

Penderecki: Violin Concerto No. 1 - Horn Concerto (2010)

Written by bluesever

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Concerto for Violin and Orchestra 1. *Andante* 2. *Lento* 3. *Tempo di marcia* 4. *Meno Mosso*
5. *Concerto for Horn and Orchestra - 'Winterreise'* Robert Kabara - violin Radovan Vlatković – horn Sinfonietta Cracovia Krzysztof Penderecki – conductor

Krzysztof Penderecki has long maintained that his concertos contain some of his most intimate and personal music, though the two recorded here take us into very different emotional territory. The vast, hard-hitting First Violin Concerto, written in 1977 while his father was dying, was the work that marked his return to more conservative modes of composition after his period as an avant-garde tearaway. Bruckner is often cited as the influence behind its intense if slow-moving musical logic. But there are also emotional overtones of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto in the dramatic conflict between orchestral anguish and the soloist's infinite powers of consolation. The Horn Concerto dates from 2008 and is altogether more Baroque and exuberant. Its Schubertian title is a bit of a blind, since the "winter journey" referred to is a childhood hunting trip with his uncle, the memories of which spark off a celebration of mankind's supposed union with nature. You might not care for the underlying concept, but there's no doubting this is both a real feel-good piece, and a superb virtuoso entertainment. Recorded with state-of-the-art sonics, Penderecki conducts both performances himself. The Sinfonia Cracovia is his keenly responsive orchestra. Both soloists – violinist Robert Kabara and horn player Radovan Vlatkovic – are phenomenal. --- Tim Ashley, theguardian.com

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