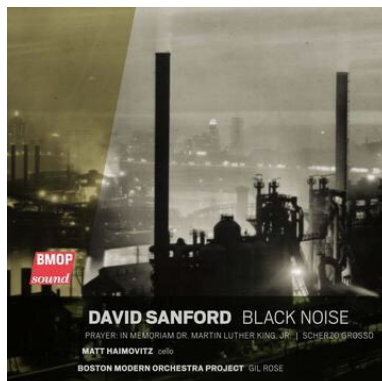


CLASSICAL CD REVIEW



SANFORD: *Black Noise. Prayer: In Memoriam Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scherzo Grosso.*

Sarah Bradley, flute. Eric Berlin trumpet. Matt Haimovitz, cello. Boston Modern Orchestra Project / Gil Rose, cond.

BMOP SACD B07NBF1RR8 TT: 47:44

American composer David Sanford (b. Pittsburgh 1963) came from a highly musical family. He always had a keen interest in jazz, big band music, and played the trombone. He attended the University of Northern Colorado, The New England Conservatory of Music, and Princeton. Now he is a faculty member at Mount Holyoke College. After studying in Italy in 2002, he formed the Pittsburgh Collective which included both classical and jazz musicians.

A number of chamber organizations have performed Sanford's music, and for the past years he has had a close association with master cellist Matt Haimovitz, composing some works specifically for him. Sanford also has a close relationship with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and its conductor Gil Rose. They are featured on this SACD which offers premiere recordings of three works beginning with *Black Noise*, commissioned by BMOP. The title is a pun on "white noise." Program notes by leading Boston author Robert Kirzinger give detailed information about what this work represents. The second piece, *Prayer: In Memoriam Dr. Martin Luther King*, is an 11-minute work featuring solo flute and trumpet. It contains some dissonant outbursts and ends softly. The disk ends with *Scherzo Grosso*, a rather odd title for what is basically a 25-minute cello concerto with four sections: According to program notes, this music gives soloist and orchestra the opportunity to "engage in musical behaviors that tap into rock, free jazz and the classical avant-garde." Recordings were made on various dates 2011 to 2017 and engineers have provided a satisfying sonic picture. There are few recordings of music by Sanford, and I can understand why. Here's an opportunity to hear three major works should you be interested. Most listeners will find this music challenging and probably unrewarding as a musical experience. Approach with caution!

R.E.B. (March 2019)