

pas de deux from *Swan Lake*, taken from the companion DVD *The Paris Opera Ballet: Seven Ballets*. Recommended for dance collections, and a strong optional purchase elsewhere. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

REO Speedwagon: Live in the Heartland ★★★

(2008) 94 min. DVD: \$19.99. Koch Vision (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 1-4172-3086-X.



Veteran rockers REO Speedwagon punch out a polished 94-minute set for this PBS-aided *Soundstage* performance from July 2008 in which frontman Kevin Cronin still sings in the same boyish style that brought his quintet to fame in the 1980s with staples such as "Take it on the Run," "Can't Fight This Feeling," "Time for Me to Fly," and "Keep on Loving You," most of which hail from 1978's *You Can Tune a Piano...* and 1980's *Hi Infidelity*. More recent material from 2007's *Find Your Own Way Home* leaves less of an impression, but longtime fans will surely appreciate the inclusion of 1971's "157 Riverside Avenue" and 1972's "Golden Country" in the 16-song set (expanded from the broadcast's abbreviated 10 songs). Some of Dave Amato's guitar noodling here has a distinctly '80s sound (he alternates between single and double-necked axes), but REO's tight and timeless harmonies help counteract such dated tendencies, suggesting a crunchier version of The Eagles. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, DVD extras include an interview with Cronin and keyboard player Neal Doughty, as well as a pair of bonus acoustic numbers. Recommended. Aud: P. (K. Fennessy)

Snoop Dogg: Drop It Like It's Hot ★★★1/2

(2005) 2 discs. 85 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

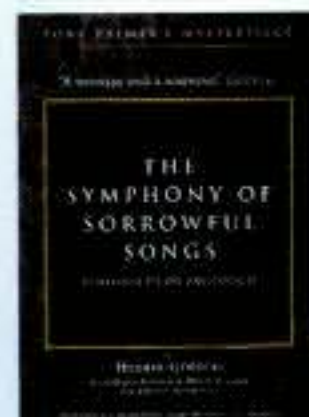


What Calvin Broadus—aka Snoop Dogg—lacks in finesse, he makes up for in personality. The lanky, Long Beach-born MC may not challenge Jay-Z for flow supremacy, but he successfully whips the crowd into a frenzy during this 2005 concert in Brussels featuring Snoop, Soopafly, DJ Jam, and Tha Snoopadelics (a guitarist, bassist, drummer, and keyboard player) performing a 20-song set incorporating all of the big hits ("Murder Was the Case," "Gin & Juice," etc.). Snoop brings in his back-up singing Uncle Reo and dancers for songs such as "P.I.M.P.," "Beautiful," "2 of America's Most Wanted," and "Snoop's Upside Ya Head" (with his Uncle June Bug). Snoop also adds free-styling to "Pump, Pump" (featuring the Game) and "Lay Low," while Tha Snoopadelics serve up deep-dish grooves that recall '70s greats like Parliament and

the Ohio Players. *Drop It Like It's Hot* isn't for all tastes (with all the profanity, sexual imagery, and drug references—cannabis-like shrubbery surrounds the stage), but there's no doubt Snoop provides good bang for the entertainment buck. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, DVD extras here include two live tracks from 2001's *Sumfest*, the GQ article "Snoop Dogg—Ten Commandments," and an accompanying booklet. A gangsta rap essential, this is highly recommended. Aud: P. (K. Fennessy)

The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs ★★1/2

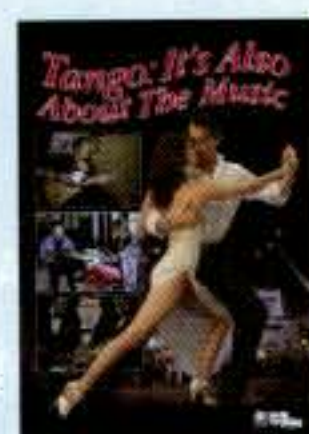
(2007) 53 min. DVD: \$28.98. Isolde Films (avail. from most distributors).



