

Michael McNeill Trio



Passageways (2011)



Flight (2015)

with Ken Filiano and Phil Haynes

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Recorded January 18, 2014, Lewisburg, PA by Jon Rosenberg

"...blew me away with his debut (*Passageways*) and continues to impress..." ([Tom Hull](#))

"* * * * ... a simultaneously innovative and accessible album."
(Hrayr Attarian, *AllAboutJazz*)

"*Flight* walks by the classic and the modern fluidly... proving that the Michael McNeill Trio has much to offer not only to jazz or classical music, but music as a whole. **4/5**"
(Gabriel Carvalho, *Music On The Run*)

"* * * * Brimming with intelligence and passion... Engaging from start to finish, *Flight* is one of those special albums can be enjoyed on many levels... with more of its secrets revealed with each listen."
(Budd Kopman, *AllAboutJazz*)

"***Flight***" is thoughtful music, interactive music that is seriously playful. ...the listener will find much to ponder and enjoy each time the recording unfolds." (Richard Kamins, *Step Tempest*)

"(The) juxtaposition of old vs. new and of catchy vs. chaotic creates an appealing tension from the way these diametrically opposed motivations work so well in tandem." (Daniel Sumner, *Bird Is The Worm*)

Pianist **Michael McNeill** has cultivated a personal style that has found a home in contexts both mainstream and *avant-garde*, from the ethereal chamber-jazz sounds of *resAUnance*, to the post-bop energy of Kelly Bucheger's *What Would Mingus Do?*, and of course in his own music for his trio with veteran improvisers Ken Filiano (bass) and Phil Haynes (drums) and for the Buffalo Jazz Octet. His two CDs with Filiano and Haynes have drawn praise from critics in the US and abroad, who note that the band plays "thoughtful... interactive music that is seriously playful" (*Step Tempest*), "brimming with intelligence and passion" (*AllAboutJazz.com*), and that the trio "has much to offer not only to jazz or classical music, but music as a whole" (*Music On The Run*, Brazil).

Other projects and collaborations have included concerts with Dave Ballou, Joe Ford, Drew Gress, Paul Smoker, and David Taylor. McNeill served as pianist and arranger on vocalist Mari McNeil's 2014 release *Here Beneath The Blue* and can be heard as a sideperson on Kelly Bucheger's 2012 CD *House of Relics* as well as three CDs by percussionist Ravi Padmanabha. Forthcoming recordings include a CD from *resAUnance* and an album of duets with drummer/composer John Bacon.

Also active in classical music, McNeill was a founding member of the Wooden Cities New Music Collective and the Buffalo Bach Project.

Ken Filiano performs throughout the world, playing and recording with leading artists in jazz, spontaneous improvisation, classical, world/ethnic, and interdisciplinary performance, fusing the rich traditions of the double bass with his own seemingly limitless inventiveness. Ken's solo bass CD *subvenire* (NineWinds) received widespread critical praise. For this and numerous other recordings, Ken has been called a "creative virtuoso," a "master of technique", "a paradigm of that type of artist...who can play anything in any context and make it work, simply because he puts the music first and leaves peripheral considerations behind."

A 20-year veteran New York based artist, beginning in 1983, **Phil Haynes** is featured on more than 50 LP and CD releases by numerous American and European record labels. Haynes' debut, The Paul Smoker Trio's *QB* with Anthony Braxton, was named the #1 recording of 1985 by esteemed critic Kevin Whitehead. The international media have compared his drumming to masters Jack DeJohnette, Roy Haynes, and Elvin Jones, and his compositions to Duke Ellington, Charles Ives, Charles Mingus and the Art Ensemble of Chicago. Recent albums include both duo and trio CDs with NEA Jazz Master David Liebman.

Critics' Reactions to *Passageways*:

"Michael McNeill Trio: *Passageways*... I often despair of my inability to sort out the vast wave of piano trios that come my way, but sometimes I'm caught by surprise -- just rarely by someone I've never heard of before. First clue here is the bassist, who never plays on uninteresting albums. Filiano kicks off the 20:34 opener -- that length another sign that something is up here -- but when the pianist takes over he darts in and out, never settling for something ordinary... **A-**" — Tom Hull

"With *Passageways* McNeill has burst on the modern music scene as an exciting and ingenious composer and improviser. His more seasoned associates, far from overshadowing him, enhance his singular vision. Hopefully this gem of a disc will serve as an introduction to a luminous career." — Hrayr Attarian, AllAboutJazz.com

"Michael McNeill's debut as a leader introduces a fresh perspective to the popular piano trio format... McNeill is an exceptional composer and player, with a debut that sets a high standard for those yet to come." — Eyal Hareuvini, AllAboutJazz.com

"The McNeill Trio plays high-level improvisational music, built around strong compositions and sturdy motifs... His extended solo during album-opener 'Hold On' offers a master-class in musical storytelling, and his improvised prelude to 'Metropolis' is both playful and haunting."

— Jeff Miers, Buffalo News

2014 tour: 1/12: Transparent Productions at Bohemian Caverns (Washington, D.C.);
1/17 at The Firehouse Space (Brooklyn); 1/18 at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA);
1/20 at the Bop Shop (Rochester, NY); 1/21 at Hallwalls (Buffalo)

Further information:

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