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EIN FEINER ZUG

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EIN FEINER ZUG

ROBERT BACHNER, TROMBONE; Helmar Hill, piano.

ATS RECORDS CD-0644 (ATS Records, A-4591 Molln, Austria; Tel: 43 (0)7584 2454; Fax: 43 (0)7584 245424; office@ats-records.com).

Helmar Hill: A New Job; Ein feiner Zug Concerto for Trombone and Piano', Greetings from Kenny. Roben Bachner: Brasstime; One More Time; Standard of Reference.

At first glance the CD of a trombone and piano duo may cause some skepticism on part of the viewer, but that goes away immediately when the first lush and beautiful chords of the opening selection grace the speakers or headphones. This CD captures some highly artistic and exploratory musical expressions that never go beyond the boundaries of good taste.

According to liner notes Robert Bachner is one of Austria's most active freelance trombonists, band leaders, and a member of the Vienna Art Orchestra. This project is more of a chamber work with a pianist of high talent, original ideas, and outstanding technique.

The two are a perfect match from the opening of A New Job, which has a swinging melody from which both players are able to swap off very cool interpretations with some shifting meters and rhythms, to the closing original jazz tunes.

The centerpiece of the CD is a threemovement concerto for trombone and piano composed by pianist Helmar Hill. There is no orchestra, but the piano performance is very orchestral in concept with harmonic and textual colors abounding. There are many sections that are obviously written out including an extended section in fivefour, but the sections of improvisation are seamlessly woven into the musical fabric of the first movement, "Aufgew hlt." "Traurig," the second movement, is a lovely winding melody featuring the trombone with supportive chords in the piano. "Am Ende wird alles rieht" has a catchy Latin feel as bookends with a contrasting and improvisatory section in the middle. The closing numbers on the CD are more traditional jazz feel tunes with an intriguing jazz waltz closing the CD with what sounds like a bucket mute on the trombone.

This is a very fine CD with top-drawer playing on the part of both players. There's nothing to be skeptical about at all. Pianist Helmar Hill is amazing with harmonic colors, bass line, and melodic ideas in solo feature and counterpoint. Trombonist Robert Bachner is equal to the task with great tone, range, and all-inclusive jazz, legit, cool, and hot licks.

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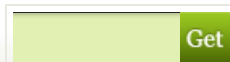
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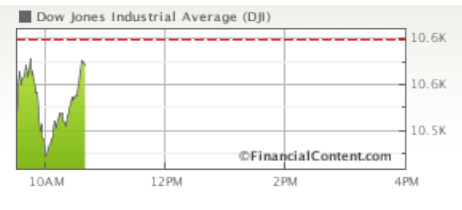
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