

ERIC SAWYER OUR AMERICAN COUSIN [1006]
LIBRETTO BY JOHN SHOPTAW

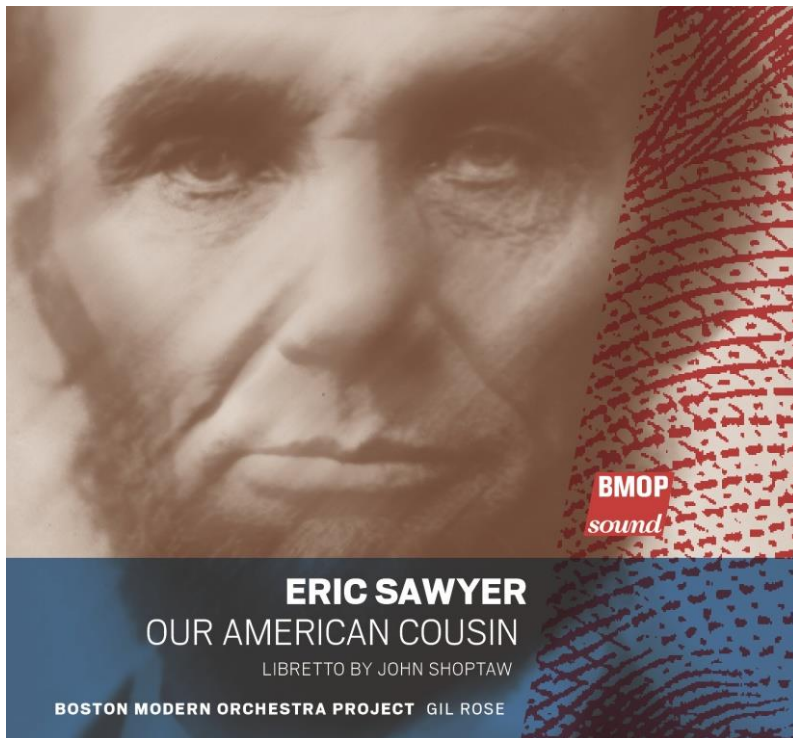
BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT
GIL ROSE, CONDUCTOR

Our American Cousin is a monumental work of American contemporary opera, which draws upon the tragic events of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. A collaborative invention of composer Eric Sawyer and librettist John Shoptaw, the opera juxtaposes past with present, comedy with tragedy, musical period references with operatic genre pieces, all within a language of lyrical extended tonality. Featuring Janna Baty, Alan Schneider, and Aaron Engebretsen in the principal roles, *Our American Cousin* beautifully conveys the theme of forgiving and forgetting and Lincoln's plea for reconciliation: "With malice toward none, with charity for all... let us strive... to bind up the nation's wounds."



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.

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AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

"The recording is effective...particularly effective is mezzo-soprano Baty, a vocally and interpretively commanding presence as the principal actress of the company. Hers is a rich voice, well placed and solid through the range. Just as strong and commanding is the forceful Booth and Tom O'Toole.... I really like this opera and wish it well."

FANFARE

"...this is one of the freshest, most ambitious new American operas I've heard in ages...it actually dares to use original material. And it also dares to take up historical events and musical tropes without succumbing to mere costume drama.... I appreciate, admire, and enjoy Sawyer's voice. And I hope this is only the first of Shoptaw's librettos. As a first collaboration, the result is stunning.... This comes with a very high recommendation to a wide audience."

MUSIC WEB INTERNATIONAL

"Gil Rose guides it all with a firm hand, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project does a fine job giving us our first glimpse of an intriguing piece.... Everyone involved is to be commended for daring to take on something this grand, something with this much meaning, this much bittersweet food for thought."