

In 1907 Mahler suffered a series of severe losses. Following pressure, he resigned his position as Director of the Court Opera in Vienna. After his elder daughter Maria died, he himself received the diagnosis of a severe heart condition. During the summer of 1908, Mahler sketched *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth), a 'symphony for two vocal soloists and orchestra'. The texts, taken from Hans Bethge's *The Chinese Flute*, are concerned with the themes of transience and loss, culminating in the overwhelming *Der Abschied* (The Farewell). The Houston Symphony and Hans Graf have recorded Zemlinsky and Berg on Naxos 8.572048; 'tonally sumptuous and emotionally expansive'. (*Allmusic.com*)

Gustav
MAHLER
(1860-1911)

Das Lied von der Erde
(The Song of the Earth)

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|---|--|-------|
| 1 | I. Das Trinklied vom Jammer der Erde
(The Drinking Song of the Earth's Sorrow) | 8:41 |
| 2 | II. Der Einsame im Herbst (The Lonely One in Autumn) | 9:32 |
| 3 | III. Von der Jugend (Of Youth) | 3:18 |
| 4 | IV. Von der Schönheit (Of Beauty) | 6:58 |
| 5 | V. Der Trunkene im Frühling (The Drunkard in Spring) | 4:32 |
| 6 | VI. Der Abschied (The Farewell) | 29:45 |

Jane Henschel, Mezzo-soprano 2 4 6
Gregory Kunde, Tenor 1 3 5
Houston Symphony • Hans Graf

Recorded live at Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, Houston, Texas, USA, from 19th to 22nd November, 2009 • Producer and editor: Michael Fine • Assistant producer: Tamra Saylor Fine
Engineer: Brad Sayles • Assistant engineer: Ryan Edwards
Mixing and mastering: Michael Fine and Wolf-Dieter Karwatky (BKL Studio Hannover)
Recording equipment provided by KUHF Houston Public Radio • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson
Cover: *Design for a Chinese Temple* by G. Landi (fl. c. 1810)
(Private Collection / The Stapleton Collection / The Bridgeman Art Library)

NAXOS

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8.572498

Playing Time
62:46



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