

# International Trumpet Guild

## January 2012

### Capital BrassWorks—Brass Britannia!

Capital BrassWorks, Alain Cazes, conductor; Karen Donnelly, John Ellis, Amy Horvey, and Steven van Gulik, trumpet; Jill Kirwan and Elizabeth Simpson, horn; Angus Armstrong, David Mouton, and Donald Renshaw, trombone; Douglas Burden, bass trombone; Nicholas Atkinson, tuba; Kenneth Simpson and Jonathan Wade, percussion

CBW3 (CD); Capital BrassWorks, 16 Forest Gate Way, Nepean, ON, Canada, K2G 6P3; 613-843-7789  
<http://capitalbrassworks.ca>

Byrd (Howarth): The Earle of Oxford's March; Anonymous (Howarth): Greensleeves; Traditional (Bissill): The Foggy, Foggy May; Stanford (Harvey): The Bluebird; Brit- ten: Fanfare for Saint Edmundsbury; Langford: London Miniatures; Bourgeois: William and Mary; Wills: Aubrey's Maske; Lennon/McCartney: Penny Lane.

Capital BrassWorks, made up of top brass players and percussionists from all over Canada, released their latest hit album, *Brass Britannia!*, in March 2011. This exceptional recording consists of compositions for large brass ensemble by English composers, including arrangements and original compositions from the Renaissance to the present. The English folk song tradition is well represented, as is the larger multi-movement repertoire inspired by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. The group plays with a gorgeous sound: rich, balanced, and full of ringing over-tones that provide tremendous body and depth. Sir Charles Stanford's *The Bluebird* is a particularly appealing track with its melancholic, continuously flowing soprano trumpet lines that are performed with exquisite lyricism. Everyone in the group plays with that same fluid singing style and blends extremely well. Three of the trumpeters perform Benjamin Britten's staple *Fanfare for St. Edmundsbury* with amazing homogeneity, and the very live hall acoustic is well suited for this masterpiece. The larger multi-movement works are engaging as well and allow the musicians the opportunity to show off their nimble technical prowess. Gordon Langford's six-movement *London Miniatures* is a travelogue that exposes the listener to the varied sights of this great city. Especially on the final movement, the group shows off its dexterity and lightness in multiple tonguing. Derek Bourgeois's five-movement *William and Mary* contains virtuosic writing for the trumpets as well. Simon Wills's *Aubrey's Maske* is highly programmatic, and the notes included give detailed insight into each of the seven movements. The group closes the album with a whimsical and highly entertaining arrangement of *Penny Lane*, a refreshing dessert at the end of a highly satisfying meal. Throughout the production, the ensemble plays with great cohesion, tremendous intonation and blend, warm sound, unified phrasing, and uniform facility of articulation and time. The liner notes are extensive, informative, and witty, and the packaging is attractive. For the superb quality of playing, the enjoyable program, and the truly first-rate production overall, this CD is sure to be enjoyed by all enthusiasts of large brass ensemble repertoire. (Peter Wood, associate professor of trumpet, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL)