

Valentin Silvestrov - Spectra, Eschatophony, Meditation (1976)

Written by bluesever

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1-3. *Spectra* (1965) *Symphony for chamber orchestra* Igor Blazhkov, conductor Recorded live in the Great Hall of the Leningrad Philharmonic, 1965 (world premiere)

4-6. *Eschatophony* (1966) *Symphony No. 3 for large symphony orchestra* Bruno Maderna, conductor Recorded live at the Darmstadt international Summer Courses for New Music, 1968 (world premiere)

7. *Meditation* (1972) *Symphony for cello and orchestra* Valentin Potapov, cello Igor Blazhkov, conductor Recorded live at the Kiev Philharmonic, 1976

Valentin Silvestrov is a famous composer and his discography is rather large thanks to Megadisc Classics and ECM Records. But his works of the 60s and early 70s are barely known, only a pair of them are recorded on CDs, whereas they are not less interesting than the later ones (I guess that for someone they can be even more interesting). Silvestrov was a very important and probably the most radical figure of so-called "soviet avant-garde" during the 60s. He has won the 1970 Gaudeamus Composers' Competition with his Third Symphony "Eschatophony". This composition was created in 1968 in Darmstadt (where it was well received by Adorno) under the direction of Bruno Maderna and you can listen to this world premiere on this CD. As well as you can listen to the creation of Silvestrov's chamber symphony "Spectra" in 1965 in Leningrad. It's absolutely amazing that such kind of music as "Spectra" or Denisov's "The Sun of Incas" could be performed in USSR in the 60th. It became possible thanks to such brave and enthusiastic musicians as, for example, Gennady Rozhdestvensky (in the case of Denisov, Schnittke, Gubaidulina) or Igor Blazhkov who conducts "Spectra" and "Meditation" on this CD. As for "Meditation" it's a kind of passage from Silvestrov's avant-garde period to his later "meta-music".

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