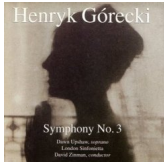


Henryk Gorecki – Symphony No.3 op.36 (Zinman) [1992]

Written by bluesever

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Symphony No. 3, Op. 36 ("Symphony of Sorrowful Songs") 1) *Lento - sostenuto tranquillo ma cantabile* (26:46) 2) *Lento e Largo - tranquillissimo* (9:45) 3) *Lento - cantabile semplice* (17:09)
Dawn Upshaw,
Soprano London Sinfonietta David Zinman, Conductor Nonesuch 1992

Symphony No. 3, Op. 36, also known as the Symphony of Sorrowful Songs (Polish: *Symfonia pie[ni] [a]Bosnych*), is a symphony in three movements composed by Henryk Grecki in Katowice, Poland, between October and December 1976. The work is indicative of the transition between Grecki's dissonant earlier manner and his more tonal later style.

A solo soprano sings a different Polish text in each of the three movements. The first is a 15th-century Polish lament of Mary, mother of Jesus, the second a message written on the wall of a Gestapo cell during World War II, and the third a Silesian folk song of mother searching for son killed in the Silesian uprisings. The first and third movements are written from the perspective of a parent who has lost a child, and the second movement from that of a child separated from a parent. The dominant themes of the symphony are motherhood and separation through war.

Until 1992, Grecki was known only to connoisseurs, primarily as one of several composers responsible for the postwar Polish music renaissance. That year, Elektra-Nonesuch released a recording of the 15-year-old symphony that topped the classical charts in Britain and the United States. It has now sold more than a million copies, vastly exceeding the expected lifetime sales of a typical symphonic recording by a 20th-century composer. ---muzikupdate.com

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