Arvo Part – Cello Concerto - Symphonies 1 – 3 (1992)



Cello Concerto ‘Pro et contra’
I. Maestoso
II. Largo
III. Allegro

Perpetuum Mobile, Op.10

Symphony No.1 'Polyphonic'
I. Canons
II. Prelude And Fugue

Symphony No.2
I. First Movement
II. Second Movement
III. Third Movement

Symphony No.3
I. First Movement
II. Second Movement
III. Third Movement

Frans Helmerson - cello
Bamberg Symphony Orchestra
Neeme Jarvi – conductor

The symphonies of Arvo Pärt will surprise anyone familiar with his contemplative, mature style. Pärt began life as a member of the Eastern European modern school, not so far removed from contemporaries such as Penderecki and Górecki. His three symphonies show his gradual renunciation of the more radical aspects of his musical syntax, a return to emotional directness,

and the beginnings of that otherworldly quality that has become the outstanding feature of his later work. Not all listeners have traveled the path with him, some finding his recent music tedious and pretentious rather than spiritual, and these three relatively early symphonies really do add a welcome depth and roundness of profile to a composer who can all too easily seem one-dimensional. It's important to keep in mind that, unlike so many members of today's pseudospiritual school of composers (England's John Tavener being the prime example), Pärt is a real composer operating even in the most mystical musings. Järvi deserves real credit for calling attention to this fact in such a powerful way. ---David Hurwitz, Editorial Review

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