

[Home](#) · [Featured Artist](#) · [Events & Festivals](#) · [Reviews](#) · [Interviews](#) · [Radio Guide](#) · [Links](#)  
[Jazz News](#) · [Musicians](#) · [OzLatest](#) · [About us](#) · [Contact Us](#) · [Your say](#) · [Jazz Art](#) · [Disclaimer](#)

**Gig Guides:** [Sydney - Week I / Week II](#)  
[Melbourne - Week I / Week II](#)

**Nick Maclean Quartet** - Rites of Ascension

**Common Quartet** - The Hive

**Patti Austin and James Morrison** - Ella and Louis

**John Scurry's Reverse Swing** - Post Matinée

**Quentin Angus** - In Stride

**Adrian Lim-Klumpes** - Yield [Preludes and Fugues for piano]

**Tony Barnard and Casey Golden** - Inventions

**Polymorphic Orkestra** - Confluence

**Nick Haywood Trio** - Many Rivers

**Mirrors** - Louis Stapleton

**Andrew Butt Trio** - Blueberry Ash

**Sandy Evans and Friends** - Rock Pool Mirror

**Ephemeria** - Orbits and Riffs

**Tal Cohen** - Gentle Giants

**Jeremy Rose** - Within and Without

**The Vampires Meet Lionel Loueke** - Earshift Music

**Norah Jones** - Day Breaks

**Diana Krall** - Turn Up The Quiet

**Sharny Russell** - Comes a Time

**Hinterlandt** - Ode to Doubt

**The Microscopic Septet** - The Micros Play The Blues

**Keir Neuringer and Matthew Wright** - Speak Cities

**Jack Thorncraft** - Let's Think About Tomorrow

**Harry Mitchell**

**Tom Vincent** - Blues in America

**Jackson Harrison Trio** - Sintering

**Tim Stevens** - Media Vita

**Chris Thile and Brad Mehldau**

**Daniel Weltlinger** - Samoreau

**Joshua Redman and Brad Mehldau** - Nearness

**2016 ARCHIVES:**

**Aziza** - Aziza

**Elliot Galvin Trio** - Punch

**Paul Grabowsky, Wilfred Brothers and Monash Art Ensemble** - Nyilipidgi

**Divergence Jazz Orchestra** - Fake it Until you Make it

**Brad Mehldau Trio** - Blues and Ballads

**Kristin Berardi Band** - Just as You Are

**Brenton Foster** - Two Cities

**Andrea Keller and Tim Wilson** - Consider This

## Reviews

★★★★★★ - masterpiece, ★★★★★ - excellent, ★★★★ - good, ★★★ - fair, ★ - poor

To Search for reviews - Key CTRL+F and artist or album name



**Nick Maclean Quartet - Rites of Ascension (Browntasaurus NCC-1701K)**

This twenty-something Toronto based pianist will be largely unknown to Australian audiences, but with albums like this along with his other project 'Snaggie' likened to Snarky Puppy, Maclean's trajectory can only be upward. Raised in Ottawa, and inspired by Fats Waller and Benny Goodman records, he was later influenced heavily by Herbie Hancock's music, and, it seems, his philosophy, which are major inspirations on this album. Personal expression and fun are the hallmarks of Nick Maclean's music and both are in abundance here. The overly familiar 'Cantaloupe Island' opens the album but Maclean's arrangement uses chromatic colours to put his stamp on the Hancock hit. Trumpeter Brownman Ali, with his crystalline tone, controlled vibrato and precise facility tips his hat to Hubbard while accelerating 'Driftin' into double time. 'One Finger Snap' then follows at a pace that requires two fingers snapping. Samples of Hancock voicing wisdom are used to colour some Maclean original's which allow the album to ascend from a platform of the past into the music of tomorrow. The highlight is the contribution from Ali 'Madness of Nero' which seems to encompass all the stylistic elements of the album into one piece including samples from philosopher Christopher Hitchens. The pair open in unison over a Tyler Goertzen's backbeat, while Maclean's block chords are utilised heavily in solo adding to the madness. Ali's fleeting inventions are constructed to perfection and build to climax before he again responds musically to Hitchen's take on the madness of power. Then the funk sets up a second and final climax.

★★★★★

Peter Wockner

[Back to Index](#)



**Common Quartet - The Hive (www.commonquartet.com)**

Like our own Sandy Evans, the saxophonist and leader of this Brooklyn based quartet Seth Trachy, is a student of Indian Classical music. His musical explorations don't end there though. He has a fascination with the Pygmy music of Cameroon along with Afro-Peruvian music. While those influences are abiding, their imprint on this music is only subtle, for this recording is steeped in the tradition of hard-bop. Common