

## GET TOGETHER

ERIC HOFFMAN AND THE UNDERDOG. ERIC HOFFMAN, TROMBONE, VOCALS. Nate Mayland, Rick Parker, John Yao, trombone; Oliver von Essen, organ; Ron Jackson, guitar; Ali Jackson, drums.

([www.myspace.com/hoffmantheunderdog](http://www.myspace.com/hoffmantheunderdog); [e.n.hoffman@earthlink.net](mailto:e.n.hoffman@earthlink.net)).

Billy Eckstine/Alan Jay Lerner/Frederick Loewe/James Zeller: *Have a Song on Me/I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face*. Lou Rawls/Rick Parker: *Down Here on the Ground*. George Benson/Slide Hampton: *You Don't Know What Love Is*. John Blackburn/Karl Suessdorf/Rick Parker: *Moonlight in Vermont*. Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart/James Zeller: *Falling in Love with Love*. arr. Eric Hoffman: *Get Together*.

Eric Hoffman has now joined Frank Rosalino, Scott Whitfield, and many others in the double life of full-time trombonist and part-time crooner. In *GET TOGETHER*, Hoffman and his ensemble The Underdog perform charts from the standard repertoire including *I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face*, *Moonlight in Vermont*, and *You Don't Know What Love Is*.



Hoffman has chosen as his medium for performance a lineup of lead vocal, trombone quartet, and a rhythm section including bass, drums, and organ. Among the most interesting features found in *GET TOGETHER* are the trombone quartet arrangements, which are tastefully performed.

In brief liner notes found on the disc jacket, one catches a glimpse of an amusing Eric Hoffman. However, upon listening to the album curiosities arise regarding who his intended audience might be. The album is

dominated by temperate lead vocals accompanied by trombones, leaving room for only two improvised trombone solos. Of the seven standards on the album, solos are found only in *You Don't Know What Love Is* and *Falling in Love with Love*, with the four trombonists taking turns on the latter track. This lightweight album features singing done in a vintage style accompanied by a trombone ensemble. The performances are of high quality, but are not especially remarkable.

Cory Cunningham  
Sacramento State University



## CONCERTOS AND FAIRYTALES

PK SVENSEN, TROMBONE; Malmö Symfoniorkester, Terje Boye Hansen, Christoph König, conductor.

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Wolfgang Plagge: *Concerto, Op. 138*. Egil Hovland: *Concerto, Op. 76*. Magne Amdahl: *Elegi*. Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen: *Fanfjares and Fairytales*.

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CONCERTOS AND FAIRYTALES includes four contemporary works for trombone and orchestra by Norwegian composers. Svenson credits as his inspiration on the CD the Norwegian folk hero Espen Askelaad.

PK Svenson, principal trombonist of the Malmö Symphony, maneuvers through these four works with virtuosic prowess. His rich tone quality and exceptional technique make some very difficult passages sound effortless. The disc is recorded in Super Audio CD format, so listeners with the capability to play this type of disc can experience it in 5.1 surround sound.

The first work, Plagge's *Concerto*, is a three-movement concerto that places high demands on the trombonist's skills and stamina. Svenson handles the work, which was composed for him, flawlessly. Egil Hovland's *Concerto* has an exquisite orchestration and a fantasy-like character reminiscent of film music. *Elegi* by Magne Amdahl does not take on the brooding nature one might expect in an elegy, but is more retrospective in nature. The work's lyrical melody and orchestration evoke memories of orchestrations by Nelson Riddle and Henry Mancini. The final work, *Fanfares and Fantasies* by Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen, is the most complex composition on the disc, using dissonance, multiple layers of activity, and a story-telling approach that avoids formal structures. The piece is unusual in that it begins with a scherzando movement and is followed by a three-movement cadenza for trombone and snare drum. Nilsen states that the final movement uses earlier material that is developed "all the way until it moves to an abrupt ending, like most fairytales I ever read."

This is some excellent trombone playing by PK Svenson displaying four outstanding works by Norwegian composers. Seek out this recording and experience CONCERTOS AND FAIRYTALES for yourself!

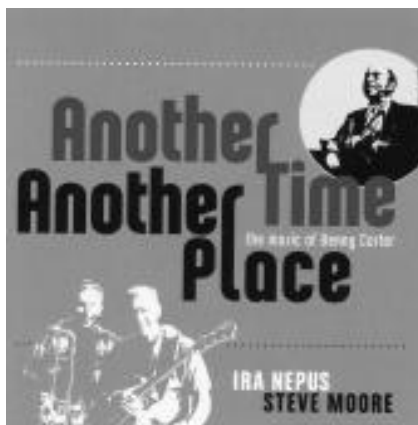
Bruce Tychinski  
University of Southern Mississippi

### ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE: THE MUSIC OF BENNY CARTER

IRA NEPUS, TROMBONE, VOICE; Steve Moore, guitar; Bruce Lett, John Clayton, Granville "Danny" Young, bass; Jack LeCompte, Michael Rosen, Jeff Hamilton, drums; Geoff Stradling, Tamir Hendelman, piano; Jeff Clayton, alto saxophone; Luis Conte, Brian Kilgore, percussion; Patrick Moore, vocals; Sid Page, concertmaster.

JAZZED MEDIA JM1016 (Jazzed Media, PO Box 270946, Littleton, CO 80127-0006; [www.jazzedmedia.com](http://www.jazzedmedia.com)).

Benny Carter: *The Romp; Hello; When Lights Are Low; South Side Samba; The Courtship; I'm In the Mood for Swing; People Time; Easy Money; Only Trust Your Heart; Another Time, Another Place; Doozy; All That Jazz*. Benny Carter/Paul Vandervoort: *Rock Me to Sleep*.



ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE is a tribute to jazz great Benny Carter. A breezy and gently swinging feel carries the listener through the thirteen cuts on this recording. The facile trombone playing of Ira Nepus finds unity with Steve Moore's laid-back approach on guitar. The unique blend between these two instruments helps create a buoyant texture throughout.

Heavyweights John Clayton (bass) and Jeff Hamilton (drums) lend their talents to this recording on several selections. Although personnel may change from track to track, the focus remains at all times on a relaxed group feel that features trombone and guitar as lead instruments. On each tune, Nepus solos with a carefree style while managing to cover a great deal of territory on the horn. His playing represents an easygoing mastery of trombone. Listeners won't have to work hard to settle into this swinging tribute to Benny Carter.

Donn Schaefer  
University of Utah



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