

The British composer John Gardner (b. 1917) has been astonishingly prolific, writing 249 opus numbers in his sixty-year career as composer, conductor and teacher. His music – basically tonal and always impeccably crafted – is characterised by charm, grace and humour. Gardner's musical fingerprints come from his love of jazz, Renaissance and Baroque procedures and his mastery of imitative counterpoint. He generally uses established musical forms but invests them with a quirky and distinctive harmonic idiom. This CD explores his rich output for brass and organ, from the elegant *Theme and Variations*, Op. 7, of 1951 to the lusty *Five Dances for Organ*, Op. 179, written in 1988.



## JOHN GARDNER Music for Brass and Organ

[1] <i>Flourish for a Wedding, Op. 162*</i>	2:57
[2] <i>Easter Fantasy, Op. 232*</i>	6:41
[3] <i>Theme and Variations for Brass Quartet, Op. 7</i>	9:04
[12] <i>Five Dances for Organ, Op. 179*</i>	17:16
[17] <i>Sonata da Chiesa sopra un tema di Claudio Monteverdi, Op. 136</i>	13:44
[21] <i>Sonata Scolare, Op. 117*</i>	15:21

Paul Archibald, trumpet [17]–[23]

TT 67:10

Cosmopolitan Brass

\*FIRST RECORDINGS

Helen Sanger, trumpet [1]–[11], [17]–[23] Stephen Peneycad, trumpet [1]–[11]

Kate Hainsworth, horn [21]–[23] Alex Hambleton, horn [1], [3]–[11]

Craig Beattie, trombone [1]–[11] Fabian Schmidt, trombone [1], [2], [21]–[23]

Yao Cong Tan, tuba [1], [21]–[23]

Stephen King, organ [1], [2], [12]–[23]

Chris Gardner, conductor [1], [2], [21]–[23]

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