

INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ

Chasing After Light

Michael Occhipinti and Creation Dream
True North Records TND 480
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“Chasing After Light” is the latest musical offering from the talented, award-winning guitarist, composer and producer Michael Occhipinti. Michael is well-known for his large jazz ensemble “NOJO” (co-led with Paul Neufeld) and for his critically acclaimed tribute CD, “Creation Dream – The Songs of Bruce Cockburn”. In fact, the compositions on the current CD were developed during Michael’s three

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tours promoting the Cockburn-centric recording.

Occhipinti has assembled a polymorphously talented group, featuring Kevin Turcotte on trumpet, Andrew Downing and brother Roberto Occhipinti on basses, Hugh Marsh on violin, Barry Romberg on drums and Michael on both acoustic and electric guitars. The material on the CD is comprised solely of Occhipinti’s intriguing compositions, utilizing his considerable and versatile guitar skills.

Self-produced, “Chasing After Light” is deeply emotional and thought provoking. The beauty and power of trumpeter Kevin Turcotte’s solos, juxtaposed against the raw and uncensored electric guitar of Occhipinti is a recurring theme throughout the project, particularly on *The Cubists* — a tune in which the complexity of modern civilization collides with the ancient world in the form of a face melting guitar solo.

Serious bebop is also deftly rendered here, notably on *The Berlin Wall of Hedges* and *Blackout Blues*. Throughout the CD, violinist Hugh Marsh plays with nuclear-powered dexterity. The ensemble shines on the closer, *All the Diamonds in the World* – featuring a haunting, muted trumpet solo by Turcotte, and dedicated to the late, great jazz photographer Paul Hoeffler. Well-conceived, performed and produced, “Chasing After Light” promises to be one of the most memorable jazz recordings of the year.



Lesley Mitchell-Clarke