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Nick Maclean's Snaggle feat. the Ali Bros., "Arkady" from 'Foundation' (2026): Sneak peek

Celebrated Toronto-based keyboard whiz Nick Maclean is poised to release an album inspired by science fiction writer Isaac Asimov and his highly influential Foundation series of sci-fi novels. The third in that trilogy — The Second Foundation — introduces the character Arcadia Darell aka "Arkady," a fourteen-year-old savant girl who endeavors to take on the mysterious Second Foundation. The third single from Maclean's upcoming album Foundation is named after her.

But you don't need to be versed in Isaac Asimov literature to appreciate "Arkady," however; you just need to appreciate quality fusion. In the video above, we see Maclean's Snaggle band perform the song in the studio, throwing a lot of virtuosity at it.

Maclean's brand of fusion has a direct line going back to Mahavishnu Orchestra forward to Snarky Puppy but it's also funky and that puts it in the Brecker Brothers' domain, too. Perhaps not so coincidentally, Maclean is prominently backed by another mighty trumpet/sax brothers duo in Brownman and Marcus Ali. Also part of Snaggle is Jay Yoo (electric guitar), Matt Gruebner (electric bass) and Adam Mansfield (drums).

You got all these quicksilver unison lines with ever-shifting unison combinations, tricky rhythmic stutters and a fat, rubbery bass going in all directions. There's a lot going on with changing keys, endless spunk and hot licks galore; the 10-time Global Music Award winner Maclean is responsible for a lot of those hot licks. One of the best moments is when he trades fours on his Moog with Brownman on his electrified trumpet. This is the stuff that made fusion fun back in its heyday and Snaggle is a revival of that kind of playfulness missing from a lot of contemporary jazz today.

Foundation (from Brownman Ali's Browntasauras Records) is due to drop at the end of October, 2026. Grab a download of "Arkday" now from Bandcamp.