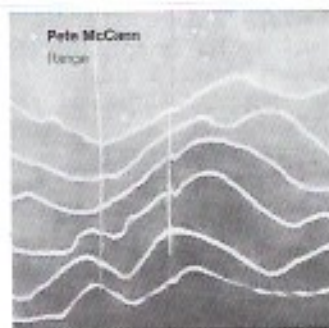


PETE MCCANN

RANGE

Kenny; Seventh Jar; Realm; To The Mountains; Mustard; Dyad Changes; Luminous; Bridge Scandal; Rumble; Mine Is Yours (62.12)

Pete McCann (g); John



O'Gallagher (as); Henry Hey (p);
Matt Clohesy (b); Mark Ferber (d).
Brooklyn, USA, May 2014.

Whirlwind 4675

★★★★

I'll make a bee line for the 95 Club in Greenwich Village next time I'm in New York. Apparently it's where the very impressive guitarist Pete McCann can often be found. I didn't know about McCann, though I daresay hardcore fans of jazz-rock will be familiar with him. If not, they should be - he's got great chops.

He actually covers the waterfront in terms of jazz styles. He cites Wes as an influence and I could detect more than a touch of Scofield and Frisell in his deliberately tangled/untangled lines. But fusion's clearly closest to his heart: he even plays in a Mahavishnu tribute band endorsed by Doncaster's famous son, John McLaughlin.

This engraving programme of original material is a joy, with McCann's pacy, athletic soloists borne up by his crafty arrangements. The opener, *Kenny*, after Kenny Wheeler, features a sparkling and building solo from Hey and an almost conversationally fluent alto break from O'Gallagher. *To The Mountains* is Frisellian in its painstaking unpicking of the melody, Clohesy complementing the sombre tone with a deliciously glum solo. Led out by O'Gallagher, *Luminous* is similarly mysterious, Ferber making nourishing noises off while McCann colours on acoustic guitar. *Bridge Scandal*, a commentary on gerrymandering New Jersey, is the jazz-rock show stopper with McCann, axe all fuzzed up, shredding magnificently. The last side, a very gentle come down, *Mine Is Yours*, is a spare, Latin-tinged acoustic beauty. Get on a plane, if you can Pete McCann, and bring your band over here.

Garry Booth