

# NICK MACLEAN QUARTET feat. BROWNMEN ALI

## FACTSHEETS

### "Convergence" - Track List

Total Album Run Time: 73:36

#### 1) Dolphin Dance (6:29)

*(ballad)*

- **Herbie Hancock cover**
- Composition originally appears on the Herbie Hancock 1965 release "Maiden Voyage"
- *Listen for:* Ali's dark tone on melody, Maclean's gentle lyricism, rollicking Latin outro

#### 2) Road Warrior (6:31)

*(hard, burning swing)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- Inspired by the rigours of touring: blizzards, vehicle breakdowns, pandemics, etc – and overcoming those obstacles in order to perform night after night
- *Listen for:* group interplay, deft rhythm section navigation, aggressive solos, challenging interlude

#### 3) Brotherhood (6:14)

*(straight ahead swing)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- Written during the pandemic at a time when live performances weren't possible. It was inspired by the bonding experience that happens on stage between musicians playing improvised music
- *Listen for:* Bluenote style sounds from everyone

#### 4) Why The Caged Bird Sings (5:12)

*(backbeat with gospel & hip hop leanings)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- This tune was inspired by the poet and author Maya Angelou and is meant to exhibit the defiant joy and celebration endemic in her works and her personality.
- *Listen for:* Maclean's modernism, Ali's use of electronics, inspiring drum trading at end

#### 5) Eye of the Hurricane (4:37)

*(fast paced, angular swing)*

- **Herbie Hancock cover**
- Composition originally appears on the Herbie Hancock 1965 release "Maiden Voyage"
- *Listen for:* guests **Mike Downes** on bass & **Mateo Mancuso** on drums, dexterous solos by Maclean & Ali, ending with an exploratory drum solo by Mancuso.

#### 6) True North (5:24)

*(contrasts ECM and Blakey-esque textures)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- Inspired by a geographical metaphor for moral theory using a True North vs Magnetic North parallel as an allusion to principled vs unprincipled approaches to ethics
- *Listen for:* the ECM-ish quality of this track (when it's not swinging hard)

#### 7) Butterfly (7:48)

*(funky with cuban jazz influences)*

- **Herbie Hancock cover**
- Composition originally appears on the Herbie Hancock 1974 release "Thrust"
- *Listen for:* the range this tune traverses from gentle elegance of melody to electric soaked trumpet to frolicking Cuban groove and back

#### 8) Verboten (6:43)

*(funky, backbeat)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- Written as a brash and unapologetic ode to the 'forbidden' in what bandleader Nick Maclean views is a culture growing ever more hyper-sensitive and prone to offense-taking
- *Listen for:* muscular Duff bass intro, Maclean's deep Herbie influence, Ali's "Brekker-esque" solo language, nimble Wutzke drum solo, and general funkiness!

#### 9) Lie Of Easy Attainment (7:51)

*(expansive odyssey)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- Written to embody the work, toil, and drudgery of everyday life - hidden from view on the omnipresent social media platforms where accomplishments and excitement misleadingly appear easy and plentiful
- *Listen for:* a wide range of feels, Ali's searching trumpet solo, a hard-swinging "Evans-like" piano solo

#### 10) Fragility of Being (8:41)

*(exploratory ballad)*

- **Nick Maclean original**
- A medical drama telling the story of a person being given the news that they have a debilitating and possibly fatal illness. The tune follows them through treatment, remission, devastating relapse, and finally recovery
- *Listen for:* an intricate journey from tragedy to hope

#### 11) Wisdom Of Aurelius (8:06)

*(cuban jazz odyssey)*

- **Brownman Ali original**
- A follow up to Brownman's composition "Madness Of Nero" about the despotic Roman Emperor Nero (released on "Rites of Ascension", 2017), "Wisdom Of Aurelius" takes inspiration from Nero's antithesis, the great stoic philosopher Emperor Marcus Aurelius
- Features Peruvian Latin percussion legend **Luisito Orbegoso** on congas and percussion
- *Listen for:* energized complex interplay, Latin authenticity, Ali's Cuban influence, Maclean's masterful piano montunos, drumset & conga synergy

## **FACTS about the NICK MACLEAN QUARTET**

- Founded in 2016, based in Toronto, Canada
- 3X 'gold' Global Music Award winner
- Modeled as a modern day evolution of Herbie Hancock's 1960s quartet that featured Freddie Hubbard ("Empyrean Isles" and "Maiden Voyage" being major influences)
- Features jazz trumpet iconoclast BROWNMANN ALI "as Maclean's Freddie".
- Debut release was "RITES OF ASCENSION" (Browntasaurus Records, 2017)
- Their touring schedule includes a recent 2 month, 50+ date odyssey from Toronto to Vancouver Island as well as overseas European and local provincial touring

## **FACTS about bandleader NICK MACLEAN**

- Based in Toronto, Canada, born in Ottawa, Canada
- 8x Global Music Award winner and winner of the Toronto Independent Music Award for 'Best Jazz Instrumental'
- Bandleader of the funkified electric jazz group SNAGGLE and NYC-style, Herbie Hancock influenced modern jazz group NICK MACLEAN QUARTET
- His SOLO PIANO project takes influences from his most introspective piano heroes Bill Evans, Brad Mehldau, and Keith Jarrett
- Protege to the internationally acclaimed trumpet player and producer BROWNMANN ALI
- Signed to Brooklyn-based jazz label BROWNTASAURAS RECORDS
- Influences include Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans, Brad Meldau, Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, Weather Report, Branford Marsalis Quartet, Snarky Puppy, Hiromi Uehara, Miles Davis, Avishai Cohen (bass), and Brian Blade
- Schooled at Humber College (B.Mus) & the University of Toronto (M.Mus)

## **FACTS about featured trumpet player BROWNMANN ALI**

- Born in Trinidad, he now splits his time between Brooklyn, NY, and Toronto, Canada.
- Heralded as "Canada's preeminent jazz trumpet player" by NYC's Village Voice
- Protege to the multi-Grammy winning jazz trumpet player RANDY BRECKER
- Was the last touring trumpet player with the legendary hip-hop group GURU'S JAZZMATAZZ (led by Guru, of Gangstarr fame), replacing Donald Byrd in that group
- Winner of the Montreal "Grand Prix du Jazz", 2 National Jazz Awards, 7 Toronto Independent Music Awards, 8 Global Music Awards, amongst a long list of accolades
- Bandleader & composer for 8 ensembles of his own includ. BROWNMANN ELECTRYC TRIO (electric-jazz), CRUZAO (latin-jazz), and GRUVASYLUM (jazz-hip-hop)
- Has performed with A-list luminaries such as JAY-Z, BEYONCE, MISSY ELLIOT, KAYNE WEST, PAUL SIMON, and QUINCY JONES
- CEO of Brooklyn-based jazz label BROWNTASAURAS RECORDS
- Influences include Miles Davis, Randy Brecker, Freddie Hubbard, Woody Shaw, Alex Sipiagin, Wayne Shorter, Nick Payton, Christian Scott, Cuong Vu