning of 1930.



SUSURRI DELL'ETERE

SUSSURRI DELL'ETERE accademico Marinetti, una sera della scorsa settimana che nella sede di un circolo mi-lanese vi doveva essere un concerto juturista di e estratti musicali si e sostituito alla musica di e estratti musicali si e sostituito alla musica di estratti musicali si e sostituito alla musica di musicanti per parlare agli invitati della musicanti per parlare agli invitati della musicanti per parlare agli invitati della di musicanti per parlare agli invitati della sosti e stratti musicali si e sostituito alla musica di estratti musicali ani gli aggettiti che più frequenti escono dal calamaio delle redazioni proto di un discorso marinettiano. A me, con-reso, codesti aggettivi non sono mai apparsi sprimere con jedella descrittua l'impregiane che provo ogni qualoolta mi accade d'ascoltare proto della discorta, in una sfera di asce-tiano conce di Marinetti. Il lampegiare degli ota concione di Marinetti. Al lampegiare degli ota concione di Marinetti. Al lampegiare degli della discontante, sembra piuttosto che lo simo, sia pur combattico, e che l'ardore della una specie di illuminismo mistico, da una dede, insoma, di cui egli sia d'apostolo tenece pinguace. E se non Josse per timore di offen-re voglio rendergli onere, direi che nessun ando di luti, quando parla in pubblico esal-atado di luti, suando parla in pubblico esal-atado di luti rispeter l'oridane. "Est deus in noblis. Ettere escilto di risperata di Marinetti rivelare ofi conservo la segreta emergia molrice della di cirita petti di coestas usa attività rivelare di cirita da tui asserita dibla presoro marineta attività di arista e di propagandista, ancher neittiti da rista e di monache politico della di nostra Patria non godena di nessuna quota-inostra Patria non godena di nessuna quota-nostra Patria non godena di nessuna quota-dio per per perto di la sua inpresa. Basti ricordare come a dottina da lui asserita abbia preso radico di diventa da lui asserita diblia presoradi con-di atta de nonesta coste

evidenti che non si sarebbe poluto soflocarne il nome ed il gento. Orbene, la prima pattuglia intellettuale ita-liana che, con senso di gruppo nazionale, ruppe feuropa quel tacito boicottaggio straniero fu la piccola e compatta avanguardia marinettiana; re ristette dal combattere fin quando non ebbe piantata in tutta l'Europa artistica la sua audace bandiera e persino il nome, che s'era scelto a programma, il nome italiano di Futurismo ebbe fatto penetrare di forza in tutte le lingue. Ho detto: non ristatette. Ho errato, debbo dire: non ristà, poichè Marinetti cerca ogni giorno ina mèta novella da raggiungere, una verità ignorata da rivelare, un mondo da conquistare per il futurismo.

Intervente da ricetare, in monao da conquistare per il juturismo.
 La nuova conquista ha da essere appunto il monão della radio. Già annunziata in un manifisto, tale conquista ju precisata nei modi e nei fini nel discorso milanese. Vediamo un poco, se possibile, di dare ai lettori del Radiocorriere un sunto imparziale della vivacissima improvvizzione in administrata.
 La quale, naturalmente, cominciò dall'accusare di passibimo la radiofonia. Siamo d'accordo che l'accusa non investe ne' l'invenzione in sè (la più moderna, l'ultima delle grandi invenzioni scientifiche veramente rivoluzionarie degli scambi e del ostume) ne la sua tecnica che, di giorno in giorno, si rinnova e migliora. Passatisti, al dire di Marinetti, sono i programmi delle radioframisioni: cicè passatisti siamo noi, radiofii, rigacchè, insomma, chi attende a compilare i programmi radiofonia. Busti, dunque, i nostri…
 Qiali saranno invece i programmi della Radio dell'accuademico Marinetti giù vede prevede molti « numeri» impressionanti: captazione in sonorità delle vibrazioni emesse da esseri viventi e da materie senza vita

apparente: simultaneità di rumori che solita-mente s'elidono; e, per contrasto, isolamento sintetico di un rumore che solitamente non si percepisce se non inserito e commisto ad altri emananti da un dato movimento di ana mac-china, o da un dato momento della vita: ru-mori di una festività pubblica notturna svol-gentesi, per esempio, in una città italiana, inter-rotti dal rombo della cannonata che mnunzia, agli antipodi, lo scoccare del mezzogiorno; e, quando il radiofilo non abbia la sensibilità di un bujalo (soggiunse Marinetti), esso potrà nel futuro deliziarsi anche ascoltando le radiotras-missioni del silenzio! missioni del silenzio!

and objects to spoke and the construction, esso point are instantial construction. The provided in the construction of the

Fantasia di poeta, indubbiamente. Ma chi osc-rebbe ipotecare l'avvenire nella negazione?

