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MUSIC REVIEW

## Moody, playful pieces get virtuosic workouts

By Richard Dyer, Globe Staff | January 24, 2005

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Gil Rose, conductor

At: Jordan Hall, Saturday night

A small but determined audience braved the flakes to arrive in Jordan Hall for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project's "Boston Connection" program of new works by regional composers featuring resident virtuosi as soloists.

"Concerning Sunspots" by Eric Chasalow represents the composer's first step toward an opera based on Brecht's play "Galileo." There is nothing notebooky about the ambition and finesse of these three pieces, especially the second, "Umbra." Chasalow uses music from Monteverdi's "Orefeo" as a point of departure (Monteverdi was a contemporary of Galileo), but his style is an assimilation of many contemporary styles, just as Monteverdi's was in his day. The music is dark, dramatic, and compelling.

Throughout the evening the wonderful BMOP players performed with attention, commitment to the music, and visible enjoyment; the admirable conductor Gil Rose balances advocacy with a dual focus on detail and the big picture. ■

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