

“SAMPLE” REVIEW

SOUND WAVES

DONALD KNAUB, BASS TROMBONE; Rex Woods, piano.

CRYSTAL RECORDS CD680 (28818 NE Hancock Road, Camas, WA 98607, USA; Tel: +1 834-7022; Fax: +1 360-834-9680; info@crystalrecords.com; www.crystalrecords.com).

Gordon Jacob: *Cameos*. Frigyes Hidas: *Rhapsody*. Gustav Mahler: *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer)*. Samuel Adler: *Canto II*. Donald Grantham: *Sonata in One Movement*.

SOUND WAVES was an LP recording released in 1983. This CD is a reissue of that recording with the addition of Samuel Adler’s *Canto II* from Donald Knaub’s recording on Golden Crest Records.

Eric Church stated in his review of the LP in the October 1984 *Journal* that “Donald Knaub performs superbly on this album. He handles all aspects of solo trombone playing with consummate taste and skill. Attacks are never forced; legato playing and breath control help shape phrases to musical ends. His tone seems well suited to chamber and recital performance with a gentle, narrow vibrato at times that helps color the tone effectively. No change of tone quality intrudes when he plays in the trigger register.” When comparing the sound on the Crystal CD to the LP, more distinguished clarity of the low notes is readily noticeable on the CD. Adler’s *Canto II*, however, fortunately has a little less echo but not quite the fullness or depth of sound that is present on the LP.

Gordon Jacob’s very English style, Hidas’s clearly structured *Rhapsody*, the colorful sound of Mahler’s songs, Adler’s “four movements . . . based on the same tone row,” and Donald Grantham’s contrasting “lyric” and “aggressive” passages in the *Sonata in One Movement* all offer a nicely varied 54 minutes and 51 seconds of listening. Rex Wood’s accompaniment is excellent. Knaub’s program notes offer a very effective insight to the compositions. And, although the photo on the album cover of the CD is smaller than on the LP, it certainly is a much better print.

With a somewhat limited number of bass trombone recordings, we are very fortunate to have this CD of bass trombone literature so well conveyed by Donald Knaub. Even if you own one or both of the LP’s, it is worth obtaining this clearer sounding CD.

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