

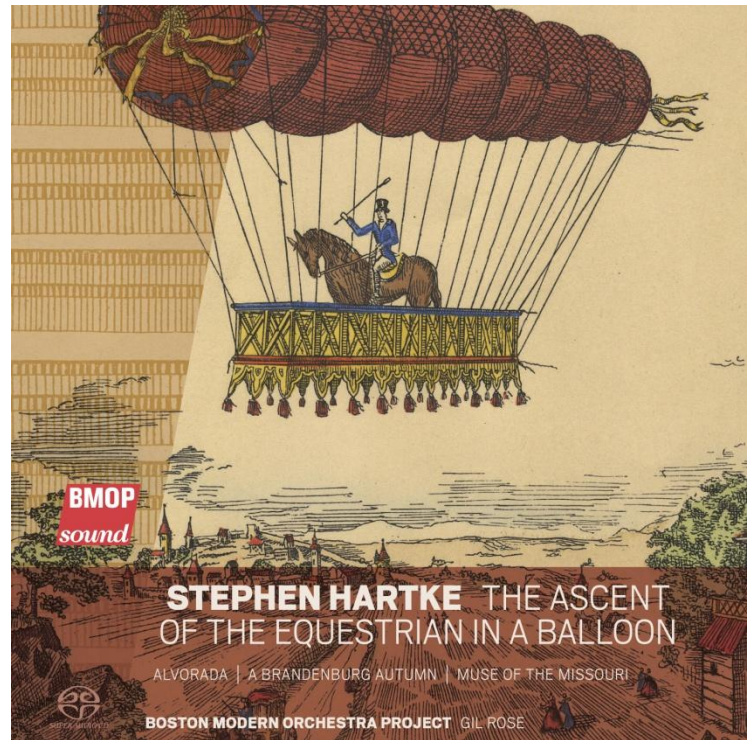
**STEPHEN HARTKE** THE ASCENT OF THE  
EQUESTRIAN IN A BALLOON [1052]  
ALVORADA | A BRANDENBURG AUTUMN  
MUSE OF THE MISSOURI

**BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT**  
GIL ROSE, CONDUCTOR

The whimsically titled *The Ascent of the Equestrian in a Balloon* is a perfect window into the mind of composer Stephen Hartke, whose boundless imagination and creativity is represented by four works in this latest release from BMOP/sound. The inspiration for *Ascent* was a quirky, surreal 18th-century woodcut, and it's a playful piece written in celebration of the composer's two-year-old son's birthday. Spanning a period of three decades, the other works on the disc cover a range of characters and influences. *Alvorada*, subtitled "three madrigals for string orchestra," is a melodic, polyphonic exploration of medieval lyric poetry. *A Brandenburg Autumn*, written for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra's "New Brandenburgs" commissioning project, is a dialogue, from a modern perspective, with Bach's groundbreaking orchestral works. And *Muse of the Missouri* is rooted in a sense of place: the celebrated fountains of Kansas City, MO, where the composer has many friends and colleagues. The performers of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, led by Gil Rose, shine in both small and large ensemble groupings.



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



#### **CLASSICAL CD REVIEW**

"Excellent performances from Gil Rose and his fine orchestra—with audio to match."

#### **GAPPLEGATE**

"[*The Ascent of the Equestrian in a Balloon*] is another cornerstone in the Boston Modern Orchestra Project led by Gil Rose.... A real stand-out! Hartke must be heard."

#### **MUSICWEB INTERNATIONAL**

"Recorded and performed with the BMOP's usual stylishness and thoroughly positive vibes, this is a collection of superb orchestral works that deserves a place in any record collection."

#### **THE NATION**

**The Best Albums of 2017**

#### **THE NEW YORK TIMES –**

**25 Best Classical Recordings of 2017**

"If the title of 'The Ascent' doesn't grab you, the breathless, fractured, skittish music will."