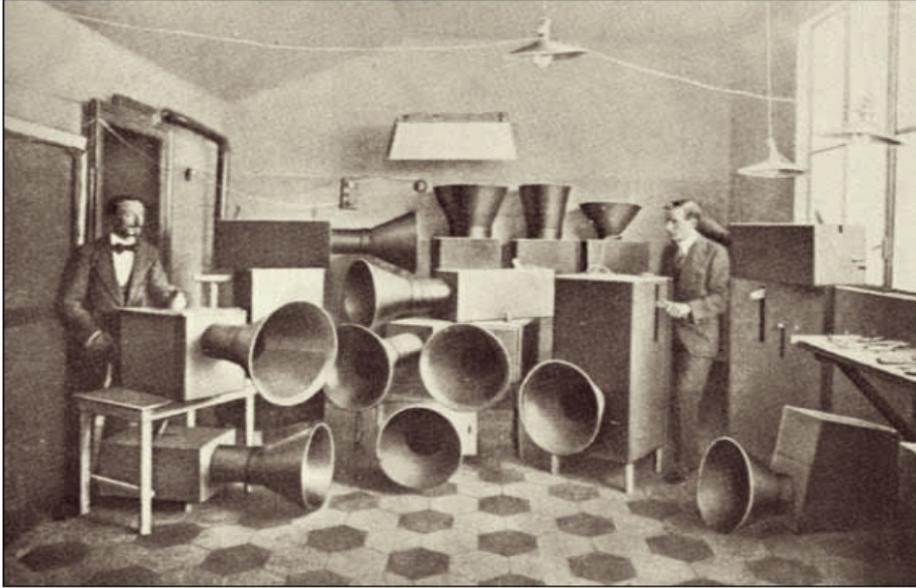


Luigi Russolo, experiments with music, sound, noise, and the grain of the voice



Luigi Russolo (left) and his assistant Ugo Piatti with their 'Intonarumori', 1913

Luigi Russolo (1885-1947) Italian Futurist, painter, musician and composer

Statements:

Ancient life was all silence. In the 19th century, with the invention of machines, Noise was born.

"...by selecting, coordinating, and controlling all the noises, we will enrich mankind with a new unsuspected pleasure of the senses."

The Italian Futurist, Luigi Russolo came to sounds from painting through poetry. Russolo invented a series of individual instruments 'Intonarumori'. They were named and categorized according to their sound, its pitch, frequency, and intensity —creating a music that let the instruments "speak for themselves". Russolo presented his musical theories in a manifesto entitled 'L'arte dei rumori' (The Art of Noises) in 1913 (12). The noise-generating instruments (hand-activated large scale boxes with megaphones attached) allowed the inclusion of 'noise' into musical composition. Russolo's first 'art-of-noises' concert for 18 'Intonarumori', caused a huge scandal in Milan (1914).