G. SOMMI PICENARDI.

ATTENZIONE!

L'abbonato alle radioaudizioni che alla scadenza continua a detenere l'apparecchio senza rinnovare la licenza stessa, deve considerarsi senza licenza e quindi, quale detentore abusivo di apparecchio radiofonico, è passibile della pena pecuniaria di L. 500, fissata dall'art. 20 del R. D. L. 17 novembre 1927, n. 2207.

SETTIMANA RADIOFONICA

n la sera di S. Stefano, hanno inizio le tanto attese ritrasmis-sioni dai principali teatri d'o-

Andrea Chénier è un flore reciso in une compara la lariante de la caracterista en la contra contra la contra contra la contra co

quell'offorte che laceva dire all'animo giusto e grande di Chénier, nell'ode a Carlotta Corday: "Seule tu fus un homme et vengeas les humaines!".
Andrea Chénier è un fiore reciso in una sanguinosa giornata del Terrore, circondato dalla doppia seduzione del genio e della sventura!
Per la vigilia di Natale tutte le stazioni radio trasmettono degli indovinati programmi ispirati al Santo giorno. Citiamo, tra i più interessanti, il concerto dedicato alla Madre e al Fanciullo; il concerto dell'ara Coell di Romana e composto da dischi sui quali sono stati incisi i canti di Natale più caratteristici di ciascun Paese; — la ritrasmissione dalla chiesa dell'Ara Coell di Roma della grande Messa di mezzanotte e infine la ritrasmissione dal Betlemme della cerimonia religiosa che si svolge nella chiesa della Natività. Il Natale di Gesi, che l'Etar trasmette la sera del 24, è un trittico per soli, coro e orchestra, musicato dal M^e Franco Vittadini su ispirate parole di S. E. Angiolo Silvio Novaro. Per l'Etar in M^e Vittadini ha fatto un lavoro di amplificazione corale e istrumentale, aggiungendo tra le attre cose un preludio sinfonico di dolcissima melodia. Col Natale di Gesi, Franco Vittadini si presenta anche come autore di musica religiosa. E' bene sapere che ha composto died Messa dublaris e Missa Jucunda, recentisma, per coro a tre voci virili.
Givedi 28, dallo Studio di Roma, sarà diffuso un concetto sinfonico diretto dal M^e Rito Selvaggi. La Terza Sinfonia (Eroica) di Beethoven occupa tutta la prima parte del programma, questa sinfonia, per levoluzione aristica di un ben hungo periodo di tempo. L'Allegro con brio e uno dei tempi maggiormente significativi di Beethoven. Il tema fondamentale è toto da una avertaro dell'unanita dutta nuova acquistando, attraverso i contrasti che episodi e temi collaterali gli suscitano intrinseca musicale, p di un croe determinato, ma celebra il dolore dell'umanità tutta, continuamente anclante e insoddisfatta, illuminata dalla speranza immor-tale e pur sempre accasciata dallo sconforto e dal pianto. Lo Scherzo costituisce, per la vi-vacità strumentale e il significato espressivo, qualche cosa di molto differente e nuovo da quanto era stato precedentemente creato ne genere anche dallo stesso Beethoven. Le prime battute ci conducono nel campo di una espres-sività musicale tutta particolare e personale a Maestro, che vi traduce quel sentimento di Maestro, che vi traduce quel sentimento di gaiezza forte, semplice, naturale, quale anche in mezzo alla passione e al dolore sgorgava all'im-

A challenge to the Futurist radio aesthetic written by Futurist Guido Sommi Picenardi.

