



## NIGHT OUT: ELECTROACOUSTIC WORKS FOR TROMBONE

HAIM AVITSUR, TROMBONE.

4TAY RECORDS CD 4057 (45 Grant Ave., Farmingdale, NY 11735, USA; Tel: +1 516.586.3433; [www.jamesarts.com](http://www.jamesarts.com); [jamesarts@att.net](mailto:jamesarts@att.net)).

Richard Russell: *Balance for Trombone and Tape*. Eric Lyon: *Confessions of a Virtue Addict*. David Tcimpidis: *Night Out for Trombone and Tape*. Robert Cuckson: *Eshel Yehuda for Trombone and Tape*. Ching-wen Chao: *The Captured Shadow for Tenor Trombone Delay and Pre-Recorded Sounds*. Eldad Tsabary: *The New Kid on the Mountain*.

Typically, chamber music opportunities for trombonists include homogenous trombone ensembles of various sorts, brass quintet, mixed acoustic ensembles, and jazz combos, just to name a few. Haim Avitsur, renowned trombonist and music educator, explores chamber music with electronic and virtual landscapes in his recently released album *Night Out*.

Avitsur—member of the New York Brass Arts Trio, associate professor of trombone at the University of Hartford, faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music, and adjunct low brass faculty member at the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, New York—has premiered over eighty new works for trombone in various styles and settings. Creating a collection of recordings such as *Night Out* is quite an extraordinary undertaking, given the multifaceted challenges of preparing works of this nature. The diversity of timbres, textures, and sound samples pose great challenges to the trombonist.

Rhythmic coordination, balance, ensemble, flexibility, and color spectrum are just a few qualities required in such virtual collaborations. In addition, the instrumentalist in this setting truly is the music director, making critical balance and mixing decisions.

Avitsur's roles as solo trombonist, chamber musician, music director, and producer are all executed brilliantly. His playing is lyrical, flexible, and diverse. The balance and coordination between the trombone and recorded tracks are always well executed. Additionally, the choices and collection of repertoire makes the listener aware of the multitude of settings where the trombonist may flourish.

Each setting on this album is either abstract, a snapshot in time, or a scene. One can immediately sense either the mood or point of view of each composition. For example, in *Confessions of a Virtual Addict*, through synthesized sounds, various recorded samples, driving percussion, and virtuosic and varied trombone sounds, the listener may get insights of the state of mind of one obsessively pursuing higher aspirations.

*Night Out* is a collection of great chamber music for trombone and electronics, masterfully executed and produced by Haim Avitsur.

—James T. Decker  
Texas Tech University

## SKETCHES FROM THE NORTH

MICHAL TOMASZCZYK, TROMBONE; Petter Olofsson, bass.

([www.linktr.ee/michaltomaszczyk](http://www.linktr.ee/michaltomaszczyk))

Michal Tomaszczyk: *Home; Island 1; Landscapes; Mountain Voices; Isolations; Island 2; Red House in the Middle of the Forest; Atheist's Prayer; Island 3; Archipelago; Fria Faglar; Islands*.

*Sketches from the North* features the combined talents of Polish jazz trombonist Michal Tomaszczyk and Swedish bassist Petter Olofsson. This album is a collection of all original works (all but one credited solely to Tomaszczyk) that were inspired by the "raw nature of northern Sweden." Although this is the duo's first project together, they met and performed together previously as members of the Norrbotten Big Band.

Despite this minimalistic and somewhat uncommon pairing of instruments, Tomaszczyk and Olofsson's chemistry is unquestionable. The interplay between the trombone and bass goes far beyond customary roles of solo and accompaniment, and instead combines to