Leos Janacek - Věc Makropulos (The Makropulos Affair) [2012]

1. Act I 2. Act II 3. Act III Emilia Marty - Eva Urbanová Albert Gregor - Aleš Briscein Advokát dr. Kolenatý - Peter Mikuláš Solicitátor Vítek - Josef Kundlák Kristina, jeho dcera - Agnieszka Bochenek-Osiecka Baron Jaroslav Prus - Ivan Kusnjer Janek, jeho syn - Luciano Mastro Hauk - Šendorf - Václav Morys Strojník - Jaroslav Kosec Poklízečka - Erika Šporerová Komorná - Michaela Kapustová Men's Chorus and Orchestra of the Antonín Dvořák Natioanal Moravian-Silesian Theater Conductor - Robert Jindra Ostrava (Czech Republic) Live broadcast by Czech Radio Vltava 21 January 2012

In this work Janácek gave the operatic world one of the great roles for dramatic soprano. It is based on a story by pioneering Czech science-fiction writer Karel Capek (who invented the word "robot," by the way); the tale grows from the idea of a longevity serum. In the story, set in 1922, the fascinating opera singer Emelia Marty is interested in finding a will that figures in an inheritance lawsuit because attached to it is a document with the secret of the serum her father, the alchemist Hieronymous Makropulos, had tried on her 321 years earlier, when she was 16. The opera is about the recovery of the document, the unraveling of her secret, and her decision whether or not to prolong her life another 300 years. It is a unique tale, told with deft characterization and a human touch in Janácek's unique style, making use of unusually brief melodies which permit the telling of strong drama faster than in most other composers' operas. It takes a little getting used to Janácek's terse melodic style (which at critical moments often broaden into lovely lyrical outpourings), but this opera proves as fascinating as its heroine. --- Joseph Stevenson, Rovi

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