

Blues" and "Madeline's Tune." John Coltrane's classic "Naima" is given a straight-eighth-note interpretation, and "Ben's Hands" shows off Hans' mallet work on drumset. The only distracting aspect of the recording is an incessant tambourine track on "Madeline's Tune" that really put a damper on a good tune.

—Terry O'Mahoney

### Generations

Gary Burton

### Concord Records

*Generations* features awesome ensemble playing, incredible soloing, and leaves the listener wanting more. Other musicians featured on this recording are: Makoto Ozone, piano; James Genus, bass; Clarence Penn, drums; and Julian Lage, guitar. An item of interest is that Lage just completed his sophomore year of high school. Selections on the disc include "First Impression" and "Early" by Lage, "Gorgeous" by Mitchel Forman, "Wheatland" by Oscar Peterson, "Take Another Look" by Pat Metheny, "Syndrome" by Carla Bley, "Test of Time" and "Heroes Sin Nombre" by Ozone, "The Title Will Follow" by Julian Gage and "Ladies in Mercedes" by Steve Swallow. "Wheatland" features extraordinarily soulful playing by Burton as well as powerful solos by Lage and Ozone. "Test of Time" has a bluesy, "feel good" sound. *Generations* is a disc that all generations will enjoy.

—Lisa Rogers

### Howard J. Buss: Modern Times

Various Artists

\$16.95

### Capstone Records

This CD presents four compositions for percussion by Howard J. Buss. The first is "Overture," a brilliantly scored quartet written for and performed by the OSA Quartet de Percussio in Spain. The second work, "Scenes From the Holy

## HOWARD J. BUSS



MODERN TIMES

MUSIC BY TERRY O'MAHONEY AND GARY BURTON

Land," is a duo for flute and percussion written in five movements, with each musically describing musical idioms of the Middle East. The performance by the McCormick Duo is outstanding.

"Currents" is a percussion quartet that explores both timbral and metric modulations. There is a bit of theater involved, since one member of the quartet conducts using a carpenter's saw. Textures are fresh and creative, with the rhythmic sounds of sawing a board, plus other unusual sound sources. The work was premiered by the University of Illinois Percussion Ensemble, Thomas Siwe conductor, in 1977.

The final composition, "Modern Times," is a 30-minute work for flute and percussion ensemble, plus narrator. The piece is presented in eight short movements with the narrator speaking lyrics or phrases from various social settings. The piece is often amusing, with nonsense lyrics often taken from pop culture, but the flute and percussion writing is challenging and far from frivolous. This performance by the University of South Florida Percussion Ensemble, Bob McCormick conductor, is brilliant.

These works demonstrate that Buss is one of our more creative writers for percussion. The performances are of the highest artistic quality.

—George Frock

### I Remember Klezmer

Elaine Hoffman Watts

### Oy Vey Klez

*I Remember Klezmer* is more about a drummer named Elaine Hoffman Watts and her style of Klezmer drumming than about authentic Klezmer music. This CD is a reminiscence of the Hoffman family and how the grandfather and father, who were exceptional Klezmer musicians, had a profound influence on Elaine's drumming. Most of the tunes performed on the CD were written by Joseph Hoffman, the grandfather. The 12 tunes all have Yiddish titles. The instrumentation is drums, trumpet, trombone, tuba, accordion, and one feature tune for xylophone played by Jacob Hoffman, Elaine's father.

Elaine Hoffman Watts is a fine drummer and certainly knows the rhythms and grooves of Klezmer music. Each tune has a good feel,

and all the musicians contribute their expertise to this excellent CD.

—John H. Beck

### Pantonic Live!

Pantonic

### Basement Recordings

*Pantonic Live!* is a compact disc recording featuring the Pantonic Steel Orchestra from New York. Selections include calypsos and socas titled "Ben Lion," "Stranger," "Picture On My Wall" and "In My House." The Pantonic Steel Orchestra has garnered attention as the 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003 New York Panorama Champions. Clive Bradley, the orchestra's music arranger for this and other projects, is a master of pan orchestration. The precision of the group is excellent, and the musicality displayed is equally astounding.

—Lisa Rogers

### Percussion Music of Eric Ewazen

Various Artists

\$18.00

### Resonator Records

*Percussion Music of Eric Ewazen* features marimbist She-e Wu and the International Sejong Soloists, the University of Oklahoma Percussion Orchestra with Richard Gipson conducting, and marimbist Gordon Stout. The works featured are "Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra," "The Palace of Nine Perfections," and "Northern Lights."

I not only admire Ewazen's instrumental writing style, but am equally enamored of the performers on this recording. Wu's performance of Ewazen's three-movement marimba concerto is mesmerizing. Her chorale style in the first movement is especially moving, bringing to the forefront her technical as well as musical prowess.

Having been a member of the University of Oklahoma percussion program, I am proud of the fine performance of "The Palace of Nine

Perfections." The ensemble precision and blend is solid, due mainly to Gipson's incredible ear and musicianship skills. This percussion ensemble work is based on Ewazen's vision of a 17th-century Chinese painting by Yuan Chiang. Ewazen's timbral masterpiece "Northern Lights" is captured flawlessly by Gordon Stout. This recording is truly a work of artistry from start to finish.

—Lisa Rogers

### Seven Improvisations

Douglas Ovens

\$12.99

### North/South Recordings

Although *Seven Improvisations* implies that all of the selections are improvised, actually each is a written-out composition. As Douglas Ovens explains, "I wrote them in a rhythmic language that is fairly explicit but often makes use of no barlines."

The compositions are "Improvisation #5 for Electronic Percussion Solo," "Improvisation #4B (Music Box)," "Improvisation #3 for Solo Percussion," "Improvisation #1 for Solo Marimba," "Improvisation #2 for Solo Percussion," "Improvisation #7 for Solo Marimba" and "Improvisation #6 for Electronic Percussion and Tape." There is a thread of similarity among Improvisations 4B, 3, 1, 2 and 7 because of the instruments used, which are mostly marimba, vibes and chimes. Improvisations 5 and 6 are quite different because of the use of electronic percussion.

Ovens is a creative composer and an excellent performer. His ideas flow easily from one instrument to the other, and rhythmic and melodic material are always interesting. In spite of the written-out music, each composition has an improvisational flavor.

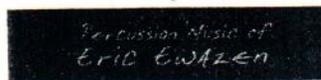
—John H. Beck

### StereoNucleosis

Paul Wertico

### A440 Musicgroup

Those who have followed the career of drummer Paul Wertico will be excited about his latest project. This CD is the result of a recording company giving the artist freedom to fully express himself. As Wertico has stated, "(A440 President) Kent Anderson gave me the green light to do whatever I wanted to do to produce this record." The music is



Featuring She-e Wu • Gordon Stout • The University of Oklahoma Percussion Orchestra • International Sejong Soloists