

In Good Company

I suppose it should not be surprising that winners of the German Music Competition are outstanding performers, but I'm a little surprised each time one of these Genuin albums comes along. The players are young, their names unknown to me. Until now, for instance, I had not heard of the young Spanish tuba player Ruben Dura de Lamo, who won the GMC in 2013. His tone—big down low, concentrated in the middle and high—seems ideal to me. There is an ease to his playing, clarity of articulation, and security at all times.

I like this program, which has tuba in a variety of chamber settings. It's tuba and brass ensemble in Christer Danielsson's *Capriccio da Camera* (1976) and Morten Gaathaug's *Sonata Concertante* (1992).

Armand Russell's *Suite Concertante* (1961) combines tuba with woodwind quintet, William Penn's *Capriccio* with marimba (1992). Those works treat the tuba in a mostly lighthearted way. If you haven't listened to much tuba music, or to good tuba players, you might be surprised that such a big instrument can sound so nimble. It is morose, though, in Henri Tomasi's setting of Hamlet's famous 'Etre ou ne pas Etre' (To be or not to be, 1963) for tuba with trombone trio. First-rate assisting musicians. © 2015 American Record Guide

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