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2014 NEILL HUMFELD AWARD

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INTERNATIONAL

TROMBONE

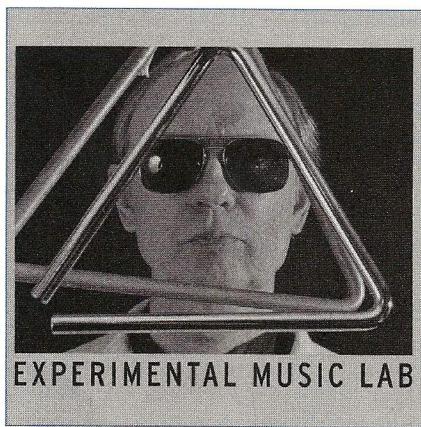
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traditional method of utilizing programmatic technique to assist the listener in following the music. Schumacher and the Music Now Ensemble are capable musicians and have created music with an enormously diverse sonic palette. The Theremin in particular is used to great effect. For anyone inclined toward experimental music Stanley Schumacher and the Music Now Ensemble are highly recommended.

—Tom Walker, University of Missouri-St. Louis

SPANISH MEMOIRS

YU-JUNG CHUNG, PERCUSSION; DIEGO ARIAS, TRUMPET/FLUGELHORN; Antonio José Herrera Molina, Daniel Jesús Martín Martín, Jorge Cano Rodriguez, percussion; Manuel Quesada Benítez, trombone.

IBS CLASSICAL (www.ibsclassical.com).

Howard J. Buss: *Rite of Passage*; *Incantation*; *Spanish Memoirs*; *Night Tide*; *Atmosphere*.

Percussionist Yu-Jung Chung and trumpeter Diego Arias collaborate with additional percussionists and trombonist Manuel Quesada Benítez in SPANISH MEMOIRS to present the compositional works of acclaimed American composer Howard J. Buss (b. 1951). Having received numerous awards

for his contemporary classical compositions, Buss's work is performed around the world to critical acclaim. With an emphasis on percussion, the works recorded here fall nothing short of what one would expect from such a widely recognized composer.

Notable is the title track, *Spanish Memoirs*, for solo trumpet and percussion quartet. It includes rhythmic influences from jazz and Latin styles in opposition to the solo trumpet melody, which sings more lyrically over the top. Of special interest to the trombone community is *Night Tide*, for trombone and marimba. It was inspired by visions of the New England coastline at night and presents opposing aggressive and contemplative sections. Additionally, *Incantation*, a composition about a sorcerer's ritual, includes a poem written by Buss himself to be presented in program notes or read aloud prior to a live performance.

While this album is limited in material specifically for trombone, it is notable that, in addition to composing, arranging, and writing poetry, Buss is also a trombonist and educator. The recording artists all perform at a high quality and express the work of Buss well. Those who enjoy listening to and studying contemporary works, or who are already fans of the music of Howard J. Buss, will find this recording to be a worthy addition to their collections.

—Gretchen McNamara, Wright State University

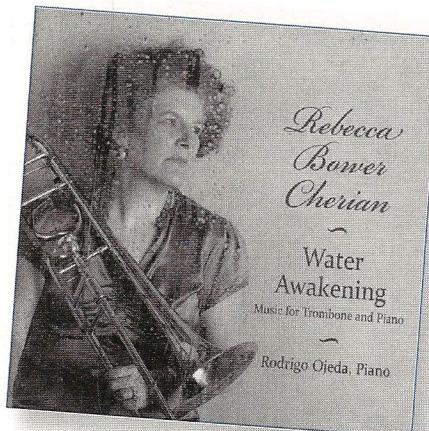
WATER AWAKENING

REBECCA BOWER CHERIAN, TROMBONE; Rodrigo Ojeda, piano.

RBC PRODUCTIONS RBC-1001 (www.cdbaby.com/cd/rebeccabowercherian).

Martin Kennedy: *Theme and Variations for Trombone and Piano*. Gabriel Fauré: *Chansons*. Roger Boutry: *Concerto for Trombone and Piano*. Robert Elhai: *Water Awakening*. Tomaso Albinoni: *Concerto in B-flat major, Op. 7, No. 3*. Georg Wilkenschildt: *Caprice*. Vincent Persichetti: *Parable XVIII, Op. 133 for Solo Trombone*. Jacques Castérède: *Sonatine for Trombone and Piano*.

WATER AWAKENING is the first solo album released by Rebecca Bower Cherian. She brings her extensive solo, chamber, and orchestral performing experience to this diverse collection of music, having won solo competitions and awards from the age of 16, and performing as Co-Principal Trombone with the Pittsburgh Symphony since 1989. She has been heavily involved



with the International Women's Brass Conference as one of the organization's founding members, and has contributed to the trombone repertoire through several commissions from American composers.

In her own words, she had a "longtime aspiration to record a solo CD . . . [and] was finally able to realize this dream with the recording." For this recording, which was twenty years in the making, Cherian chose to include a variety of musical styles, from the Baroque period through the twentieth century. Detailed program notes accompanying the recording reflect the passion she has for the trombone and its broad expressive capabilities, aptly demonstrated in the organization of the CD, which is anything but chronological.

The recording quality is excellent, as are the performances by both Cherian and pianist Rodrigo Ojeda. Cherian effortlessly switches from silky smooth tones to the rounded articulated Baroque style, from the impressionistic floating *Chansons* to the powerful dissonance of the *Parable*, and the Castérède *Sonatine*. Her performance of the title work, a product of her own commission, particularly brings together her expressive capabilities and displays them in eight minutes of lush, exclamatory, and gracefully flowing music that on its own makes the album worthy of listening. At just over 70 minutes in length, this debut recording provides ample listening enjoyment as Rebecca Bower Cherian demonstrates the fruits of a dedicated career.

—James Adams, Valley City State University

SCHOOL DAZE LIVE

ANTONIE SWAIN, TROMBONE; Tyron Jackson, piano; Deshawn Harper, bass, Justine Varnes, drums; Maxwell Cabbie, percussion.

(www.cdbaby.com/cd/theantonieswainquintet).

