



## STREAMING THE FIRST CENTURY

### SESSION 1: Slavic Sensibilities

FEATURED CAST AND LIBRETTO EXCERPTS: *The Makropulos Case*, 1966

United States premiere

### THE MAKROPULOS CASE

(in English)

Music and libretto by Leoš Janáček

Based on the novel by Karel Capek

War Memorial Opera House

November 1966 (audience recording)

#### CAST

Emilia Marty	Marie Collier
Jaroslav Prus	Chester Ludgin
Albert Gregor	Gregory Dempsey
Dr. Kolenaty	Leon Lishner
Vitek	Robert Glover

Conductor	Jascha Horenstein
Production	Paul Hager

**Clip 1:** Prus baits the mysterious Emily Marty into revealing details of her identity and how she knows things she should not possibly know.

EMILY MARTY

You have got those letters

JAROSLAV PRUS

Maybe you know something more still ....  
About that harlot!

MARTY

How dare you! How dare you say that to me!  
By what right do you say that?

PRUS

But my dear lady, what is this?  
What does it mean to you a woman of doubtful  
character who lived a hundred years ago

MARTY

That's right. Nothing at all. So she was a harlot?

PRUS

You know last night I read those letters through.  
Shockingly amorous type, that woman

MARTY

You shouldn't have done that

PRUS

The allusions there, to strange practices, intimate  
things.  
I'm no novice, Miss Marty, but I must admit that the  
most accomplished rake hasn't got as much  
experience in certain matters as this lady

MARTY

What do you mean about it?

PRUS

And can you tell me the real name of this Ellian?

MARTY

Ellian MacGregor as you see from the letters

PRUS

Not so, not so! There is only E.M. No more

MARTY

That obviously stands for Ellian Macgregor

PRUS

It could stand just as well for Emilia Marty, Eugenia  
Montez or thousands of others

MARTY

But it is Ellian Macgregor

PRUS

Or rather Elina Makropulos, nationality Greek

MARTY

Damn you for that!

PRUS

So then you knew it?

MARTY

In the devil's name how did you know that?

PRUS

Very simple. Pepi's will refers to a certain Ferdinand born at Loukov on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1806, so I looked up the parish register ...

**Clip 2:** Seeking to retrieve the secret to her immortality from Prus, Emilia agrees to sleep with him to obtain the letter.

MARTY

Well then give me that document

PRUS

I won't do that

MARTY

Please give it to me

PRUS

And when? And when?

MARTY

Well, tonight?

PRUS

Agreed!

**Clip 3:** Realizing the meaninglessness of her timeless existence, Emilia decides to give the letter with the secret to Christa who promptly destroys it.

MARTY

In the end it's the same, Christina  
Singing and silence  
There's no joy in goodness

There is no joy in evil  
Joyless the earth, joyless the heavens  
When you know that  
Then your soul dies within you

VITEK, PRUS, DR KOLENATY  
Why did you come then, for that piece of paper?

MARTY  
Here it is in writing. Ego Hieronymos Makropulos,  
iatros kaisaros Rodolfu.  
I don't want it now! Well, take it someone.  
Nobody wants it?  
You here, Christina? I robbed you of your lover  
You're beautiful. You take it.  
You'll be famous and you'll sing like Emilia Marty!  
Take it, girl, take it, girl!

GREGOR, VITEK, PRUS, KOLENATY  
Stop her!

*Christina takes the document and holds it over the  
flame until it is burnt*

MARTY  
Pater hemon!