Krzysztof Penderecki – Complete Cello Concertos (2006)

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Arto Noras – cello Sinfonia Varsovia – Sinfonia Varsovia 01. Concerto For Cello And Orchestra No. 1 (1967 - 1972) 02. Concerto For Cello And Orchestra No. 2 (1982) 03. Concerto For Viola And Chamber Orchestra (1983) Arto Noras – cello Sinfonia Varsovia Krzysztof Penderecki - conductor

Penderecki's First Cello Concerto - its startlingly atmospheric opening used to dramatic effect in the soundtrack to 'The Exorcist' - is an impressively gripping score, leaving a resonance in the memory quite out of proportion to its modest dimensions. The Second, composed in Penderecki's smoochy, neo-Romantic idiom, is less memorable though is well crafted. If it has not made the same mark on the modern repertoire, this is due to the riches of the modern cello concerto and this makes it curious why adapting the lovely Viola Concerto - written as he moved from avant gardism to post-modernism - onto the cello would be thought a good idea. It is only likely to deflect attention away from Penderecki's two numbered concertos!

Arto Noras is a player I have admired for decades and his rich tone and lyrical impulse and is heard at his best in the Second Concerto and Viola Concerto arrangement. In the First, his fine performance does not match Siegfried Palm's pioneering original account. A reissue, Warner's sound is fine. ---Mr. Guy Rickards, amazon.com

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