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Outrageously funny and gorily serious

NEW IN THE ARCHIVE: SIMON RATTLE CONDUCTS "LE GRAND MACABRE" IN A PRODUCTION BY PETER SELLARS



Photo: Monika Rittershaus

In his opera *Le Grand Macabre*, the Hungarian composer György Ligeti created an intriguing spectacle of horror and comedy. Premiered in 1978 and substantially revised in the 1990s, the work plays out in the fictitious "Breughelland" whose inhabitants won't give up their addiction to pleasure even though the end of the world has just been announced. In this production by Peter Sellars, who gives the work an apocalyptic setting, a brilliant ensemble of soloists, the Rundfunkchor Berlin and the Berliner Philharmoniker under the direction of chief conductor Sir Simon Rattle all helped make a huge success of this irresistible work with the press and public alike. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* praised the work as "refreshingly scathing, a sophisticated abundance of quotations, outrageously funny and gorily serious," which the chorus and orchestra presented "with precision and relish," together with the support of an "exquisite team of singers".

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