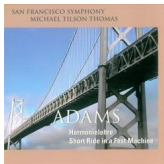


John Adams – Harmonielehre (Thomas)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 01 September 2010 10:06 - Last Updated Monday, 05 August 2013 22:13

John Adams – Harmonielehre (Thomas)



1. Part I 2. Part II: *The Anfortas Wound* 3. Part III: *Meister Eckhardt and Quackie* 4. *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* San Francisco Symphony Michael Tilson Thomas – conductor

Of the music by the four reigning minimalists in this country (Steve Reich, Philip Glass, and Terry Riley are the others), that of John Adams is perhaps the simplest, constructed on punctuated--and percussive--chords riding above coherent melodies. This is probably why Adams has had such success with his two operas. 'Harmonielehre' is a sustained orchestral piece in three sections--trptychs framing a slow second movement of unusual somberness, given the gaiety of the opening section. Part III, called "Meister Eckhardt and Quackie", is a sprightly fairy tale of shimmering, glissando-like textures underscored by a dignified flowing melody.

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