

**DAVID DZUBAY**

MANHATTAN BRASS. Wayne du Main, Lew Soloff, trumpet; Ann Ellsworth, horn; Michael Seltzer, tenor trombone; David Taylor, bass trombone.

BRIDGE RECORDS 9230 (200 Clinton Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801; Tel: 914-654-920; [www.bridgerecords.com](http://www.bridgerecords.com); [bridgerec@aol.com](mailto:bridgerec@aol.com)).

David Dzubay: *Antiphonal Fanfare No. 2, Brass Quintet No. 1, Acrostic Variations, Solus I, St. Vitus' Dance*.

Three quintets (*Brass Quintet No. 1, Acrostic Variations*, and *St. Vitus' Dance*) make up the bulk of this recording. Works on the CD span nearly twenty years. (1988–2006), allowing the listener to hear the evolution and maturing of Dzubay's writing for brass. Dzubay layers angular melodies and aggressive rhythms over (and sometimes out of) a sonic canvas that is sometimes lush and at other times deliberately sparse. He is an "equal-opportunity" composer, divvying out melodic and rhythmic ideas equally among all members of the ensemble. This compositional style is particularly suited to the Manhattan Brass (each member of the group being a successful freelance performer in his or her own right), allowing each to lend his or her unique voice to the final product without sacrificing individualism.

David Taylor's agile handling of challenging bass lines throughout the CD is worth a listen—beginning with his nimble handling of the *Habañera's* bass line in



*Brass Quintet No. 1* through *St. Vitus'* second movement ("Lamentation of the Afflicted"), where his phrasing and technique well below the staff is impressive. The challenging works on the recording are performed with flawless technique, but with great attention to the slightest of musical details. This recording is a testament to the novel idea that serious music for brass quintet can also be enjoyable for the listener.

—Jeremy Kolwinska  
Northwestern College