



Phil Kline, 'John the Revelator'

Joshua Kosman
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This ravishing new setting of the Mass by New York composer Phil Kline is as bold and exciting in its conception as in the execution. Writing for the six-man vocal ensemble Lionheart and the string quartet Ethel, Kline grafts the familiar liturgical texts onto a stylistic framework composed of 18th century American hymnody, blues and contemporary post-minimalism. In between the Latin movements are beautiful settings - now slow moving and chordal, now briskly contrapuntal - of texts from Jeremiah, Samuel Beckett and American poet David Shapiro. The result is a gritty, mysterious and wholly American recasting of an ancient tradition, done with such dramatic assurance and harmonic facility that the listener is constantly taken by surprise. Kline's smoothly ingratiating surfaces can be just as unpredictable and telling as some of his more gnarled, piquant dissonances.

PHIL KLINE, Lionheart, Ethel
JOHN THE REVELATOR
CANTALOUPE
\$18.98

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