



MUSO

GAVIN HIGGINS

Talented composer Gavin Higgins is one guy who should be blowing his own trumpet. His eclectic and colourful scores have been raising eyebrows in the *Muso* office – for all the right reasons.

A cross-fertilisation between Gershwin and Birtwistle, works such as *Freaks*, *URBIS*, and *Rapunzel Goes To Ibiza* are fresh and unsettling. *Fanfares and Love Songs*, meanwhile, reveals a softer side to Higgins, illustrating his flexibility and underlying passion for the brass band medium.

After completing his studies at Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, and gaining a scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music, Higgins became a Royal College of Music scholar supported by the AHRC and a Douglas and Hilda Simmonds Award, studying composition with Ken Hesketh.

Gavin's writing has particular relevance for the next generation of artists; *Alarms* for solo trumpet and *Road Works* for percussion have both been performed by BBC Young Musician finalists, and clarinettist Mark Simpson (winner in 2006) recently commissioned a new work, *Three Broken Love Songs*.

On his MySpace page, Higgins comments: 'If music be the food of love... then I'm hungry' – and this is one composer who has certainly whet our appetites.

www.gavinhiggins.com