

ABOUT NICK MACLEAN

NICK MACLEAN is the winner of 10 Global Music Awards, a Toronto Independent Music Award, and took 1st place in the 'Unsigned Only' 'Jazz' category while quickly becoming one of the most in demand piano players in Toronto's bustling jazz scene. A protege of the Canadian jazz trumpet iconoclast, **BROWMAN ALI**, Nick leads two critically acclaimed and multi-award winning jazz ensembles which feature his longtime mentor: the funkified electric jazz group **SNAGGLE** and the hard-swinging modern jazz group **NICK MACLEAN QUARTET**, as well as having received numerous



accolades and acclaim for his **SOLO PIANO** work. Nick has toured right across Canada as well as internationally, performing for countless audiences and running jazz improvisation workshops for students and listeners eager to learn more about the artform. From Miles Davis & Herbie Hancock to Weather Report & Snarky Puppy, Maclean's musical influences are diverse.



Nick received his Bachelors of Music from Humber College in 2013, having studied with David Restivo, Bernie Senensky and Nancy Walker. He then went on to do a Masters in Jazz Performance at the University of Toronto researching synthesizer pedagogy while studying under David Occhipinti, Andrew Downing, Chris Donnelly and David Braid. Braid in particular had an enormous influence on how Maclean approaches playing and composing.

Maclean and Brownman have become collaborative partners across nearly a decade spanning numerous musical endeavours the fruits of which include Snaggle's 2016 release THE LONG SLOG, Nick Maclean Quartet's 2017 release RITES OF ASCENSION, Maclean's 2021 double solo piano release CAN YOU HEAR ME?, and most recently, the Nick Maclean Quartet's 2023 release of CONVERGENCE. Maclean and his ensembles are signed to Brownman's NYC-based jazz record label

BROWNTASOURAS RECORDS, an independent record

label widely regarded as a vanguard for Canadian, forward-thinking jazz, and where Maclean works as a label manager out of their Toronto offices. The future is bright for this young visionary as he continues his upward ascent in jazz artforms of all shapes and sizes.

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AS A LEADER:

NICK MACLEAN QUARTET (hard-swinging jazz)

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. The group released their debut album RITES OF ASCENSION in November 2017 which was featured as one of the Global Music Award's 'Top 5 Albums of Spring 2018', was nominated for CJSF's 'Julian Award of Excellence' and won a 'Gold' Global Music Award in the 'Jazz' category. In 2023 the group released their second album CONVERGENCE which won an additional two Global Music Awards and placed 1st in the 'Jazz' category of the 'Unsigned Only' competition.

SNAGGLE (electric jazz)

The multi award-winning, groove-based, electric jazz project SNAGGLE is a group with a fearlessly muscular yet introspective sound likened to a cross between 'electric-era Miles Davis' and 'Rage Against The Machine'. SNAGGLE's uniquely brash and infectious brand of jazz-funk is a melodically driven sound which incorporates primal groove qualities more commonly associated with pop and rock, swinging their live show from quietly contemplative all the way to explosively fierce - sometimes all within the same tune. Their 2016 release THE LONG SLOG was awarded 3 'Gold' Global Music Awards, a Toronto Independent Music Award and a nomination in the international Independent Music Awards for 'Best jazz/funk/fusion Album of the Year'.

SOLO PIANO (introspective jazz)

Maclean's SOLO PIANO project continues in the unconstrained spirit of spontaneous and courageous personal exploration that both of his ensembles have been lauded for, in order to perform rich and prismatic interpretations of originals, standards, and other contemplations, all delivered in the moment. Maclean's solo piano work delves into a reflective and soul-searching realm of expression, taking influences from jazz piano legends like Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, and Brad Mehldau, as well as that of his two divergent ensembles. His debut - double disc - release CAN YOU HEAR ME? was released on October 31st, 2021 where it soon went to #7 on the national jazz charts and features his most personal and intimate recordings to date.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES:

