



Dr. Debra Jan Bibel **TOP 500 REVIEWER**

★★★★☆ **Bright Brawny Big Band: the Warfield Anthology**

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Format: Audio CD

The rich, full, bright sound of a jazz big band is a pleasure that is less frequently encountered in our era. This album of the Bill Warfield Big Band is mainly an anthology of works from four album releases of 1990 to 2014; two tracks are previously unreleased. Warfield is a trumpeter and educator whose career turned on listening to Lew Soloff's solo on Spinning Wheel from the Blood, Sweat & Tears album. He subsequently studied with Soloff [1944-2015] and has dedicated this compilation to him. The musicians vary with tracks, but they include some notable soloists: on trumpet, Randy Brecker, John Eckert, and Soloff himself; tenor saxophonists Chris Potter, Rich Perry, Walt Weiskopf, and Bob Hanlon; alto saxophonists Andy Fusco and Dan Block; and pianist Ted Rosenthal. Besides some jazz Standards, Warfield has his own compositions. Warfield, who honed his art with studies at Manhattan School of Music, presently directs four Manhattan bands and is on the faculty of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. The brass heavy album well represents his talent as a leader, composer, and arranger. Its mainly fast tempos and dense solowork contrasts with occasional ballads, as In Your Own Sweet Way and Goodbye Porkpie Hat. There is also a swinging Latin jazz representative, Salsa en Mi Alma, (with Soloff).