Arnaldo Ginna, Somenzi and Futurist enthusiast Umberto Bernasconi wrote articles about radio for Futurismo, Autori e scrittori and L'Impero. Somenzi applied for and received a license in 1928 to sell the "Bianchi" radio set by B.I.V.A.R., the agency in charge of regulating patent designs and radio equipment sales (Brevetti Industriali e Vendita Apparecchi Radiofonici). Fortunato Depero, Benedetta Marinetti, Luigi Russolo, Ignazio Scurto, Bruno Corra, Carlo Carra, Corrado Govoni and others also had experience with radio broadcasting, though less sustained. Italian radio exploited the Futurist rhetoric but limited Futurist participation and access. The May, 1933 visit of Joseph Goebbels to Italy to revamp Italian cultural policy especially radio policy-to conform to the centralization doctrine of his Reich Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, placed a cap on liberal radio experimentation, officially labeled "dilettantism." Permission to broadcast on the radio was granted only to persons whose names appeared on a list vetted by officials of the PNF. Marinetti, as a member of the Royal Academy, was granted permission and took it upon himself to represent many Futurists who could not gain access.¹⁰ The tensions between theory, access and content were politically irresolvable.

Marinetti's choice of Masnata as co-author of a Radio Manifesto in effect bypassed the politics, the humor, the news, the music that may have been tied to names in the Futurist roster of personalities but that, in reality, bore little connection to a Futurist aesthetic and proved irrelevant to the promotion of the movement. With Masnata, Marinetti narrowed the sights of Futurist radio on drama. A Futurist radio would be defined by the two Futurists who had by 1933 successfully aired radio-specific dramas. Marinetti's *Violetta e gli aeroplani* was scheduled by

¹⁰ Also see, Fisher, "Futurism and Radio," 2009. Indicative of his special status, Marinetti was invited by Italian Radio to give an eye-witness account of Italo Balbo's trans-Atlantic crossing and home-coming on August 12th. For the event, Marinetti, with Mino Somenzi at his side, declaimed Futurist *parole in libertà* including a liberal dose of onomatopoeia.

EIAR for September 14, 1932 and January 19, 1933, and would be repeated September 29, 1941.¹¹

MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO DIREZIONE CENERALE P. S. SERVIZIO REVISIONE TEATRALE N. 222 / ON. MINISTERO DELL'INT RUBRICATO REVISIONE TEATRALE La SOCIETA' ANONIMA COSMOS residente in Roma - Via Viminale 58 - si onora unire alla presente domanda 2 copie del soggetto di F. T. Marinetti intitolato: " VIOLETTA E GLI AEROPLANI " (Trisintesi radiofonica) richiedendo il nulla osta alla rappresentazione. Con Osservanza. P.SOC. AN. "COSMOS" ome Roma 11 30 Marzo 1932/X "COSMOS., Società Anonima 1 aprile Rappresentanza per la Censura Cinematografica e Teatrale Vitalo e oudifuito Roma - Via Viminale 58 alli'

Approval by the Censor's Office of Violetta e gli aeroplani April 1, 1932.

¹¹ For a discussion of "*Violetta e gli aeroplani*" as radio drama, see Fisher, *Ezra Pound's Radio Operas* (MIT Press, 2002), 49–62. While EIAR scheduled and actively promoted Marinetti's radio drama in 1932, it is possible the production was not aired until 1933. I am grateful to Prof. Monteleone for this cautionary perspective.



Masnata's opera *Tum tum ninna nanna* is mentioned above. The two experimental dramas bore the marks of Futurist drama, but they fell shy of the 1933 Futurist vision for a radio art that abolishes the characters, the audience, the laws of unity and the outdated absolutes of space and time associated with theater. The new radio art would leave theater, cinema and the radio studio with all their trappings and equipment behind, daring to follow the behavior of waves and subatomic particles. The atom and its components would be the new protagonists of the twentieth century,¹² the laws of wave motion would replace the laws of unity.

Futurist Augusto Platone tried to distinguish between an economic cult of the machine that led to unemployment and demographic shifts which were harmful to society, and the artistic cult of the machine, "For the rest of us [admirers and followers of Futurism], the machine has always been dominated by man, never has he been slave to it."¹³ But the Futurists never succeeded in dominating the radio.

The Futurist Radio Manifesto turned the discussion about radio art away from the materiality of machines to highlight the science behind the machines. For Masnata, machines were but early steps to a future that promised the transformation of human communication into a purely wireless technology—the transmission and reception of pure thought over long distances, a new kind of communication enhanced by the dissolution of boundaries between the spiritual and material realms.

The Futurist "who dwelt most enthusiastically on the aesthetic possibilities of science" according to Umbro Apollonio, was the painter Gino Severini, who theorized about the

¹² See Benedetta [Cappa] Marinetti's novella *Le forze umane, romanzo astratto con sintesi grafiche*, 1924, which uses the atom to frame her story.

