

Dave Camwell: *Bach-Centric*

© 2010 Teal Creek Music, TC-2019. Teal Creek Music. www.TealCreekMusic.com. Dave Camwell, Stephen Page, James Bunte, Nathan Nabb, James Romain, saxophones. Reviewed by Stephen Fischer.

Saxophonist Dave Camwell's second solo recording *Bach-Centric*, released in 2010, is a beautifully recorded CD of selections composed by J. S. Bach. Dave Camwell holds a DMA in Performance from the University of Oregon and currently serves on the faculty of Simpson College as Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies.

Joining Camwell on this recording in a collaborative effort are guest saxophonists Stephen Page, James Bunte, Nathan Nabb, and James Romain.

On this CD, Camwell performs many of his own Bach arrangements as well as others by Caravan, Vetter, and Abeling. Beginning with his beautiful arrangement of the Sinfonia from Cantata 29 (BWV 29), Camwell immediately exhibits his precise technique and beautiful tone leading to an enjoyable opening to the recording. The next selections include the Sonata in A Minor (BWV 1013) and the Prelude from the first Cello Suite (BWV 1007), Camwell continues to perform extremely musically and in an almost effortless manner.

Dave Camwell does the majority of the recordings but additional guest artists join him for two works. Camwell and Stephen Page provide an excellent rendition of the fifteen Two Part Inventions (BWV 772-786). Both performers exhibit beautiful blending tones and matching articulation styles that perfectly complement each other. Camwell is joined by the other three members of the Oasis Quartet to perform the Concerto in D Minor (BWV 1052). The performers provide a crisp and exciting performance of Camwell's arrangements that convincingly maintains the character of the original instrumentation.

This is an enhanced CD, and Camwell has added three Quicktime videos that are can be viewed with a computer. The first video is slideshow of various pictures of the artist and scores from some of the selections on the CD, which are seen as certain tracks play. The second and third video files follow along with the scores of the Cantata 29 (BWV 29) and the Concerto in F (BWV 1057), creating an interesting opportunity that is not usually found on most recordings.

Dave Camwell's second solo recording is a beautiful and powerful recording. It is tremendously well performed and each of the works selected provide a great opportunity for all saxophonists to hear wonderful arrangements of the works of Bach for the saxophone. Camwell is to be commended for his beautiful tone and excellent