

Percussive Notes

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Mani Voltani

Luigi Morleo/Kroupalon Trio

Morleo Editore

The Kroupalon Trio possesses an impressive and unique sound that is characterized by a combination of concert, world, and pop styles. This is showcased here with works by Italian composer/percussionist Luigi Morleo and American composer/percussionist John H. Beck. Such an eclectic selection of music will endear this CD to a wide variety of listeners, both academic and otherwise.

This first selection, Morleo's "Trio fur Kinder der Welt," is a three-movement work for marimba, vibraphone, and timpani. Despite the "concert" nature of these instruments, the composer uses a variety of ostinati to create a trance-like texture. The middle movement is more relaxed, with bowing on the vibraphone, while the outer two movements are more energetic. Beck's piece, "Mani Volanti," involves a broad palette of sounds. This includes vibraphone, marimba, timpani, various multiple percussion instruments, darbuka, and djembe. The piece contains a strong Middle Eastern influence that centers on repeated rhythmic patterns that recur throughout the piece. The final work, Morleo's "Suite Lounge," is based on three dance styles: bossa nova, minuetto, and jungle. In addition to presenting a diverse set of genres, the piece serves as a showcase for the solo vibraphone, which is played by the composer.

—Jason Baker