¹³ Augusto Platone, "L'uomo e la macchina," *Stile futurista*, Vol. I, No. 3 (Sept. 1934): 37–39.

perception of objects through the senses of sight and touch.¹⁴ From 1933 the torch passed to Masnata who theorized about the transmission and reception of sound waves and brain waves without machines.

Masnata believed the radio sciences held the promise of a gadgetless telepathic future in which disjunctive words—the Futurist words-in-freedom (parole in libertà)—move through space. "We need to speak not of free verse but of waves of free verse . . . Parole in libertà sets the standard for language for radio, and therefore for radio art," wrote Masnata. Joined to radio frequencies, words-in-freedom would create new shapes out of the ether or the silence. Further, the radio artists of the future would move their thought and extend their will at the speed of light without the radio apparatus; they would receive and transmit vibrations because they would be endowed with paranormal perceptive powers.¹⁵ Such a person is mentioned four times in Masnata's gloss.

Waveform and vibration dominate this exegesis of radio art and offer a new paradigm for *parole in libertà*. Masnata drew upon wave theory to predict that radio art will increase the human potential to tap into the past: "People will be surprised that the manifesto speaks of tapping light and voices of the past." The reasoning follows something like this: sound and light waves weaken over distances but never disappear; therefore they must exist in a weaker state all around us. Nostalgia for the past was no longer a problem if the past was an active waveform in the present environment.

Masnata links the two subjects—words-in-freedom and thoughts and words from the past-to suggest they have similar form. Thoughts and words from the past will not be complete sentences but subsets of energy or frequencies, the components of which are indivisible. The use

 ¹⁴ Umbro Apollonio, Ed., *Futurist Manifestos*, 1970, 10.
 ¹⁵ F. T. Marinetti, "Extended Man and the Kingdom of the Machine," in F. T. Marinetti *Critical Writings*, 2006, 86.

of fragments, key to many avant-garde movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, often found nutriment of impulse in the invocation of scientific principles, the artists pushing perceptual faculties to new frontiers. According to Masnata, tapping into these bits from the past "would lead to the death of time in art; it would lead to an art of four dimensions, the simultaneity of yesterday with today and tomorrow."

His account of the Futurist *parola in libertà* in 1935 strives for correspondence with, and possibly justification within, quantum physics. A quantum is the smallest, indivisible amount of a physical quantity that can exist. Max Planck, 1918 winner of the Nobel Prize for quantum theory, based the theory on his finding that electromagnetic energy is emitted in "quantized" form. This becomes somewhat clearer if we use the lexicon introduced in 1924 by Louis de Broglie, pioneer in quantum physics who described subatomic particles—the protons and electrons—as tiny *wave-packets* of energy, measurable as quanta. *Parole in libertà*, then, might be characterized as indivisible *packets* of energy or frequencies with wave properties.

Parole in libertà are the preferred language or poetry for whomever experiments

with radio art; they are very important elements of radio art but not the art itself. The art itself concerned the transmission, tapping into (or reception), and shaping of sounds and silence. The second half of the gloss makes clear that despite much speculation accorded paranormal and telepathic powers, radio art would also avail itself of and exploit broadcast technology to realize the Futurist vision.

La Radia proposed a completely new radio sensibility resonant with both the Futurist poetic and the scientific revolution following Einstein. Though Masnata in his gloss never mentions Einstein, his remarks build upon Einstein's revolutionary discovery that the properties of light can be described both as waves and as particles. Einstein's General Principle of

Relativity challenged the concept of absolute space and presented a new theory of gravity.

Matter—the fundamental postulate of classical physics—gave way to the concept of a field made up of both particles and waves, the "new fundamental constituents of matter."¹⁶ Masnata presents his own abridged history of science:

But what are electrons?

- Heisenberg, Born and Schroedinger studied the problem. These are names of Nobel prize winners. As well as Dizac, Jordan and Fermi.
- We tend to think of the electron as no more than an extremely small bit of physical matter, that is, a minute particle or corpuscle.

Then the field of wave mechanics was born.

To explain various phenomena we need to introduce a new theory: the components of matter—electrons—are at the same time something that is both like a particle and like a wave. They are similar to radiation . . .

Does matter exist?

