



The King's Brass, under the leadership of trumpeter Tim Zimmerman, has been a fixture in concert and on disc for over thirty years. The group is active in a variety of venues ranging from worship services to the concert hall and has produced no less than fourteen recordings. The vast majority of our readers have most likely heard The King's Brass either live or

on CD. *American Mood* is a compilation of material recorded between 2000 and 2009 and includes big band, spirituals, jazz, gospel, and American classics. The range of recording dates helps to explain not only the large personnel list of talented performers and arrangers who are on display on this fine recording, but also the subtle differences in acoustics from track to track. The King's Brass handles this variety of styles in a masterful and convincing manner. The jazz and big band pieces feature fine idiomatic solos and careful attention to stylistic concerns. The patriotic selections are all that one could want for a Fourth of July concert; especially noteworthy is Brian Shook's arrangement of Charles Ives's *Variations on "America."* The group is blessed with many fine in-house arrangers who are attuned to the group's many strengths. Keyboards and percussion are used sparingly and to great effect. In short, *American Mood* is a worthy document and testimony to the fine work of Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass over the past decade. (Lee J. Weimer, associate professor of music, Lambuth University, Jackson, TN)

