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# The Jazz Music Blog

**for jazz music enthusiasts and aficionados, reviewing jazz recordings from past and present....traditional, swing, bebop, modern and progressive, with contemporary artists current releases, videos, gigs and more**

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Tuesday, November 28, 2017

## *Nick Maclean Quartet - Rites of Ascension...paying tribute to Herbie Hancock*



This contemplative and often thrilling quartet's explorations of modern, original repertoire is led by a fast-rising star in Toronto's **jazz piano** community -- 26-year-old **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 featuring **Freddie Hubbard**, while simultaneously paying apt tribute to some of the greatest improvisers in jazz history.

The quartet's **debut** 11-track full-length album "*Rites Of Ascension*" features 6 Maclean-penned originals, 1 composition by Brownman and 4 re-imagined Herbie Hancock classics. The group is frequently lauded for the strength of their collective improvisatory vision and highlights Maclean's ruminative piano prowess and handpicked sidemen. Brooklyn / Toronto based Brownman Ali, one of Canada's most provocative improvising trumpet-playing iconoclasts, stands shoulder to shoulder with Maclean himself & two of Toronto's top-tier rhythm section 20-somethings: Jesse Dietschi on bass and Tyler Goertzen on drums. This recording was produced by Brownman Ali for release on the Browntasaurus Records label, now widely regarded as a vanguard for new and visionary talent in the evolution of Jazz in Canada, and exemplifies Maclean's quartet in full flight.

Official website: <http://nicholasmaclean.com/nickmacleanquartet>

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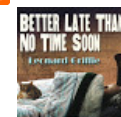
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Born in Ottawa, Nick Maclean is "one of the most gifted young Toronto **pianists** to come along in the last few years" (Adrean Farrugia, Juno winning jazz pianist) and has quickly become one of the most in-demand 20-something piano players in that city's bustling jazz scene. 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. From Miles & Hancock to Weather Report & Snarky Puppy, Maclean's musical influences are diverse. Aside from the Nick Maclean Quartet, Maclean also leads the award-winning, groove-based, electric-jazz project Snaggle, whose latest release The Long Slog was awarded a 2016 Gold-Standard Global Music Award, a 2017 Toronto Independent Music Award and has received international critical acclaim. The future is bright for this young visionary as he continues his upward ascent in jazz art forms of all shapes and sizes.



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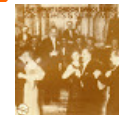
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