What is the world? A universe of trapped waves and of constantly shifting waves.

The omission of Einstein's name from Masnata's gloss is striking. Einstein won the 1921 Nobel Prize for his proof that light behaves as if it is made of particles. Werner Heisenberg, author of the Uncertainty Principle and 1932 Nobel Prize winner, was at odds with Einstein over the theoretical basis and comprehensiveness of the new quantum mechanics. By 1930, their debates were public and dramatic; they divided the science community and attracted public attention. Each scientist had his supporters and detractors. Heisenberg's interpretation of quantum mechanics undermined the tenets of deterministic causality, the philosophical consequences of which reinforced the idea of destiny as a viable political and ethical tool.

¹⁶ Albert Einstein, Foreword, in Max Jammer, *Concepts of Space: The History of Theories of Space in Physics*, 1993, xvi-xvii; Jonathan Powers, 1982, 131.

Einstein reacted to the interpretation of the new theory as if it were the expression of a cultural threat, though he clearly wished to confine the discussion to the community of professional physicists. What was threatened was the vision of a stable cosmos subject to the rule of law \dots ¹⁷

Perhaps Masnata sided with Heisenberg. The slight is not anti-Semitic but political. Masnata mentions the Jewish scientists Max Born and Enrico Fermi. It is the absence of any reference to Vito Volterra, Italy's foremost mathematician and the founder of her most important science institutions, that suggests the omissions were politically motivated. Volterra, an outspoken advocate for science as an integral part of education and culture, refused the newly-instated loyalty oath and participated in anti-Fascist activities, eventually leaving Italy in the early 1930s.¹⁸

After such heady questions and prominent names, Masnata arrives at his main theme, the relationship of the human nervous system to the electromagnetic spectrum. The research of Georges Lakhovsky (1869–1942), Russian bio-electric pioneer and cell biologist, is central to Masnata's gloss.

All living cells are composed of two essential elements; the nucleus and the protoplasm in which it is bathed. This nucleus is itself composed of many tubular filaments: the chromosomes. In addition, hundreds of much smaller filaments or chondromes are present in the cytoplasm. Chromosomes and chondromes are sheathed in an insulating substance . . . and contain a liquid-like serum with the same mineral content as seawater, and consequently a conductor of electricity. Thus, these filaments constitute ultramicroscopic oscillating circuits capable of oscillating electrically over a wide scale of very short wavelengths. I have demonstrated in my works that these cellular oscillating circuits, chromosomes

¹⁷ Jonathan Powers, 1982, 150.

¹⁸ See also, Judith R. Goodstein, "The Volterra Chronicles: The Life and Times of an Extraordinary Mathematician 1860–1940," London: London Mathematical Society/American Mathematical Society, 2007, ">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapress.com/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&size=largest>">http://resources.metapresscom/pdf-preview.axd?code=q142730162467047&si

and chondromes, vibrate electrically under the stimulus of electro-magnetic waves: cosmic, atmospheric and telluric.¹⁹

Masnata's reliance on Lakhovsky tells us that the oscillating circuits in every cell would be the foundation for wireless, gadgetless communication. Lakhovsky's conclusion places Masnata's speculations bordering on telepathy in high relief:

[Lakhovsky:] The study of electromagnetic phenomenon has overturned our old mechanical conceptions of the constitution of matter. For its turn, the study of the universal and the cosmic waves broadens the boundaries of science and will provide, such is my personal belief, the solution to fascinating problems of life, of telepathy and of the transmission of thought.²⁰

After presenting the hard sciences, Masnata's concludes by turning to an unnamed authority of a totally different stripe:

Some unverifiable political documents have also referred to radio-sensitive individuals, beings who <u>heard</u> the local station transmitter but without equipment.

Oscillating circuits offered one explanation for marshalling the resources within to effect a transfer of thought through radio waves. A different tack was to consider the relatively new scientific field devoted to electrons, or thermionics, the induction and direction of electron movement.²¹ The thermionic valve, mentioned several times by Masnata in the gloss, is a vacuum or electron tube that controls the unidirectional flow of electrons emitted from an incandescent surface. Consider, for example, *La Radia*'s call to overcome death with "the

¹⁹ Georges Lakhovsky, "Radiations and Waves—Source of Our Life," 1941. Also see, http://perso.orange.es/ligiajohn/files/Georges%20Lakhovsky.pdf> (March 3, 2010).

