

***A Passionate Horn.* Andrew M. McAfee, horn; Nancy Whelan, piano.** (No label)

Contents: Concerto (second movement), Reinhold Gliere; *Nocturno*, Franz Strauss; Symphony No. 5, movement III, Felix Mendelssohn; *Adagio and Allegro*, Robert Schumann; *Morceau de Concert*, Henri Büsser; Sonata for Horn and Piano, James Winter; *Fantasie*, Franz Strauss.

We horn players happen to play the one instrument with the world's most beautiful sound, which can be a blessing and a curse. There is definitely more to playing a piece of music than just allowing your beautiful sound to envelope every note. What about phrasing, and style, and singing lines? Andrew McAfee has recorded a disc entitled *A Passionate Horn*, which puts phrasing and style front and center. It is clear from the first track (the second movement of the Glière concerto, performed here with piano accompaniment) that McAfee's project is musical expression. Sure, he possesses a big, warm sound, but the Romantic sentiment behind each piece shines through every phrase.

Andrew McAfee is the former principal horn of the North Carolina Symphony and the current horn professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. His Glière interpretation takes advantage of the piano accompaniment, with lots of rubato, lots of give and take with his pianist (Nancy Whelan,