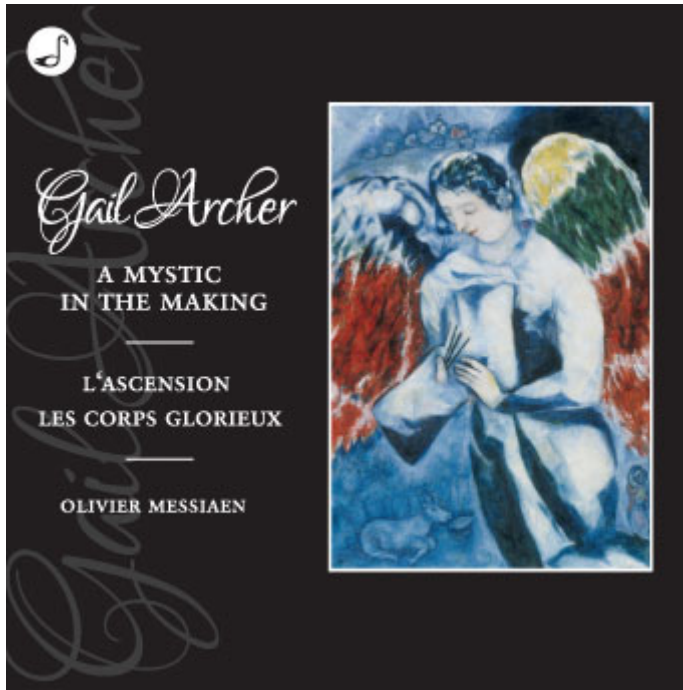


May 3, 2007

Classical



GAIL ARCHER

A Mystic in the Making (Meyer Media)

★★★★½ (out of 4 stars)

American **Gail Archer** has become one of the world's few star concert organists. Here she tackles two technically and artistically demanding suites by Messiaen at the stunning Aeolian-Skinner organ at Columbia University's St. Paul's Chapel. The pieces range from discreet noodlings to all-out sonic assaults. Archer balances power, clarity and colour beautifully throughout *L'Ascension* and *Les corps glorieux* (subtitled "seven brief visions of the life of the resurrected"). Top track: "Combat de la mort et de la vie" from *Les corps glorieux*. - John Terauds