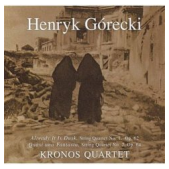
Henryk Gorecki – String Quartets 1 & 2 (Kronos Quartet) [1993]



Already It Is Dusk String Quartet No. 1, Op. 62 (1988) *1) DECISO; MOLTO LENTO-TRANQUILLO; ALLEGRO DECISO-GRIDANDO; MARTELLANDO-TEMPESTOSO; MOLTO LENTO-TRANQUILLISSIMO (13:59)*

Quasi una Fantasia String Quartet No. 2, Op. 64 (1990/91)
2) I. LARGO SOSTENUTO-MESTO (8:07) 3) II. DECISO-ENERGICO; FURIOSO, TRANQUILLO-MESTO (6:45) 4) III. ARIOSO: ADAGIO CANTABILE (7:24) 5) IV. ALLEGRO-SEMPRE CON GRANDE PASSIONE E MOLTO MARCATO; LENTO-TRANQUILLISSIMO (9:31)
KRONOS QUARTET: David Harrington, violin John Sherba, violin Hank Dutt, viola Joan Jeanrenaud, cello 1993 Elektra/Nonesuch

Kronos Quartet performs Polish composer Henryk Górecki's fist two string quartets for an album Time describes as “sanguine in its magisterial technique and confident in its calm, unmannered directness of expression.” Both pieces were commissioned by Lincoln Center and dedicated to Kronos, marking a renewal of the composer’s interest in instrumental music during a decade of writing mainly for the voice.

"The three string quartets Henryk Górecki wrote for Kronos are a totally unique body of work," writes Kronos Quartet Artistic Director David Harrington of the composer, who passed away earlier today. "With Already it is Dusk, Quasi una fantasia, and ...songs are sung, Górecki extended a tradition that includes Bach and Beethoven, among many others." Read Harrington's personal remembrances here and see photos of Kronos and the composer.
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