

by Mike Telin



Trumpet player Josh Rzepka scores a hat trick with his debut classical release, *Josh Rzepka: Baroque Music For Trumpet*. First with the musically intelligent playing by Rzepka, who achieves a beautiful lyrical quality throughout the CD's 50 minutes. His attention to detail, especially pitch and blend with his orchestral colleagues, is exemplary. Second with the excellent playing by the orchestra conducted by Canadian conductor Geneviève Leclair, as well as the distinguished contributions of soprano Re-

becca Freshwater and organist Christopher Toth. Third with the outstanding production quality of the album, which was produced and edited by Thomas Moore and recorded by Robert Friedrich and Michael Bishop of Cleveland based Five/Four Productions. The disc was recorded direct to stereo at Warner Concert Hall at the Oberlin Conservatory and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights. The sound quality is first rate.

While much of the repertoire found on this release will be familiar to most classical music listeners, Rzepka brings a new light to these beloved classics because his technique is so solid that he is able to approach the music with an air of relaxation. If the first three tracks, the Concerto in D, "Estienne Roger" of Giuseppe Torelli don't convince you that Rzepka is a musician with a bright career ahead, then skip to the final three tracks where through the magic of double-tracking you will be treated to a performance of the Concerto in C for Two Trumpets by Antonio Vivaldi, both played by Josh Rzepka. Needless to say, the two soloists match each other perfectly. Another track of note is soprano Rebecca Freshwater's soaring delivery of "Let the Bright Seraphim" from Handel's *Sampson*.

*Josh Rzepka: Baroque Music for Trumpet* is available in hard copy from area retailers, or for download from the artist's website ([www.joshrzepka.com](http://www.joshrzepka.com)).