- 2023 Unsigned Only Competition - 'Road Warrior' wins 1st place in the 'Jazz' category
- 2023 Global Music Award winner - 2 Silver Medals in the 'band', and 'album' categories
- 2023 "Road Warrior" becomes AllAboutJazz.com's 'download of the day' (Feb 2023)
- 2022 "Can You Hear Me?" hits No.7 on the jazz charts in Canada (Jan 2022)
- 2022 Global Music Award winner - 2 Bronze Medals in the 'instrumental', and 'composer' categories
- 2018 Global Music Awards pick 'Rites of Ascension' 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 International Independent Music Award nominee for 'Best Jazz/Funk/Jam'
- 2017 Toronto Independent Music Award winner for 'Best Jazz Instrumental'
- 2017 "Elasticity of Time and Space" becomes AllAboutJazz.com's 'download of the day' (Nov 2017)
- 2016 Global Music Award winner - 3 Gold Medals in the 'band', 'album', and 'originality' categories
- 2016 "The Long Slog" receives a 4-star rating at AllAboutJazz.com
- 2016 "Snaggle #7" becomes AllAboutJazz.com's 'download of the day' (Nov 2016)
- 2016 "The Long Slog" hits No.1 on the jazz charts in Kamloops, BC, CANADA (Nov 2016)

QUOTES:

“Nick Maclean stands out for me as one of the most gifted young Toronto pianists to come along in the last few years. His combination of raw creativity and a well studied grasp of the technical and theoretical aspects of music makes for a powerful musical statement.”

- Adrean Farrugia, Juno Award winning jazz pianist (Toronto, CANADA)

“Nick Maclean has superior piano skills, coupled with great ideas and emotional execution.”

- Randy Brecker, Jazz trumpet legend (NYC, USA)

“Maclean's creative mind and aesthetics are obvious... his piano solos both lyrical and invigorating...”

- Ivana Popovic, The Wholenote (Toronto, Canada)

“Many describe Nick Maclean as a “rising star”, but those of us that heard him this afternoon think otherwise – *that* star has “already” risen!”

- Markham Jazz Festival, (Markham, CANADA)

“A young lion piano man you can't argue with. A well deserved award winner in many jazz and music circles, Maclean leads his crew into the untamed wilds of really doing right rather than just showing up.”

- Chris Spector, The Midwest Record (Illinois, USA)

“I inevitably think of names like Keith Jarrett, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Brad Mehldau and Danish Carsten Dahl – great jazz pianists who before Maclean have thrown themselves into equally groundbreaking solo projects... The work as a whole is faceted, rich, personal and intimate, at times sensitive, at times exuberantly expressive.”

- Ivan Rod (Copenhagen, Denmark)

“Young Toronto-based pianist Nick Maclean and his quartet offer his second sensational album with the impressive “Convergence” delivering a host of new original material that's exciting, explosive and infectious... “Convergence” reveals Maclean's talents as a composer as well as his chops on the piano making the case for one of the young lions of jazz today.”

- Edward Blanco, AllAboutJazz.com and WDNA, 88.9FM (Miami, USA)

“Rooted in bop, Nick Maclean Quartet is the sound of new jazz. Energy and innovation delivered with precision.”

- Russell Barling, The Sweet Spot - CHLY 101.7 FM (Nanaimo, CANADA)

“I was a great fan of Herbie Hancock's 60's music. Nick Maclean Quartet is very solid. «Convergence» is one of the best Canadian albums of 2023 and should have chances to get a Juno.”

- Denys Lelièvre, CKRL (Quebec City, Canada)

“Might Nick Maclean be to Canadian pianists what Kamasi Washington has become to U.S. saxophonists? In terms of creating a lengthy, wide-ranging document of modern jazz with some agenda and ideology supporting its musical invention, Toronto-based Maclean's Can You Hear Me? possesses commensurate scope and vision to Washington's name-making The Epic... the answer to Maclean's Can You Hear Me? is not only a “yes,” but “more, please,” too.”

- Jamie Lee Rake, Shepherd Express (Milwaukee, USA)

