

Dave Camwell. *Aeterna*. © 2008 Teal Creek Music TC-2012. Teal Creek Music, P.O. Box 716, Camp Sherman, OR 97730, (503) 917-9835, [www.tealcreekmusic.com](http://www.tealcreekmusic.com). Dave Camwell, alto saxophone; Ron Albrecht, piano; James Romain, alto saxophone; James Bunte, alto saxophone. Reviewed by Benjamin Faris.

Saxophonist Dave Camwell's recent recording release of *Aeterna* in May of 2008, is an extremely versatile compact disc with a variety of music for any saxophonist to enjoy. It is not surprising this recording demonstrates such versatility and musicianship since Mr. Camwell is a performing jazz saxophonist, member of the Oasis Quartet, and Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Simpson College in Iowa.

The works included in *Aeterna* demand an attentiveness to detail; each work is strikingly unique and varies greatly in style, technique, and ensemble. The recording opens with Camwell's arrangement of Robert Schumann's *Widmung, Op. 25* which was written as a dedication to Clara Schumann before their wedding. Mr. Camwell's arrangement and performance demonstrate the passion and exaltation intended by the composer while maintaining the gracefulness of the human voice.

Saxophonist James Romain joins Mr. Camwell in performing his arrangement of J.S. Bach's *Double Concerto for 2 Violins, BWV 1043* written in Leipzig around 1730. This three movement work includes fugal imitation and counterpoint that challenge the phrasing, articulation, and balance of the duo. The duo does not disappoint as they demonstrate a deep understanding of the expressive relationships between the voices through clear and consistent articulation and seamless connection of interweaving lines in a manner reminiscent of a violin duo.

John Anthony Lennon's *Aeterna*, the namesake and genesis of this CD according to Camwell, proves to be one of the highlights of the CD. *Aeterna* was originally recorded for a 2007 issue of the *Saxophone Journal* for which Camwell is a columnist. Mr. Camwell's dedication to this work and willingness to experiment with a variety of background mixes has created an exceptional recording. A continuous melodic line evolving from itself as Lennon describes it, *Aeterna* proves to be a challenge to any saxophonist with use of false fingerings, extremely soft dynamic fades, and multiple acoustical considerations. Camwell's attentiveness to contrasting timbres and dynamics bring this work to life.

*Urban Impressions* written by Ron Albrecht, the pianist for this project, evokes instant imagery to the listener and presents jazz nuances of the saxophone as well as the performer for the first time on the CD. This five-movement work is filled with energy and some beautiful contrasting lyrical writing for the saxophone. This is the type of piece many saxophonists will probably be running to purchase before the track ends, but the energy and musicianship that Camwell and Albrecht bring to the piece create vivid contrasting scenes that will be difficult to duplicate.

Galante's *Saxounds II: Diminishing Returns* is a saxophone duet that exploits the unique sound capabilities of the instrument through a variety of extended techniques and the use of a digital delay. Camwell is joined by James Bunte for this unique track. The two aggressively perform a variety of extended techniques with ease including multiphonics, altissimo, and vocal frying along with other effects. The piece

grows and intensifies to an improvisatory climax before tension is released through downward chromatic glissandi that return to the opening material of the piece for a relaxed conclusion. This recording is particularly noteworthy for the thoughtful use of electronic enhancements, which improve the overall effect of the piece without distracting the listener.

The relatively brief five movement work by David Ott entitled *Expressions* has been arranged by accompanist Ron Albrecht. As the title indicates, the piece provides a number of melodic ideas for the performer to explore the expressive capabilities of the saxophone. The piece also provides Camwell another opportunity to play in a jazz landscape, of which he takes full advantage with his smooth tone and tasteful inflections.

Nate Brown's *The Whooshing Noise They Make As They Go By* was commissioned and premiered by Camwell at the 2006 World Saxophone Congress in Slovenia. The piece demonstrates Brown's melding of styles and influences from around the world and throughout history. The use of electronics allows Camwell to flourish with both his lyrical lines and occasional flurries of technique. This work has a primal quality through Brown's use of "tribal" rhythms, echoes, and multiple layers at times creating a fabric of sound from which new material emerges.

The next to last track essentially concludes the CD as it began, with a beautiful Romantic piece of music by Schumann arranged by Mr. Camwell. *Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70* is played beautifully with a gentle tenderness by Mr. Camwell. The CD ends with a final treat for the listener, an "encore" track of Paganini's *Caprice No. 24, Op. 1* performed live. Camwell rises above the challenging technical aspects of this work to present a dynamic live performance that recalls the musical showmanship characteristic of Paganini.

This recording should prove to have a wide-ranging audience of saxophonists and non-saxophonists alike. The variety presented between classical, jazz influenced, and contemporary music along with the commissions and arrangements is reason enough for this CD to be in any saxophonist's collection. However, the musicianship and versatility that Dave Camwell demonstrates in the breadth of this CD make it a truly valuable and enjoyable recording.

Lansing McLoskey. *Sixth Species*. © 2008 Albany Records TROY 1044. Albany Records U.S., 915 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207, (518) 436-8814, [www.albanyrecords.com](http://www.albanyrecords.com). Reviewed by Benjamin Faris.

*Sixth Species* is a composition compilation CD of five works written by composer Lansing McLoskey between 1998 and 2006. McLoskey's musical interests have evolved from being a guitarist and songwriter for punk rock bands to a composer of some of the most unique and engaging contemporary music written today. In addition, McLoskey is a faculty member at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. According to Mr. McLoskey, his "Three B's" include The Beatles, Bauhaus, and Black Flag. Upon hearing McLoskey's *OK-OK* saxophonists