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Lisz't's Sardanapalo, Mazeppa — brought to life

Incomplete and long assumed not worth performing, the opera has now been reborn in a rich new version by David Trippett

This first-ever recording offers a fascinating glimpse of what might have been. Joyce El-Khoury and Airam Hernández are the singers bravely taking on the challenging lead roles and the Staatskapelle Weimar conducted by Kirill Karabits revels in the Gothic excess of Liszt's only mature operatic score. The tone poem Mazeppa makes a comparably rousing filler.

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