Nancy Galbraith
*Other Sun* (Centaur Records)

Pittsburgh-born composer Nancy Galbraith studied music -- and currently teaches it -- at Carnegie Mellon University. *Other Sun*, which collects five of her accessible compositions, is motivated by bright melodies and energetic percussion, and shadowed with rich sonorities. Although recorded over several years, common threads emerge: the often mythic quality of Stephen Schultz's "electric Baroque flute," and amplified cellos, supplied on the title piece and "Night Train" by Cello Fury. "Traverso Mistico" expands the palette with the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble; another pleasing departure is percussion piece "Island Echoes."

-- Aaron Jentzen