NICK MACLEAN QUARTET feat. BROWNMAN ALI

BIO PAGE

This contemplative and often thrilling quartet's explorations of modern, original repertoire is led by a fast-rising star in Canada's jazz piano community, 8x Global Music Award winner **Nick Maclean**. Formed in 2016, Maclean's foursome delivers jazz between the two poles of thoughtful introspection and powerhouse conveyance, taking influences from Herbie Hancock's primordial 1960's Blue Note era recordings, while paying tribute to some of the greatest improvisers in jazz history. Maclean's quartet is frequently lauded for the strength of their collective improvisatory vision and heavily features one of Canada's most provocative improvising trumpet players – **Brownman Ali**, heralded as "Canada's preeminent jazz trumpet player" by New York City's Village Voice. Recognized as an internationally acclaimed jazz iconoclast, he currently splits his time between Brooklyn, NY & Toronto, Canada and is a 2x National Jazz Award winner. This jazz veteran is best known globally as the last trumpet player with the legendary jazz-hip-hop group **Guru's Jazzmatazz**, having replaced Donald Byrd in that seminal ensemble. Ali & Maclean stand shoulder to shoulder with two of Toronto's top-tier rhythm section 20-somethings: **Ben Duff** on bass and **Jacob Wutzke** on drums. The synergy of the 4 is always palpable in concert.

Repeatedly regarded as a modern take on the ferocious and hard-swinging post-bop era, the group has toured both across Canada and internationally, having been featured in numerous festivals and concert series including the Regina Jazz Society (Canada), the Altrincham Jazz Fest (UK), the Southport Jazz Fest (UK) and multiple appearances at the Toronto Jazz Fest both as a featured ensemble and an often requested backing band. In addition to their original material, the ensemble has also mounted several popular tribute series to jazz masters including Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry & Cole Porter.

The quartet's debut 11-track full-length album **"Rites Of Ascension"** features 6 Maclean-penned compositions, 1 Brownman original and 4 re-imagined Herbie Hancock classics, all recorded at the renowned Canterbury Studios in Toronto. Produced by Brownman Ali, this debut disk was released on October 31st, 2017 and was nominated for CJSF's '2018 Julian Award of Excellence', it won 3 'Gold' Global Music Awards in the 'jazz', 'band', and 'album' categories, and was featured as one of the Global Music Awards' 'Top 5 Albums of Spring 2018'.

The group's highly anticipated upcoming 2nd studio album **"Convergence"**, features 7 Maclean-penned compositions, 1 Brownman original and 3 re-imagined Herbie Hancock classics, all recorded at the renowned Revolution Studios in Toronto. Produced by Brownman Ali, this disc is slated for release on Browntasauras Records in Canada on October 27, and internationally on November 24, 2023.

AWARDS

– 2018 **Global Music Awards** pick for 'Top 5 albums of Spring 2018'

– 2018 **Global Music Award winner** – 3 Gold Medals in the 'jazz', 'album', and 'instrumental' categories

– 2018 **CJSF's 'Julian Award of Excellence' nominee** for 'Rites of Ascension'

- 2017 "Elasticity of Time and Space" becomes AllAboutJazz.com's **'download of the day'**