

It is a tone poem for orchestra, a form of orchestral music that seeks to convey a narrative or depict a specific scene or mood. The piece is characterized by its emotional depth, lyrical melodies, and evocative orchestration. It was premiered by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in 1926, conducted by Howard Hanson himself. The work is a single-movement tone poem that captures the tragic and heroic elements of the Beowulf story. While it is a continuous piece, it often unfolds in distinct sections that correspond to different episodes or emotions within the narrative.

"Lament for Beowulf" is regarded as one of Hanson's early masterpieces and showcases his ability to create compelling and emotionally charged orchestral music.

The piece contributes to the broader context of American classical music in the early to mid-20th century.

It is an important work in Howard Hanson's oeuvre, and its exploration of heroic and tragic themes aligns with the composer's broader interest in romanticism and storytelling through music.

The image shows the front cover of a DVD. The background is a blurred photograph of a conductor, Howard Hanson, in a white coat, standing in a lush, green outdoor setting with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the top half of the cover in white, bold, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'HD TT' (High Definition Tape Transfers) with a copyright symbol and the text 'HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS' below it.

HOWARD HANSON
SYMPHONY NO. 2, Op. 30
"ROMANTIC"
THE LAMENT FOR BEOWULF
EASTMAN-ROCHESTER ORCHESTRA
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHORUS
HOWARD HANSON, conducting

Howard Hanson's Symphony No. 2, Op. 30, is one of his most well-known and frequently performed compositions. Hanson, an American composer and conductor (1896–1981), wrote this symphony in 1930. The Symphony No. 2 is often referred to as the "Romantic Symphony" and is considered one of his most significant works. Hanson composed the Symphony No. 2 in 1930 while he was the director of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

The premiere took place on November 28, 1930, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Serge Koussevitzky.

The Symphony No. 2 is often characterized by its lush and romantic orchestration, reflecting Hanson's affinity for late-Romantic and early 20th-century European musical traditions. Some listeners and critics have drawn parallels between Hanson's Symphony No. 2 and the music of composers like Jean Sibelius and Carl Nielsen.

The Symphony No. 2 received positive reviews after its premiere, establishing Howard Hanson as a prominent American composer. The work has continued to be well-regarded

for its emotional depth, melodic richness, and orchestral color. Hanson's Second Symphony remains one of his most performed and recorded works. It is considered a significant contribution to American symphonic repertoire.

Howard Hanson's Symphony No. 2 stands as a testament to his ability to blend traditional Romantic elements with his own distinct voice, contributing to the landscape of American orchestral music in the early 20th century.

"Lament for Beowulf" is a symphonic eulogy for the hero Beowulf, drawing inspiration from the Old English epic poem "Beowulf." Hanson wrote it in 1925, and it is considered one of his early and notable compositions.

The composition is inspired by the heroic narrative of "Beowulf," an Old English epic poem that tells the story of the heroic Geatish warrior Beowulf and his battles against the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother, and a dragon.

Howard Hanson was known for his interest in Nordic and Scandinavian themes, and this is reflected in the piece." The work showcases Hanson's romantic and expressive style, drawing on the grandeur and drama of the source material.



Howard Hanson

Symphony No. 2 "Romantic"

Lament For Beowulf

Howard Hanson / Eastman-Rochester Orchestra
Eastman School Of Music Chorus

- Symphony No. 2, Op. 30 "Romantic"**
- 1 Adagio; Allegro Moderato 13:56
 - 2 Andante Con Tenerezza 6:35
 - 3 Allegro Con Brio 7:15
 - 4 **Lament For Beowulf** 17:38

Recorded on 5/4/58 by Mercury at Eastman Theatre, Rochester, NY
Engineer - Robert Fine Musical Supervisor - Harold Lawrence



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info@highdeftapetransfers.ca
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.ca

