

**VIRGIL THOMSON** FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS [1049]  
CAPITAL CAPITALS

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

A collaboration between iconoclastic American expats, Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* was a sensation upon its 1934 premiere in Hartford, CT. Featuring an all-black cast, superb choreography, whimsical sets, and a quasi-absurdist quasi-plot loosely based on the legendary figures of Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Ignatius of Loyola, *Four Saints* is an opera about the unadulterated joy of music and words. Thomson's score revels in the clean harmonies and simple melodies of traditional American hymnody, while Stein's libretto displays her trademark obsession with word sounds, subliminal over overt meaning, and offbeat witticisms. Included as a bonus track is *Capital Capitals*, a rapid-fire showpiece for four male singers and piano juggling musical figures and puns at lightning speed. Gil Rose leads the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and a cast of stellar vocal soloists in a bravura performance of this hallmark of American modernism.



**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.

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CHARLES BLANDY tenor  
SIMON DYER bass  
AARON ENGBRETH baritone  
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TOM McNICHOLS bass  
GIGI MITCHELL-VELASCO mezzo-soprano  
SARAH PELLETIER soprano  
DEBORAH SELIG soprano  
SUMNER THOMPSON baritone  
LYNN TORGOVE mezzo-soprano  
STANLEY WILSON tenor

**BMOP**  
sound

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**THE ARTS FUSE**

"There's no faulting the excellent performance of *Fours Saints* turned in on a new release by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, conductor Gil Rose, and a consistently impressive roster of singers...this is as vibrantly played and sung a reading of Thomson's score as you're likely to hear."

**CLASSICAL CD REVIEW**

"The Boston Modern Orchestra Project is a group of virtuosos, and conductor Gil Rose obviously understands this music. A spectacular issue!"

**GRAMOPHONE**

"Gil Rose conducts a performance at once elegant and vibrant, and his players are keenly alert to the score's varied atmospheres."

**SEQUENZA 21**

"The orchestra's playing under Rose is also exemplary: this is a score in which frequent changes of instrumentation create a balancing act that could undo a lesser ensemble."

**STEREOPHILE**

"Rose conducts with a pace and with that remind me of a great Gilbert & Sullivan production."