Subject: Re: Playlists Hildegard von Bingen
Posted by lon on Sat, 11 Mar 2006 03:07:07 GMT
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I did not read the written notes that came with the dvd(mostly because of the small print) but the BBCpackage contains 2 discs. The first disk is a song cycleperformed indoors and outdoors by a female choir representingThe Virtues. It is done in the context of a Medieval Moralityplay with song gesture and movement.The second disc which runs about 45 minutes is a dramatisedbiography of Hildegard and how she founded her own convent.I don't get to see much live theatre these days and the live theatre I do see down at the local Performing Arts Center tends to be in the form of Broadway musicals headingfor Palookaville or the movies: case in point: "Rent" and "Annie".As performance I found the Morality Play whose name is in the notes in the previous post very well done. I could make some jokesabout it but I'll lay off of that. In style, choreography and camerawork it captured more than the average feature film.In theme the morality play is about going astray and redemption.The thought that ran through my head while watching and listening to this was: I should see Kenneth Clark's "Civilization"again.For those who have never seen this BBC series from the early70's, it begins where the Hildegard piece leaves off.Kenneth Clark as art historian visits the great cathedralsand art of antiquity up through the beginning of the 20th Century. I had the opportunity of first seeing the series at a university showing on the theatre screen.Then only recently did I see it again this time on a televison sized screen. The difference was quite extraordinaryfor me. In the theatrical presentation one had the feeling pf actually being in the spaces and hearing the musics.If your library has this collection, it has my highestrecommendation.As a music style, the plain chant of Hildegard is more etherealthan the Bulgarian Women's choir which is still my personalfavorite. The last thing that comes to mind in listening the the Hildegardwas the thought that I should be reading "Loves Body" by Norman O. Brown again. "Loves Body" is not about tantricyoga or some other tripe: what it is is an analysis ofliterature from the perspective of Freudian psychology. LBwas a pop culture book in the early 70's but for me it is oneof the great books.What the really good music does is evoke these kinds of thingsthat we forget in our every day lives.