

Mp3 George Mcrae - Being Here



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"Invigorating and original... McRae joins the ranks of gifted young pianists." - JazzReview.com

AffinityJazz announces the release of "Being Here," from keyboardist/composer George McRae. This recording (McRae's second) presents him in an electric trio setting along-side fretless bassist Alan Berliant and drummer/pecussionist Larry Beers. Utilizing a more stripped-down, no frills approach McRae focuses on vintage instruments - mostly Fender Rhodes with a little Wurly and clavinet - to showcase the nine original tunes on this recording. Influenced by artists such as Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, Stevie Wonder and M.M.&W., McRae's tunes run a gamut of styles; from the soulful groove of "A Little Taste," to the lyrical beauty of "Shades of You," to the sophisticated, raw energy of "Drive." McRae graduated magna cum laude from Berklee College of Music in 1988 with the prestigious Duke Ellington Jazz masters award. A year later he received a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts for composition. He has performed and recorded with, among others; Michael McDermott, Juggular, and Tami Show and has composed music for a number of concert dance companies from around the world. His band members touring and recording credits include; Sonia Dada, Crash Test Dummies, Nicholas Tremulis, Fareed Haque, Freddy Jones Band and countless commercial "jingle" sessions. All three initially came together ten years ago as members of one of Chicago's most prominent rock bands, "The Way Moves." Though the band split in 1991, all three musicians continued to hone their skills apart and occasionally together. Fast forward to today where they have collaborated as a modern jazz group exploring McRae's imaginative compositions within an all electric format. "The three of us have not only been playing together for ten years, but we're also good friends" states McRae. "We seem to have an uncanny chemistry and I think that's reflected in the music on this recording."

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