BAND OF BONES

DAVE CHAMBERLAIN, LEADER, TROMBONE, FLUTE, PERCUSSION; Bruce Eidem, Charley Gordon, Mike Lormand, Nate Mayland, Matt McDonald, Bob Suttman, tenor trombone; Max Seigel, Dale Turk, bass trombone; Kenny Ascher, piano; Dick Sarpola, bass; Mike Campani, drums; Cheemo Cornel, congas, cowbells.

BAND OF BONES PRODUCTIONS
BBP0001 (11 Oriole St., Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977, USA; Tel: +1 845-352-3566; www.bandofbones.com).


Captivating musical collages evoking thoughts of nature and creative imagery. Hetzler produced this recording himself and selected cutting-edge compositions that explore new possibilities for the trombone.

Noteworthy on this CD is the "acoustic" trombone playing by Hetzler, which is of the finest quality. He also effectively performs with various mutes, extended techniques, and glissandi that all add to the musical environments created by each composition. In addition, the recording contains a seamless mesh between the "acoustic" trombone, the "processed" trombone sound transformed by various electronic effects, and sampled environmental sounds. All of the sonic elements combine well into one tapestry without thought of each individual element. The layering of all these timbres helps to create constantly evolving musical scenes.

A special aspect of this CD is the improvisatory nature of the compositions of James Fullkerson and the extended techniques involved in his works. In addition to using various mutes, Fullkerson directs the performer to make sounds by using bassoon and tenor saxophone reeds. Rather than using various effects processors, Fullkerson lets the trombone create unique timbres acoustically.

In addition, the works of Chester Udell, Matthew Buttrner, Robert Rowe, and Mark Hetzler all create dynamic sonic landscapes that draw in the listener. Mark's composition entitled Unnatural Disaster was written in 2010 as a musical statement of the BP oil rig disaster. Hetzler's work indeed captures the spirit of this tragic event and its aftermath.

With Dynamic Elements, Mark Hetzler extols the spectrum of the trombone both as a composer and performer. This recording can help expand the horizons and imaginations of trombonists and composers alike.

—James T. Decker
Texas Tech University

lesser-known, trombonists from New York. Also unlike most of the projects mentioned above, a significant number of the arrangements on this album are not new, but are recycled, several of them from the 1950s Jay and Kai + 6 album, and Kai's later More Brass album. But this is not strictly a repertoire group, as there are new arrangements as well.

As is the case with most of these get-togethers, while the ensemble is important, the sessions are filled with solos, from all hands. While it is not possible in the context of this review to catalog the many solos, each listener will have his or her favorites. To this reviewer, the two that stand out the most prominently are Bruce Eidem's fine Al Grey (and probably Tricky Sam Nanton)-influenced plunger solo on the Basie standard Segue in C, and Max Siegel's fun bass 'bone solo (really a bass trombone solo) on J. J.'s Four Plus Four.

Congratulations to Dave Chamberlain (who is featured on flute as well as trombone) for putting the group together, and for getting this album reviewed in Down Beat before it even made it to the pages of the IAJ Journal. Long live multi-trombone jazz groups!

—Kurt Dietrich
Ripon College

CHAMBER WORKS BY PER NORGÅRD

NIELS-OLE BO JOHANSEN, TROMBONE; Elisabeth Sigurdsson, clarinet; Martin Schuster, trumpet; Morten Zeuthen, cello; Erik Kaltoft, Frøde Stengaard, piano;

CDKlassik CDK 1016 (Nørregade 35, 1165 Copenhagen, Denmark; cdklassik.dk).

Per Nørgård: Unendlicher Empfang; It's All His Fancies That; Spell.

Danish composer Per Nørgård's music on this album is best described as avant-garde or modernist. There are three compositions, but only It's All His Fancies That uses brass instruments.

It's All His Fancies That is for trumpet, trombone, and piano. It is divided into seven episodes in which different combinations of the instruments are used. Each episode paints a picture from the novels of Lewis Carroll. The emotions of the characters are expressed easily and lucidly by the performers. The performance by Niel-Ole Bo Johansen on trombone is masterful. Of particular remark is the superb job he does matching his singing to his