

DREI BONES

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EMERITUS RECORDINGS CD20161 (www.cooppress.net).

Tom Davis: *Trombone Trio No.1*. Raymond Premru: *Two Pieces for Three Trombones*. Allan Blank: *A Little Suite*. Sy Brandon: *Playground*. Eric Ewazen: *Eaglehawk*. Sy Brandon: *Adages*. Michael Davis: *Power Trio*. Frigyes Hidas: *Interludio*. Henry Wolking: *Three Movements*. Vladislav Blazevich: *Suite #1*.

Within the vast repertoire of trombone music, the trombone trio has rarely been recorded. Not as prominent as the quartet or duet, the trio is starting to make headway in its own right with Drei Bones helping to lead the charge. On the group's debut and self-titled album, *Drei Bones*, the trio of distinguished professors presents a combination of often played classics by celebrated composers and newer, lesser known selections that are sure to become staples in the repertoire.

Drei Bones approach pieces such as Raymond Premru's *Two Pieces for Three Trombones*, Eric Ewazen's *Eaglehawk*, and *Suite #1* by the ever-present low brass composer Vladislav Blazevich, with both a refined attention to detail and fantastic new stylistic contributions that provide a renewed listening experience. More contemporary pieces are also abundant on the album. These pieces include; *Adages* by composer Sy Brandon, who arranged a trio specific version for Drei Bones, as well as Tom Davis's *Trombone Trio No.1* which both provide great additions to a growing repertoire that allow the trio to really showcase their technical and lyrical capabilities. Whether the music is already a classic or being presented anew, the group displays beautiful evenness, control, and sound through extremes of register and varied dynamic ranges.

Drei Bones has a smooth and beautifully transparent blend, which is extremely well supported by the even, rich, chocolatey sound of J. Mark Thompson on bass trombone. Both tenor trombonists, Michael Davidson and Timothy Howe, compliment the sound of the group by matching timbre thoroughly. Moreover, they present impeccable intonation in stylistic interpretations of each piece. Open intervals by the trio are played with such precision and togetherness that sonorities are often hard to distinguish from each other. *Drei Bones* was an absolute treat to listen to, presenting a fantastic idea of not only what the trombone trio is capable of, but also what it should ideally sound like.

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