

LEE HYLA LIVES OF THE SAINTS [1003]

AT SUMA BEACH

Mary Nessinger, mezzo-soprano

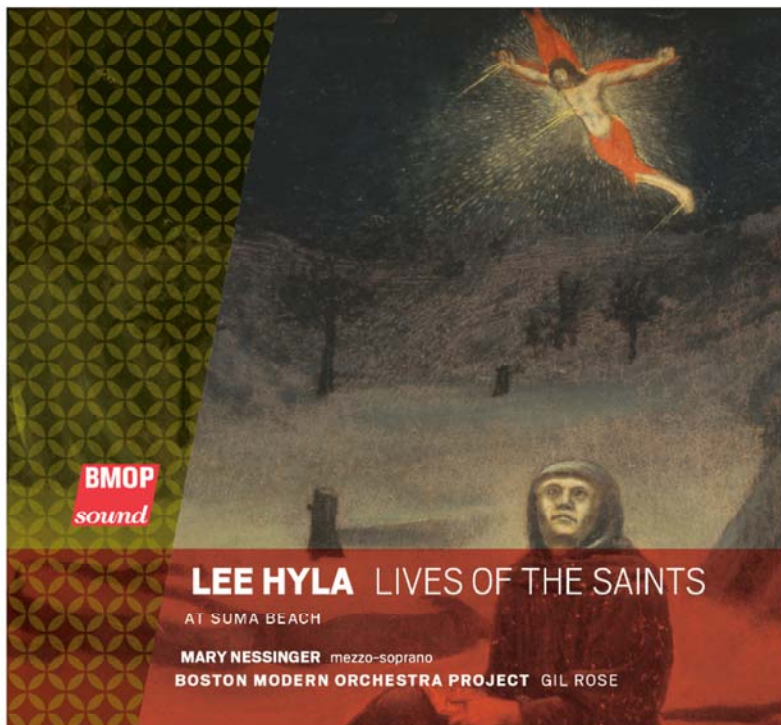
BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT

GIL ROSE, CONDUCTOR

Lee Hyla's epic *Lives of the Saints* is a set of psychological character studies filled with fierce musical and spiritual imagination, inspired by a diverse group of 13th- and 14th-century writings by or about saints. Through his masterful composition of colors, textures, and rhythmic impulses, Hyla evokes a landscape of torment, delirium, and ecstasy. The lyrical *At Suma Beach* (based on a Noh play) provides a satisfying contrast to *Lives's* turbulence. Both pieces feature the magnificent Mary Nessinger, whose theatrical impulses, coupled with the keen sensibility of Gil Rose and his ensemble, illuminate the expressive possibilities of Hyla's music.



BMOP/sound, the label of the acclaimed Boston Modern Orchestra Project, explores the evolution of the music formerly known as classical. Its eclectic catalog offers both rediscovered classics of the 20th Century and the music of today's most influential and innovative composers. BMOP/sound gives adventurous listeners a singular opportunity to explore the music that is defining this generation and the next.



THE BOSTON GLOBE

Best CDs of 2008

"This recording brought back memories of a rapturous concert performance of *Lives of the Saints* from 2006, with these same forces. Hyla takes texts by saints Francis and Teresa and others and sets them ablaze in unusual colors and irregular rhythms. Mezzo-soprano Mary Nessinger sings, speaks, and shouts as if possessed. After years in Boston, Hyla decamped in 2007 for Chicago; this is a timely reminder of his importance ... it also whets the appetite for future releases from BMOP's innovative label."

AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

"Much of Mr. Hyla's music seems to be both improvised and coldly calculated. The mix is arresting and individual, though the result is not for casual listeners ... the production as a whole is one of the more overwhelming I've encountered lately ... [a] well-produced release from Gil Rose's ambitious label."

FANFARE

"Hyla's found a way to do what many composers have attempted but failed at—to produce a genuinely American form of Expressionism, freed from the trappings of fin de siècle Vienna ... special praise needs to go out to Mary Nessinger, who is a singer to die for. Not only does she have the technique to handle the often-ferocious demands of this music, but also her dramatic skills are superlative."