Polish composer Henryk Górecki's "Symphony No. 3," which consists of three slow movements featuring soprano solos on the subject of loss (a 15th-century Polish lament, a message written on the wall of a Gestapo cell during WWII, and a Silesian folk song of a mother searching for a son killed in an uprising), was composed in 1976 but remained little known until 1992, when a recording by soprano Dawn Upshaw and the London Sinfonietta under David Zinman became a surprise international hit. Filmmaker Tony Palmer's *The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs*, originally broadcast on British television in 1993, features a performance of "Symphony No. 3" by the same artists, but overlays the music with excerpts from interviews of Górecki (who talks about the background to the composition), as well as archival footage of Nazi death camps, new footage of Górecki at Auschwitz and Birkenau, and shots of victims of war and famine (many children) in the Balkans and Africa. Palmer obviously intended to expand upon the symphony by adding verbal and visual commentary, but his efforts also distract from one's ability to appreciate Górecki's work on its own terms, so while this is a powerful film in many respects, some will feel that it diminishes the very symphony it aims to honor. A strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Tango: It's Also About the Music ★★★

(2007) 83 min. DVD: \$19.95 (\$89.95 w/PPR). Media Targeting Associates.



Mercedes García Guevara's *Tango: It's Also About the Music* features shots of a tango couple practicing and performing (as well as a few sequences with youngsters being taught the steps in school), and boasts some solid archival material (including a tribute to the great singer Carlos Gardel), but the emphasis here, as the title suggests, is on the contemporary Argentinean composers and bands who create and perform tango

music. Interview clips with the musicians are combined with fly-on-the-wall rehearsal footage and performance sequences shot in clubs and outdoor venues, as well as atmospheric scenes of Buenos Aires (especially at night), a city inextricably linked to the tango. In showcasing some of the most notable artists in Argentine music today, the film illustrates how these talented newcomers add imaginative modern touches to their work while also remaining true to tradition. DVD extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette and a slideshow. Although most tango documentaries focus on dancers, this appreciative look at the music will definitely appeal to tango lovers. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Yes: The New Director's Cut ★★★

(2003) 2 discs. 256 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



Featuring a pair of 2003 European concerts from Birmingham, England and the Glastonbury Festival, *Yes: The New Director's Cut* features the classic Yes lineup of singer Jon Anderson, guitarist Steve Howe, keyboardist Rick Wakeman, bassist Chris Squire, and drummer Alan White during their 35th anniversary world tour. Prog rock fans will enjoy the 16-track set (with a couple medleys), which includes such timeless Yes tunes as "And You and I," "I've Seen All Good People," "Heart of the Sunrise," "Roundabout," "Long Distance Runaround," "South Side of the Sky," and "Siberian Khatru," as well as a handful of lesser-played tunes, including the 19-minute "Awaken" (off 1977's *Going for the One*) and "Don't Kill the Whale" (from 1978's *Tormato*). In addition, the band plays "In the Presence Of" and the title cut from 2001's *Magnification*. The Yes men also get a chance to shine in solo spots, with Wakeman serving up a couple abridged tunes from his own *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, Howe doing a wonderful rendition of "To Be Over" and his staple "The Clap," and Squire and White jamming on "The Fish" (with bits from songs off *Tormato* and 1980's *Drama* tossed in). The companion Glastonbury concert offers a 10-song truncated version of the Birmingham performance. Unfortunately, the "director's cut" of the Birmingham set features numerous in-between-song interviews with band members and crew, as well as behind-the-scenes footage (often interesting, but nevertheless interruptions of the music). Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS, and stereo, this is not as impressive a presentation (visually or musically) as *Yes 35th Anniversary Concert: Songs from Tsongas* (VL-11/05) or *Yes Symphonic Live* (VL-9/02), but will still definitely appeal to fans. Recommended. Aud: P. (R. Pitman)