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Wisconsin native Pete McCann has been a prominent figure in New York City jazz for more than thirty years. Most of all, this guitarist is known as an excellent sideman, whose instrument appears on more than a hundred albums. Pete has played with a lot of celebrities: Lee Konitz, Dave Liebman, Brian Blade, The Manhattan Transfer, Maria Schneider Orchestra... the list goes on and on. McCann not only plays and composes music, but also appreciates it as a journalist: his material appears in *Guitar Player* and *DownBeat*. If we talk about the musician's own work, then his discography includes six albums, and the seventh, *Without Question*, will be released in early August. We'll talk about him.

"Without Question" was the title of both the album as a whole and its title track by Pete McCann. This energetic statement, as the musician explains, refers to the fact that both in playing the guitar and in composing music, he managed to develop his own individual style. Of course, he learned from others. Evidence of this is in the album compositions *I Can Remember*, dedicated to his favorite guitarist John Abercrombie (how close their playing styles are to be judged by experts) and *Lovely Thing*, a tribute to saxophonist Lee Konitz, with whom McCann collaborated very fruitfully. There is another dedication in the album: in the blues form, Pete dressed his tribute to the outstanding academic composer of the twentieth century Olivier Messiaen *Blues for O.M.* It is worth mentioning that all ten pieces in *Without Question* are copyrighted. And if we continue talking about the themes of the plays, then a number of McKenna's compositions are devoted to the pandemic and its consequences. *Hindsight* was the first composition composed by Pete during the lockdown, *Lost City* is the impressions of the first trip to New York at night after the end of the lockdown, and *January*, written at the beginning of 2022, is a reflection on the past year and hopes for the future. There are also pieces of social sounding in the album: *Conspiracy Theory* and *Erase the Hate*.

The album is recorded in quintet format and is electro-acoustic. McCann himself plays both acoustic and electric guitars, bassist Matt Pawolka alternates double bass and bass guitar, and Henry Hay plays piano and keyboards. Well, the main partner of the leader is undoubtedly the saxophonist Steve Wilson, who showed himself very brightly in this program. I mean the title track *Without Question*, where Steve and Pete alternate their solo parts, and the tough *Conspiracy Theory*, and *Trifecta*, where he is especially good. Pete McCann himself was also liked in the lyrical slow themes of *Lost City* and *January*. This is a truly versatile high-class professional, which I recommend to be convinced of by listening to *Without Question*.