



ROMANZA ESPANA by Burning River Brass is a prime example of what a brass ensemble recording should be. The ensemble consistently displays a brilliant sense of ensemble, fantastic playing, and attention to musical style.

All the works on the recording are adaptations of various Spanish musical styles. Although this might lead one to expect a sameness of sound from piece to piece, that is certainly not the case. The works of composers from Falla to Bizet to DiLorenzo give a broad variety of styles for the ensemble to perform, and there is never a dull moment. From the bold, exciting virtuosity in Bizet's "Aragonaise" from *Carmen* to the relaxed, airy sound of Sarasate's *Romanza Andaluza*, the Burning River Brass brings excitement and sensitivity to its performance.

The playing on this album is first rate in both ensemble precision and individual virtuosity. The music, although highly technical at times, never sounds difficult or forced. The ensemble moves as one unit throughout, regardless of the difficulty of a passage or how a soloist decides to shape a line. The recording is well produced, and the sound is both consistent and well-balanced. The program notes are excellent, as well.

ROMANZA ESPANA aptly demonstrates the energy and virtuosity of which brass ensembles are capable. Those who enjoy both the sound of brass and the excitement of Spanish music could do no better than to obtain this recording.

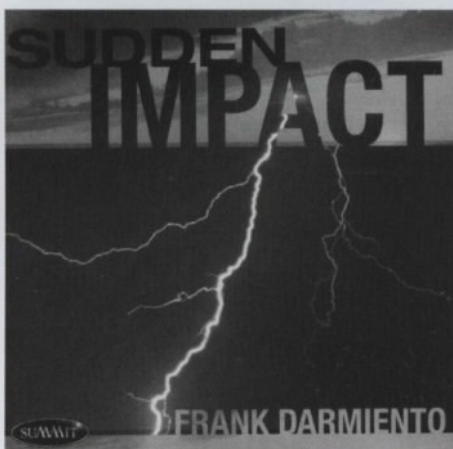
-Jason Malloy
Arizona State University

SUDDEN IMPACT

FRANK DARMIENTO QUARTET. Frank Darmiento, alto and tenor trombones; Joel Robin, piano; Steve Millhouse, bass; Rob Wainwright, drums.

SUMMIT RECORDS DCD 378 (Summit Records, PO Box 26850, Tempe, AZ 85285-6850; www.summitrecords.com; sales@summitrecords.com)

Frank Darmiento: *Lost in Aisle Seven*, *Sudden Impact*, *Double Trouble*, *Cruisin'*, *Lightning Always Strikes Twice*, *Rendezvous on the Moon*. Henry Mancini/Mack David: *The Days of Wine and Roses*. Arthur Johnston/Sam Coslow: *My Old Flame*. Jimmy Van Heusen/Johnny Mercer: *I Thought About You*. Ray Henderson/Mort Dixon: *Bye Bye Blackbird*. Burton Lane/Ralph Freed: *How About You?*



Frank Darmiento is a composer, trombonist, and engineer based in Scottsdale, Arizona, and currently plays with the San Marcos Symphony and Scottsdale Concert Band. He also is an award-winning composer. This recording showcases Darmiento and his quartet performing both standards and original tunes. The sound is a bit muddy at times due to a surplus of added reverb on most tracks. The original tunes are interesting and Darmiento has made lead sheets for all of these available on his website.

Darmiento shows his flexibility both in his solos and arrangements. He ends his solo on the title tune by quoting the hook from Sinatra's *My Kind of Town* and uses a fragment of Bach's first Cello Suite as the introduction to *My Old Flame*. *Bye Bye Blackbird* grooves to a hip-hop beat

and Darmiento restructures the rhythm to the head of *How About You?* before moving back to a four feel for the solos. *Lightning Always Strikes Twice* features Darmiento on the alto trombone over a Latin groove that fits the more compact sound of the smaller horn. Darmiento is at his best, however, on the final track, an original ballad called *Rendezvous on the Moon*. He explains in the liner notes that this track was added to the sessions as an afterthought after the other tracks were recorded.

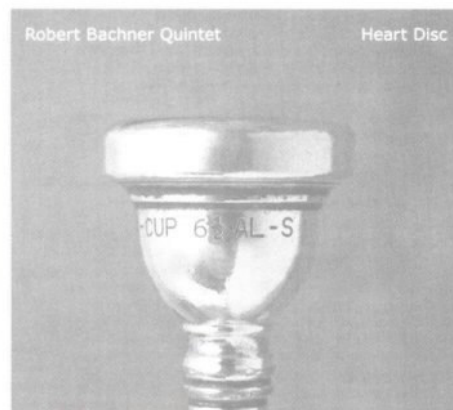
-Joshua Hauser
Tennessee Technological University

HEART DISC

ROBERT BACHNER QUINTET. Robert Bachner, trombone; Chrisian Maurer, saxophone; Reinhard Miecko, piano; Uli Langthaler, bass; Christian Salfellner, drums.

ATS RECORDS CD 0570 (ATS Records, A-4591 Molin, Austria; Phone: +43 (0)7584 2454; Fax: +43 (0)7584 245424; office@ats-records.com; www.ats-records.com).

Robert Bachner: *Heart Disc*; *One of Two*; *Minor Mood*; *Moments of Noise*; *Crucial Qualities*; *No More Doubts*; *For Gary*.



Some of today's most exciting and innovative jazz trombone playing is coming from Europe, and Austrian trombonist Robert Bachner is proving that. In addition to leading his own quintet, Bachner has earned strong reviews for his work with ensembles such as the Vienna Art Orchestra, the Upper Austrian Jazz