

Letter from Belgium

by Francis Pieters

Compact Disc Review

DANSE SATANIQUE

Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides

Conductor: Yves Segers

Soloist: Jeroen Berwaerts, trumpet

HAFABRA CD 89030-2

www.hafabramusic.com

The Belgian wind band music publisher HaFaBra allows us, once again, to discover several interesting new original band pieces next to some really fine transcriptions, masterly performed by the renowned band of the Belgian Guides. Two new French compositions deserve your particular attention. *Danse Satanique* (Satanic Dance) is a beautiful and very suggestive colorful composition with a very rich sonority written by Alexandre Kosmicki (1978), assistant conductor of the French Marine Band (Musique des Équipages de la Flotte de Toulon). Very appealing is also *Millions, millions et millions d'étoiles* (Millions of stars) by Maxime Aulio (1980), a most valuable piece which confirms the talent of this already internationally appreciated composer. With his *Symphonia Japonese* the Japanese composer Yosuke Fukuda (Suginami 1975), a really skillful orchestrator, adds a fine suite based on traditional folk themes to his catalogue boasting already almost fifty wind band pieces. Three transcriptions by José Schyns, former soloist with the Guides Band and professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory of Music, complete this outstanding compact disc: the popular *Capriccio Italien* by Pjotr Tchaikovsky, the *Russian Sailors' Dance* extracted from Reinhold Glinka's ballet 'The Red Popy' opus 70 and the well-known *Concerto pour Trompette* by Alexandre Arutiunian, performed by the renowned Belgian soloist Jeroen Berwaerts (1975) who was a member of the famous ensemble Canadian Brass for several years before joining the Stockholm Chamber Brass. The brilliant interpretation by the Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides under the inspired conduct of Yves Segers does only augment the pleasure of listening to this recommendable CD.