

Ferenc Erkel was the father of Hungarian grand opera, as well as an accomplished conductor, pianist and administrator. The last of his nine completed operas, *István király*, is a tale of passionate emotions, love, jealousy, power struggles and murder in which King Stephen, the founder of the Hungarian state and its first Christian ruler, is portrayed as a saint amidst the clash of pagan and Christian worlds. After 125 years of ruinous cuts and alterations to the music and the libretto, this recording is the first to restore the opera to the resoundingly successful form conceived by its composer.

Ferenc
ERKEL
(1810-1893)

King Stephen (István király) (1874-1884)
Opera in Four Acts

Libretto by Antal Váradí, based on Lajos Dobsa's *I. István király*

István, the king of Hungary	János Gurbán, Baritone
Imre, the prince, his son	Zoltán Nyári, Tenor
Crescimira, a Croatian princess, his fiancée	Zsuzsanna Bazsinka, Soprano
Vazul, István's cousin	Kázmér Sárkány, Baritone
Sebős, a courtier	Tamás Daróczy, Tenor
Zolna, a lady-in-waiting	Ildikó Szakács, Soprano
Péter, István's nephew	Akos Ambrus, Baritone

Soloists • King Stephen Opera Chorus
Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV • Valéria Csányi

CD 1	75:11	CD 2	66:49
1-4 Act One	28:03	1-3 Act Three (contd.)	18:53
5-11 Act Two	34:54	4-10 Act Four	47:56
12-13 Act Three (Beginning)	12:13		

A detailed track and cast list can be found inside the booklet.

The Hungarian libretto can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660345.htm

Recorded at Rottenbiller Street Studio of Hungaroton, Budapest, Hungary,

on 26th and 27th August, 2012 • Producer: János Bojti • Engineer and editor: János Győri
Booklet notes: István Kassai • Manuscript score and parts held in the Hungarian National Library

Cover photograph: *Statue in St Stephen's Basilica, Budapest* by Peter Aczel



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Playing Time
2:22:00



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