

Kent T. Eshelman
Instrumental Studies (Music)

Compact Disc Recording Project ("Flavors")

In the field of music performance, where performing is tantamount to research, recording provides the only means of creating and disseminating an entirely refined performance. Having established a reputation as a soloist through live performances at conferences, competitions, and universities, I am eager to make a polished artistic statement by recording and distributing a CD that will be of the highest quality—particularly in performance, repertoire, and sound.

The truly outstanding feature of this project—in addition, I hope, to my performance—will be the repertoire. Almost all of the compositions to be included have never been recorded on the tuba. These include two works that were written for me personally by prominent composers Bruce Broughton and Anthony Plog, who have contributed some of the most popular works in the tuba repertoire. The other selections are my own adaptations of compositions for other instruments by several composers who are well-known to tubists including Eugene Bozza, whose Concertino is one of the most important works in the tuba's history. Thus, there is a real need for this music to be recorded and introduced to those in the field of tuba performance, as well as a strong potential for the CD to be used widely as a reference.

The other exciting potential for this CD is that, in my estimation, it will serve as a model of recorded tuba sound. The tuba is a challenging instrument to represent well on recordings, and often outstanding tubists produce recordings in which the quality of the performance is not matched by the quality of sound recording. I have already recording half of the music for this CD (with my own financial contributions) at the world-class Clonick Studio at Oberlin College Conservatory. The recording engineer, Paul Eachus, is one of the most well-respected in low brass recordings. The sound that he has captured in our first recording sessions is first-rate. It will be a distinct strength of the CD and also has the potential to become a reference for other musicians