Schoenberg - Violin Concerto (Hilary Hahn) [2008]

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Violin Concerto, Op.36 *1) 1. Poco Allegro [11:36] 2) 2. Andante grazioso [7:30] 3) 3. Finale. Allegro [10:38]*   Hilary Hahn - violin Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra Esa-Pekka Salonen - conductor

The Violin Concerto (Op. 36) by Arnold Schoenberg dates from Schoenberg's time in the United States, where he had moved in 1933 to escape the Nazis. The piece was written in 1936, the same year as the String Quartet No. 4.

Schoenberg had made a return to tonal writing upon his move to America and, though the Violin Concerto uses twelve-tone technique, its neoclassical form demanded a mimesis of tonal melody, and hence a renunciation of the motivic technique used in his earlier work in favour of a thematic structure (Rosen 1996, 101).

It is in a three movement quick-slow-quick form, traditional for concertos:

Poco allegro—Vivace. Opinion is divided about the form of the first movement. According to one authority, it is in sonata form (Keller 1961, 157), while another asserts it is a large ternary form, concluding with a cadenza and a coda (Mean 1985, 140). It employs a wide variety of row forms, often in families associated by hexachordal content (Mead 1985, 141).

Andante grazioso

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Finale: Allegro. The last movement is a rondo with an unusually dynamic development. It only gradually becomes clear that the underlying character is that of a march. There is a second cadenza just before the end, which rounds off the whole work in cyclic fashion (Keller 1961, 157).

The concerto was premiered on December 6, 1940, by the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski with Louis Krasner as the soloist (Krasner had previously given the premiere of the Violin Concerto by Schoenberg's pupil, Alban Berg). ---wikipedia

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