

Missa de Tromba

KARLSEN: *Choralsonate 3; Missa de Tromba;*
LAUKVIK: *Lamento;* **VEA:** *Trumpet-Organ*
Sonata; **HOVLAND:** *Cantus X*

Jan Fredrik Christensen, tpt; Terje Winge, org
2L 52—60 minutes

With brass-organ recordings, the first question is always about sonics—is the brass playing natural and unforced, or is it a fight for supremacy? No fighting here. The engineers have allowed Jan Frederik Christensen, former long-time principal trumpet of the Oslo Philharmonic and a professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music, to play quietly much of the time. Even at higher dynamic levels, the trumpet sound is dignified, the Lillestrom Church's organ never too loud.

The works meditate and proclaim in dissonant, yet tonal harmonic languages. The centerpiece is Kjell Mark Karlsen's Trumpet Mass, with movements that illuminate the meaning of the texts. Most immediately likeable is Egil Hovland's 'Cantus X' (2000), which includes the haunting Norwegian hymn 'Med Jesus vil eg fara'.

Even as he approaches age 70, trumpeter Christensen plays with strength, skill, and a high level of artistry.

KILPATRICK