Samuel Ramey outstanding as Macbeth at the Met

MACBETH

Opera by Giuseppe Verdi.
At the Metropolitan Opera, New York.
Kazimierz Kord conducting.
January 21 at 2 pm, January 27, 30, February 4, 5, 11, 15 at 8 pm.
To be broadcast on "Saturday Afternoon at the Met" on WCRB 102.5 FM at 2 pm on January 22.

by JULIAN WEST

"MACBETH" is not the greatest of Verdi's operatic works. The music is frequently wonderful, but it is sometimes unremarkable and sometimes completely out of place: the witches dance to music that is neither wonderful nor threatening; Duncan marches in and we are straight back to a sixteenth century court, no matter how rugged the castle, or how blasted the heath outside.

Nevertheless, there is enough of substance in the opera to provide for some interesting moments worth hearing, and is solidly rendered under the direction of Kazimierz Kord. The opera will be this week's selection in the Met's regular Saturday afternoon broadcast series.

Elizabeth Connell as Lady Macbeth and Frederick Burchinal as Macbeth in Verdi's "Macbeth."