

shifting harmony, while *Sifting* is a gorgeously soft ballad with gently grating dissonances that draw in the listener.

The playing from the leader's fellow Brooklyn-based collaborators is virtuosic: Goldberg's guitar is nimble and full of a wide palette of colors, Knuffke's cornet playing is at once warm and round and direct and piercing, and Smith's drumming explores the full range of his set in a truly melodic way. And, Drye's trombone playing (in addition to his composing) is truly incredible. From the angular cup-muted lines on *Pastoral* to the funky precision of *Guilty* to the seamless melding of close dissonances with Knuffke on *Sifting*, Drye is in complete control of his instrument. He possesses a singular voice of his own, free of overt sampling of other trombonists, but with echoes of Robin Eubanks and Albert Mangelsdorff. For fans of contemporary jazz, modern classical chamber music, and a band with a distinctly individual sound, *BIZINGAS* is a must-have album.

—Chris Van Hof
Colorado State University

GBQ AND FRIENDS

GENEVA BRASS QUINTET. Samuel Gaille, Lionel Walter, trumpet; Christophe Strutzenegger, horn; David Rey, trombone; Eric Rey, tuba; Ensemble Polymnia Female Chorus; Franck Marcon, director; Michel Tirabosco, panflute; Vincent Thévenaz, organ.

GALLO CD-1400 (Disques VDE-GALLO, La cure, Rue du Four 2, CH-1410, Switzerland; Tel: +41(0)21 312 11 54; Fax: +41(0)21 312 11 34; www.vdegallo-music.com).

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Allegro from Violin Concerto BWV 1041*. Christophe Sturzenegger: *Triptyque*. Allardyce Mallon: *Snapshots*. Ludovic Neurohr: *Guardian Angels*. Eric Schmidt: *Concert*. Jean-François Michel: *3 Pastels sur la Belle Epoque*.

The Geneva Brass Quintet offers up a fresh and eclectic mix of repertoire in its recent recording *GBQ AND FRIENDS*. Well-known in their native Switzerland, the Geneva Brass has become highly regarded on the world stage, with a number of international tours including South Africa, China, Dubai and Mexico.



The album features some unique and effective pairings with brass quintet. Allardyce Mallon's *Snapshots* for panflute and brass quintet is at times folksy, introspective, playful and humorous. Each of the five movements is intended to reflect a different picture taken quickly with a disposable camera. The third movement is particularly soulful. A particular highlight of the album is the work entitled *Triptyque* for women's choir and brass quintet, composed by the quintet's horn player Christophe Sturzenegger. The work is well crafted, with control between the voices and brass. Another selection written expressly for the Geneva Brass is Ludovic Neurohr's *Guardian Angels*. The work opens with beautiful dark timbres and complex harmonies, later shifting to brilliant technical passages over driving ostinato patterns. Eric Schmidt's *Concerto* pairs the brass quintet with organ. The brass quintet is so well integrated into the piece that, with the exception of solo passages, the brass sounds like part of the organ itself. Vincent Thévenaz's excellent organ performance is worthy of note. The album ends with Jean-François Michel's *3 Pastels sur la Belle Epoque*, which treats the listener to a light-hearted, whimsical finale. The work features moments of great technical finesse by all. Tubist Eric Rey's playing in the third movement is especially impressive.

With the exception of the Bach transcription, all the selections on *GBQ AND FRIENDS* are contemporary works. It is always great to see and hear how the brass quintet library continues to evolve. The Geneva Brass Quintet is to be commended for bringing together such an interesting and compelling blend of timbres and textures onto a single recording.

—Douglas Mark
Delta State University

CHRISTMAS WITH THE NITTANY TROMBONE QUARTET

NITTANY TROMBONE QUARTET. Bruce Tychinski, alto trombone, tenor trombone; Sean Reusch, John Moyer, tenor trombone; Matt Neff, bass trombone. Michael Ketner, Katelynn Griess, Danielle Precourt, trombone, finger snaps, Scott Slutter, bass trombone.

NITTANY TROMBONE QUARTET
NTQCD 001

(www.nittanytrombonequartet.com;
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Traditional/Matt Neff: *Hark! A Joyful Fanfare*; *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*; *Go Tell It on the Mountain*; *Up on the Housetop*. Traditional/Bruce Tychinski: *French Carol Suite*; *Good King Wenceslas*; *Still Still Still*; *Joy to the World/I Heard the Bells*; *Away in a Manger/The First Noel*; *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Traditional/John Moyer: *Infant Holy Infant Lowly*; *In the Bleak Midwinter*; Traditional/Scott Sutherland: *Ding Dong Merrily on High*; *Silent Night*. Traditional/Scott Slutter: *Fanfare on O Come All Ye Faithful*. Traditional/Nittany Trombone Quartet: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. Traditional/Don Lucas: *What Child Is This?/We Three Kings*. G.F. Handel/Erik Shinn: *Suite from "Messiah."* Traditional/Ryan Willard: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*.



The Nittany Trombone Quartet was founded in 1988 by four freshman students of trombone professor Mark Lusk at Penn State University. The members are now professional performers and/or educators at various locations throughout the United States. The quartet has remained active as the members' schedules allow. Their debut compact disc, *CHRISTMAS WITH THE NITTANY TROMBONE QUARTET*, is a collection of seasonal holiday favorites. The Nittany