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Galbraith: Other Sun Price: \$8.99 Availability: Available for download now

***** Almost irritatingly exuberant, but never boring!, May 8, 2011

Amazon Verified Purchase (What's this?)

This review is from: Galbraith: Other Sun (MP3 Download)

This album is not for the faint of heart, but the adventurous will absolutely wallow in it! Honestly, I don't like most post-modern classical composers, as they seem to think that breaking rules is the only thing that matters, and as a result produce cold, disengaging work. But I found not the faintest shiver of coldness in this work.

Nancy Galbraith's compositions effervesce with passion, and never lose their deep, strong connection with the human (or nonhuman) heart. I get the impression that she doesn't set out deliberately to break rules for their own sake, but merely ignores any that get in the way of her pouring out her jole de vivre. She combines unlikely instruments, showing a particular delight in woodwinds and wooden percussion. Similarly she changes rhythms, keys, and styles with reckless abandon.

Not even the post-modern label can confine her, as much of her work has a distinctive folk feel. And I suspect that I can hear an influence by Ian Anderson and other rock musicians in the mix, too. Basically, I don't think Nancy Galbraith would hesitate to sit and learn at the feet of any master, even if he looks like a beggar singing for his supper. Nothing seems to matter to her as much as liberating the music inside her.

Sometimes her experiments do verge on irritating, like a highly talented child tugging on your sleeve till you finally give your attention to her weird but unforgettable and wholly original dance--all over the furniture! I wouldn't recommend this album to nervous temperaments or those who find comfort in conventionality, but for people seeking creative stimuli it's perfect. I have added it to my writing playlist and recommend it for artists, writers, dancers, and anyone else who could use Ms. Galbraith's particular spark to jumpstart their own creative process.

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Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows - Part 1: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack Price: \$8.79 Availability: Available for download now

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

***** Masterfully Done!, January 3, 2011

This review is from: Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows - Part 1: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (MP3 Download)

This work really impressed me, and I will watch for Alexander Desplat's work now in the future. If you listen carefully, you will notice that each song has some form of shivery background--subtle, not overdone--that captures a sense of chronic fear and exhaustion throughout, making the bolder parts of the music sound all the braver for it. Also, the progressions that approximate a human sigh, repeated at key emotional points throughout, really tug at the heartstrings! Some composers best capture the action scenes while others excell at quieter moments, but this one works marvelously with both!

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