

over a minimalist vibe and cello groove.

On *LONG WAY HOME*, Don Immel winningly claims a piece of the contemporary jazz landscape for the trombone and its fans.

—Richard Birk, Brazosport College

MORE TO COME

JONATHAN VOLTZOK, SLIDE HAMPTON, TROMBONE; Antonio Hart, alto saxophone; Aaron Goldberg, piano; Barak Mori, bass; Ali Jackson, drums.

KOL YO RECORDS KOL 0001

(www.voltzok.com; vonavol@gmail.com).

Jonathan Voltzok: *More to Come*; *A Moment of Sunshine*; *Shadows*; *The Fire Dance*; *DUV*. Dizzy Gillespie: *Con Alma*. Thelonious Monk: *Round Midnight*. Horace Silver: *Opus de Funk*. Charlie Parker/Dizzy Gillespie: *Shawnuff*.



Israel native Jonathan Voltzok showcases a diversified selection of original compositions and jazz standards on his debut album *MORE TO COME*. The title track serves as an excellent opener and highlights Voltzok's command of the trombone at a burning tempo. The opening track also features Aaron Goldberg on piano. Goldberg is an outstanding musician in his own right and is showcased on every track of the album. Alto saxophonist Antonio Hart joins Voltzok on his original composition of *A Moment of Shine*, a driving samba. Hart is also featured as the melodic voice on Voltzok's *Fire Dance*, an elegant jazz waltz.

The trombonist embraces his romantic sensitivity with his rendition of Thelonious Monk's *Round Midnight*. Accompanied by Goldberg, the use of lush chord progressions provides the perfect background. Voltzok's *Shadows* is another fine example of his

performance in the ballad style. His tone quality and phrasing are among the many traits that are highlighted on this recording.

Horace Silver's *Opus de Funk* showcases Voltzok, Goldberg and, bassist Barak Mori. Towards the end of the tune, the three soloists trade off with drummer Ali Jackson. This track demonstrates the strong blues roots of the quartet. Mori is also featured in Voltzok's energetic, Latin-flavored *DUV*. Another unique feature of this recording is the clear dialogue set between the members of the rhythm section, particularly pianist Aaron Goldberg. His intricate comping fits any given style and he adds great accents when the horns steer in another direction.

In addition to superb original compositions, Slide Hampton joins Voltzok on Dizzy Gillespie's *Con Alma* and Gillespie and Charlie Parker's *Shawnuff*. Hampton, having several Gillespie-related tribute albums in his discography, is a perfect match for these tunes, which also show influence of the great J.J. Johnson and Kai Winding. Voltzok and Hampton's fast unison lines in *Shawnuff* are very impressive. This burning tribute to Diz and Bird is the closing track of the album. Unfortunately there are no liner notes, just the back cover listing the track titles and musicians, with acknowledgements on the inside cover.

MORE TO COME highlights some of New York's finest jazz musicians. The music on this album is performed at a very high level. 25-year-old Jonathan Voltzok has proven that the future of the jazz trombone world is in good hands.

—Martin McCain, Hutson-Tillotson University

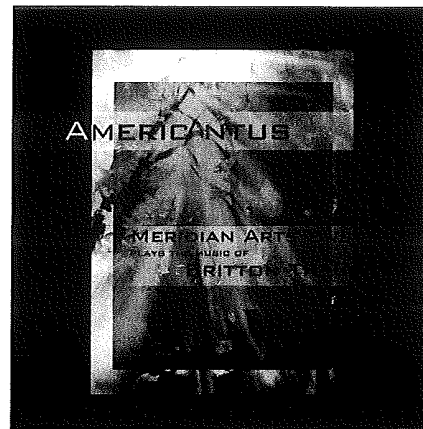
AMERICANTUS

MERIDIAN ARTS ENSEMBLE. John Nelson, Brian McWhorter, trumpet; Daniel Grabois, horn; Benjamin Herrington, trombone; Raymond Stewart, tuba; John Ferrari, percussion. Chris Neverve, Alex Jackson, trumpet; Laura Carter, horn; Adam Fussell, trombone; David Felton tuba.

8BELLS 009 (cdbaby.com/group/8bells; www.8bells.org).

Britton Theurer: *Americantus*; *Animal Rights*; *Colloquy*; *Solanum Dulcamara*; *Americanadian Rhapsody*.

The Meridian Arts Ensemble has been a champion of Contemporary Brass Chamber Music Performance for many years. They have performed in Austria, Finland, Germany,



Holland, Belgium, Japan, Taiwan, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, as well as in 49 states.

AMERICANTUS features the works of composer Britton Theurer and showcases the veteran artistry and cohesiveness of the Meridian Arts Ensemble. Theurer is professor of music at East Carolina University, where he teaches trumpet and performs with the East Carolina Brass Quintet and the New Music Camerata.

All the works on this CD have profound extra-musical significance. *Americantus* is a fantasy on "America the Beautiful," in the spirit of Charles Ives and was written in response to the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Each of the movements of *Animal Rights* depicts the composer's view into the lives of nature's creatures. *Colloquy* is a display of social interactions, group energy, and musical debate. *Solanum Dulcamara* evokes the sadness and tenderness experienced by Theurer upon learning of his mother's terminal cancer. *AmeriCanadian Rhapsody* is an arrangement of a work written for the Rose High School String Orchestra that has the Ivesian flavor of *Americantus* and contains the school's alma mater, which is the Canadian national anthem, as well as "America the Beautiful."

Theurer writes with clarity and brilliance. The ensemble continuously performs with great sensitivity, balance, and precision. The settings of the aforementioned familiar tunes are all clearly performed, with a contemporary perspective and musical syntax. There is great musical drive and direction throughout the CD and all of Theurer's moods and inspirations are effectively conveyed.

AMERICANTUS serves as a great model of fine brass chamber music performances of