

Karol Szymanowski – King Roger (2008)

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1. Introduction 2. Act I 3. Intermission 1 4. Act II 5. Intermission 2 6. Act III 7. End
Comments Roger - Andrzej Dobber (baritone) Roxana - Elzbieta Szmytka (soprano) Edrisi - Sergei Semishkur (tenor) Shepherd - Pavlo Tolstoy (tenor) Archbishop - Yury Vorobiev (bass) Deaconess - Lyubov Sokolova (mezzo soprano) Orchestra and Chorus of the Mariinsky Opera Valery Gergiev - Conductor Edinburgh, Festival Theatre, Mon 25 & Wed Aug 27, 2008

Opera-philes have lean pickings at Edinburgh this year, but there is something special. The highlight of the Mariinsky Theatre's short festival residency is Karol Szymanowski's masterpiece, *Król Roger*, a struggle between rationality and Dionysian abandon set in 12th-century Sicily. It's one of the landmarks in early 20th-century opera, and hasn't been seen in Britain for more than 20 years. The Mariinsky's production, which is directed by Mariusz Trelinski, has a Polish-Russian mixed cast, Valery Gergiev conducts, and the score is exactly the kind of heady music that brings out all his best theatrical instincts. --- Andrew Clements, theguardian.com

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