

this standard with a lyricism that is at once heroic and introspective. The highlights of this CD are the original compositions of the trumpeters. *Pelham Gardens* invokes Golsonesque flavor and swings hard and *Bishop Island* drifts along in 6/8 meter. The melody reaches upwards with sustained tones and ascending intervallic leaps. *Only Of A Season* feels autumnal as it floats in a jazz-waltz feel. Vega's *It's A New York Thing* sizzles like the music at a street party. The CD wraps up with Marriot's *Big Brother*. Both trumpeters sparkle on this energetic and ascendant composition. Check out this album. Ray Vega and Thomas Marriot present a musical vibe that is contagious and pleasing! (Jim Ketch, professor of trumpet and director of jazz studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC)

Briefly Noted

Canadian Brass—Stars and Stripes: Canadian Brass Salutes America

Opening Day ODR 7382 (CD); Opening Day Entertainment Group, Inc., 345 Bloor St East, P.O. Box 72516, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 359; 416-778-4456; <http://www.openingday.com>

In its latest offering, Canadian Brass presents a lively collection of early American music, performed with the style and grace one expects from this group. The recording features fresh inventive arrangements by Howard Cable, Robin Engelman, and Canadian Brass trumpeters Brandon Ridenour and Chris Coletti. In addition to many familiar patriotic favorites, the CD includes a well-crafted tribute to America's five military branches and a musical salute to George M. Cohan, both arranged by Cable and Engelman. A particular treat is their arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner*, based on manuscripts from 1814 and scored for two trumpets and field drums. The liner notes offer ample background information, and the recording quality is excellent. This is a wonderful addi-

tion to the Canadian Brass discography. (Daniel Kelly, assistant professor of trumpet, Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX)

Frédéric Demers—Carnival & Concertos

Fidelio-FACD024 (CD); <http://www.fideliomusique.com>

Frédéric Demers, who teaches at the Conservatoire de musique de Val d'Or, is one of Canada's leading trumpet and cornet players, and this recording is ample evidence of that truth. Demers plays with great finesse and shows that he is not only a masterful technician but also a musician who plays with wonderful sensitivity. Perhaps the most outstanding part of this recording is his performance of Louis Babin's arrangement *Pot-Pourri d' Herbert L. Clarke*. Demers plays with wit and a nostalgic charm. The CD also includes outstanding performances of the Neruda *Concerto in E-flat*, scored for cornet and wind quartet, and Babin's *The Carnival of Venice in Montreal* (an arrangement of Arban, Clarke, and Levy treatments of the popular melody), allowing Demers to show off not only his cornet virtuosity, but also his superb abilities as a jazz soloist. This entire CD is a treat for the listener, a true lesson in style. (Mark Dulin, lecturer of trumpet, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC)

Howard University Jazz Ensemble 2009—Bright Moments

Self-produced; <http://www.huje.org>; frby@howard.edu
Bright Moments is the latest offering from the Howard University Jazz Ensemble. Founder and director Fred Irby III has again worked his magic with his students. The ensemble consistently displays the talent, discipline and hard work for which his groups have become known. The disc encompasses a wide range of styles, all of which are played with a precision and maturity of conception that compare favorably with any professional ensemble. The soloists are particularly impressive, especially trumpeter Donvonte McCoy, tenor saxophonist Elijah Balbed, and alto saxophonist Brent Birkhead. These three remarkable young players are already well known in the Washington DC area and surely have bright careers ahead of them. Fred Irby III continues to do a splendid job of making the HUJE one of the premiere college jazz ensembles in the country. (David Johnson, professor of music, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA)

Andrea Tofanelli—Flamingo

ACM Records 23010 (CD); American Creative Music, 561 West Ninth Street, Claremont, CA 91711; <http://www.acmrecords-impstudios.com>

Mixing popular music themes with upper range virtuosity, Andrea Tofanelli's American recording debut is a collection of original and popular pieces performed in a jazz orchestral style. With solid big band backing, featuring trumpeters like Wayne Bergeron, plus full orchestral Sinatra-styled string treatments, Tofanelli never disappoints. In sum, the Italian trumpeter has never sounded better. His tone is more round, his upper range more full-bodied, and his usual perfection of the trumpet's stratosphere even more acute than ever, which, for Tofanelli, is saying something. Whether on ballads like his own *The Last Legend* or Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*, Tofanelli offers 40 minutes of guns-ablaze pyrotechnics. Light on improvised solos, the few he takes show him to be as nimble as any contemporary. (Thomas Erdmann, professor of music, Elon University, Elon, NC)



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