

MATHEW ROSENBLUM LAMENT/WITCHES' SABBATH

David Krakauer, clarinet

BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT

GIL ROSE, CONDUCTOR

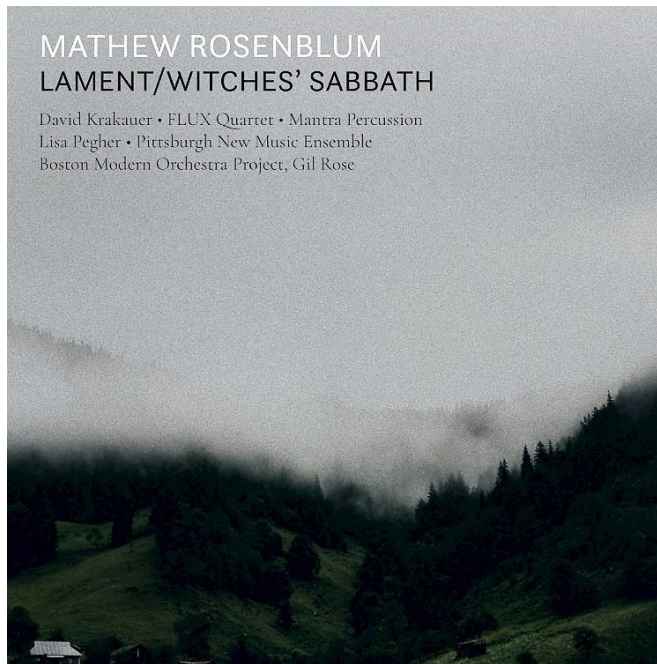
The title track, *Lament/Witches' Sabbath*, written for the extraordinary clarinet soloist David Krakauer and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project led by conductor Gil Rose, is Rosenblum's most personal piece to date. When he was a child, his grandmother told him the story of how she fled the well-documented 1919 massacre in Proskurov, Ukraine, with six children and pregnant with his mother. *Lament/Witches' Sabbath* involves the recounting of his family history by incorporating Ukrainian and Jewish lament field recordings, his grandmother's recorded voice, klezmer-tinged clarinet with orchestra, and elements from the last movement of Berlioz's *Symphony Fantastique*, "Witches' Sabbath." In placing the laments at the center of an expansive work of new art music, Rosenblum presents this piece both as a cathartic reconciliation with his family's own personal history and a more universal cry of agony for communities who have endured similar persecution.

—D. Lippel & M. Rosenblum

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New Focus Recordings is an artist-led collective label featuring releases in contemporary creative music of many stripes, as well as new approaches to older repertoire. The label was founded by guitarist Dan Lippel, composer Peter Gilbert in 2004, and composer/engineer Ryan Streber in 2004.



STEREOPHILE

"The music itself is so powerful, and the singing and playing so atypically eloquent that they simply must be heard. This is music that transcends speeches, rhetoric, and thoughts and prayers as it cuts straight to the heart."