²⁰ Georges Lakhovsky, *Secret de la vie*, 146.

²¹ Thermionics and Futurism were both founded in 1909.

metallization of the human body."²² Could living human tissue gain immortality by bonding with inert particles (especially the metals) which make up the overwhelming quantity of matter in the universe? Masnata implies that control of the sub-atomic particles of human cells could offer humans an interiorized thermionic capacity that would force the electrons of human cells to bind with other kinds of atoms to form and sustain a solid (metallic) state, increasing the elemental metals that already exist in human tissue. Masnata singles out potassium, a highly reactive alkali metal, as a component of every living cell and possible source for the origin of life. Armed with the Periodic Table of Elements and new information about the relationship between energy, mass, and the behavior of sub-atomic particles,²³ Masnata's attention would surely have been drawn to the "metallic nature" elements (the alkali, alkali earth and transition metals), those whose atoms are most likely to give away or share the one or two electrons in their outermost sphere to another like, or unlike (highly reactive) atom. The lure of Ovidian powers drawn from the thermionic valve did not feed science fiction fantasies as much as it seemed to feed the aspiration for new artistic forms and philosophic inquiry. The gloss describes the circumstances under which the Radio Manifesto was written,

When we wrote this manifesto, we were on the Lago di Garda.... We felt we were two active thermionic valves highly sensitized to the waves coming from the infinite. We trust we snatched from nature another of its many secrets of beauty and of art.

Interdisciplinary in its perspective, and ranging widely, the affinity Masnata demonstrates for technical discourse is typical of the magazine culture of the 1930s as one might encounter it, for example, in *Comoedia*, the Italian bi-monthly devoted to theater, which represented the

²² F. T. Marinetti, *Critical Writings*, 2006, 411.

 $^{^{23}}$ The neutron was the last of the three basic particles of the atom to be discovered (1932): the proton and neutron in the nucleus of the atom, and the electron in the spheres around the nucleus, called "orbitals."

drama and theater culture rejected by Futurism; in *RadioOrario* (later *Radio Corriere*), Italian radio's weekly program guide that doubled as a cultural review and technical journal, represented the radio culture in Italy and abroad—also rejected by Futurism; and in *Scientia*, an international yearly review of science articles.²⁴ One feels this in the broad sweep and draft-like sketchiness of the writing:

There are those who sustain that the ultimate conclusion of modern physics is this: the universe is only a <u>thought</u>... And if it is true that the universe is only <u>thought</u>, radio ought to be the instrument best suited to investigate this. Will we in the future become radio receivers without the radio apparatus?

The second main theme Masnata pursues concerns the elements of radio art, the sounds, silences and radio techniques. Because much has been written on parole in libertà, I limit my comments to Masnata and Marinetti's designation of literature under the rubric *paroliberismo*, the Futurist literary style that dispenses with syntax to experiment with isolated words (*parole in libertà*), onomatopoeia, signs, symbols, numbers, colors and shapes. Claiming the *parolibero* style is the best of all styles suited to radio broadcasting, the co-authors offer an updated Futurist literary canon that includes Masnata's *Canti fascisti della metropoli verde* (1935), Marinetti's *Il golfo della Spezia* (1933), Alfred Döblin's *Alexanderplatz* (1929), John Dos Passos' *42nd Parallel* (1930), and Gabriele d'Annunzio's *Notturno* (written 1916, published 1921). The themes of d'Annunzio's novel dovetail perfectly with that of "*radia*": blindness and the invention of a new art made from thoughts, sensations and isolated or detached words.

²⁴ Comoedia was published by Mondadori in Milan. *RadioOrario* (later named *Radio Corriere*) was published by URI (later EIAR), and overseen by Raoul Chiodelli. *Scientia* was edited first by the philosopher/theorist/engineer Eugenio Rignano and published by Zanichelli in Bologna. All three journals covered world events in their fields. *Comoedia* and *RadioOrario* kept their readers up to date with events across Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, and America, and in the case of *RadioOrario*, South America. Masnata himself wrote a number of scientific articles for his profession.

Masnata's gloss of the twenty proposals of *La Radia* is organized into twenty sections framed by an introduction and a conclusion, though the correspondence between sections is not exact. The gloss conforms to two main subject categories: 1) transmission and reception, understood within the context of atomic theory and the electromagnetic spectrum and 2) the freeword or *parolibero* style and the art of *la radia*.

