

## **Louis Andriessen "Theatre of the World" recording on Nonesuch with the Los Angeles Philharmonic**

"Premiered in 2016 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Reinbert de Leeuw, Theatre of the World takes the 16th-century German Jesuit scholar Athanasius Kircher as its unlikely starting point, although his life and work is only one strand in a complex dramatic scenario. Possessed by a need to become recognised as the foremost thinker of his age, Kircher (vividly characterised in the baritone Leigh Melrose's performance) arrives at the Vatican, where he meets Pope Innocent XI. Accompanied by a young boy with magical powers (excellently portrayed by the lyric soprano Lindsay Kesselman), the three are transported through time and space to various locations including ancient Egypt, the Tower of Babel and Dutch-colonialist China."

— **Gramophone** (November 2017)

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## **"Theatre of the World" by Louis Andriessen**

"Theater of the World" finds Kircher near the end of his life, guided through a stylized journey by a boy (sung with creepy precision by the soprano Lindsay Kesselman) who seems harmlessly curious at first but eventually begins to act savagely, even satanically. (Is he angel or devil?)"

— **New York Times** (May 8, 2016)

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## **John Mackey "Songs from the End of the World" on "Antique Violences" album on Blue Griffin, released summer 2017, with Michigan State University, Kevin Sedatole, conductor**

"Kesselman, an artist of growing reputation for her artistry and intelligence, sings the uncommonly beautiful songs with heartbreaking restraint and a voice of goddess-like splendor. I predict great things for her career."

— **Fanfare Magazine**