

## Music /

By Benjamin Ivry

### Tine Thing Helseth

#### Trumpet Concertos

Simax PSC1292  
(amazon.com)



Unique among instruments, the trumpet possesses an image of purity and spiritual inspiration. This substantial reputation demands an extreme degree of refinement in performance, and fortunately, the Norwegian virtuoso Tine Thing Helseth, born in 1987, is a musician of purity, wit, and gentleness. Ms. Helseth's performance of the heartwarmingly humorous, humane concerto by Franz Joseph Haydn will raise the spirits of any listener, just as her Albinoni concerto has fluid Italianate grace. Recorded in the pellucid acoustics of the Jar kirke, a church in Oslo, Norway, this CD invigorates and delights us.

### Mississippi John Hurt

#### Vanguard Visionaries

Vanguard SKU 73142  
(vanguardrecords.com)



The blues legend Mississippi John Hurt (1893–1966) worked nearly all of his life as a sharecropper and laborer in the hill-country town of Avalon, Mississippi. The 1960s folk-music revival suddenly revealed him to be a past master of singing and guitar-play-

ing as well. An unusually peaceable man in the rough-and-tumble blues world, Hurt charmed everyone with his good humor. One fan recalled, "He just agreed politely with everyone and played beautiful guitar."

More important, Mississippi John sang and played with sweet-hearted tenderness, secure in the assurance of his faith. Addressing the reasons for human suffering and illness in songs like "Farther Along," Hurt sings: "Farther along we will understand why/ Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine/ We'll understand it all by and by." Anticipating heaven's "beautiful gate" and meeting "those gone on before us," the singer forecasts an all-comprehending future for mankind. As someone whose lifelong occupation was the backbreaking toil, his interpretation of "Since I've Laid My Burden Down" offers a special presentiment of paradise: "No more sickness, no more sorrow, since I've laid my burden down."

### Hoku Zuttermeister

#### 'Aina Kupuna (Ancestral Land)

Kaleiola Records KR 001  
(hokuzuttermeister.com)



The lulling wisdom and spirituality of Hawaiian music is secure in the hands of its many generations of devoted performers. The young Honolulu-based singer Hoku Zuttermeister is the great-grandson of Emily Kau`i Zuttermeister (1909–1994), who was recognized as a Living Treasure of Hawaii for her teaching of traditional song and dance, as encouraged by her husband Karl Zuttermeister. Her descendant Hoku acutely expresses sacred delight in the flora and fauna of Hawaii in the title song of his new CD: "There is desire in my heart for the ancestral land." Singing in a gentle baritone and accompanying himself eloquently

on guitar and ukulele with a discreet backup string ensemble, Hoku Zuttermeister makes us feel utterly soothed and entranced. His chants, like those of his ancestors, comprise a sacred art redolent with what Hawaiians call *mana*.

### Boston Gay Men's Chorus

#### Live in Poland

Boston Gay Men's Chorus BGMC 09  
(bgmc.org)



Choral groups are rarely required to display physical courage, but a 2005 tour to Wroclaw, Poland, by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) was a dramatic exception. The BGMC, founded in 1982, scheduled a charity benefit for a local pediatric AIDS center, which drew protests from a far-right-wing group that agitated for the concert's cancellation. Street thugs shouted through bullhorns and waved banners with homophobic slogans, but the 120 Boston singers entered the hall and performed a program of soul-soothing songs, such as the Shaker anthem "Simple Gifts," as arranged by the American composer Aaron Copland: "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free." Other songs, such as "At the River" and "Down By the Riverside," speak of peaceful communion, especially telling in the context of local strife. With a nod to their audience and protestors, the BGMC also intones sonorously "Gaude Mater Polonia" (Rejoice, oh Mother Poland), a beloved hymn dating back to the Middle Ages. Their mellifluous singing is accompanied by pianist Chad Weirick, the group's assistant music director, who performs with exaltation. For its historical context and high musical value, this CD provides lasting encouragement and inspiration, teaching us to face down apprehensions and prejudices in ourselves as well as others. **SC&H**