[Introduction]: The name radio art, *la radia*, why it has a feminine ending and why it differs from broadcasting.

Against Tradition: Why radio art differs from all previous arts.

<u>A New Art</u>: Examples given of Masnata's and Marinetti's radio dramas; qualities of a libretto appropriate to *la radia*.

<u>Universal or Cosmic Scenery</u>: The freedom of radio art to dispense with scenic space, to strive for an infinite space and reach and an infinite audience.

Tapping into Vibrations Emitted by the Living or the Dead: A quick review of the "life force" as defined by different cultures; the existence of radioactivity in every living body due to the presence of potassium; some recent scientific experiments that claim to isolate the "life force." Discussion of Lakhovsky.

<u>Tapping into Vibrations Emitted by Matter</u>: Discussion of atoms, particles and waves to ask "Does matter exist?" Discussion of astrology in relation to persons with "cosmic sensitivities" who can hear radio transmission without equipment.

Radiophonic Sensations: the necessity for surprise.

<u>Art Without Time and the Destruction of Time</u>: Tapping into voices of the past.

<u>Sintesi of Infinite Simultaneous Actions</u>: the radiophonic future will consist of "infinite simultaneous actions," with the example given of the

use of radio during the rescue of the crew of the airship Italia on the polar ice-pack.

Human, Universal and Cosmic Art as Voice: prediction of new uses of the microphone to project the "true psycho-spirituality of sounds, of voices, and of silence."

<u>Characteristic Life of Every Sound</u>: Proposal for "noise polyphonies" with a distinction made between the art of Luigi Russolo, inventor of Futurist noise machines, and Count Gaetano Mazzaglia Cutelli, the "Sound Wizard" of Hollywood and voice of "Porky" of *Loony Tunes*.

<u>The Battle Between Noises and Diverse Distances</u>: sounds heard from two locations in the same instant introduce a geographic tension to be exploited by radio art.

<u>Words in Freedom</u>: a re-iteration of Marinetti's characteristics of free verse as stated in 1912; the need to speak of *waves of free verse*; the death of syntax and prosody in favor of free verse and words-in-freedom; a catalogue of works in the free-word style, and the spread of words-infreedom throughout the world, "one of the most important successes of Fascist Italy."

<u>Isolated Words and Repetitions of Infinitive Verbs</u>: technical effects of *parolibero*, the Free Word style; preference for the infinitive construction of the verb, "the verb of four-dimensional art."

Essential Art: Radio art must obey the law of Essentiality in art—the reduction to "what is absolutely necessary," with its related requirement to acknowledge limits to the stamina of the radio listener.

<u>Music for Gastronomy Romance and Exercise, etc.</u>: the pairing of music to food, romance and exercise is a fine art not to be left to broadcast radio to supply as an accessory; and the derivation of music from words-infreedom. Interference Between Stations and Fading: the usefulness to a new radio art of the accidental and mysterious sounds during transmission.

<u>Geometric Demarcation and Construction of Silence</u>: The importance of silence to declamation and words-in-freedom. Characteristics of silence include depth, duration, size, length, volume, to be exploited by the new radio art. Review of famous actors whose silences "are the best part of their art."

Exploitation of Diverse Vocal Resonances: discussion of the art of timbre, shading and resonance of the voice as important to a radio art.

<u>Elimination of Public Influence</u>: Italians, who tend to be emotional and passionate, can be frustrated by radio listening and hostile to radio, as they lack influence and effective feedback. Futurists, as individualists, will be interested and will listen in a way that is interesting.

<u>Television</u>: holds the potential to render perceptible "every mysterious tapped wave."

[Conclusion]: "... We trust we snatched from nature another of its many secrets of beauty and of art."

jpg images:

1. First page of Masnata's gloss *Il Nome* (Beinecke Library, used with permission of Roberto Masnata)

2. *RadioCorriere*, 24-31 December 1933 "Sussuri dell Etere," a discussion of Futurist radio aesthetics by Guido Sommi-Picenardi.

3. *RadioCorriere*, 20 December 1931, program announcement of the Masnata-Guarino radio opera.

4. RadioCorriere, 17-24 October, 1931, promotional article for the Masnata-Guarino radio opera.

5. RadioCorriere, 10-17 September 1932, program announcement of Violetta e gli aeroplani

6. Censor's approval of Marinetti's radio drama Violetta e gli aeroplani, 1 April 1932.

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