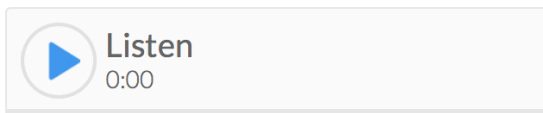




## Pete McCann, “Pay For It On the Other Side”

*Pay For it On the Other Side*, the smartly assured new album by guitarist Pete McCann, covers a broad expanse of style — from Mahavishnu-esque jazz-rock (“Nikhil”) to skronky second line (“Mud Flap”) to pastoral reverie (“Yonder”) — but never with a feeling of empty eclecticism, or the sense of someone checking off items on a to-do list. McCann, who has been an interesting composer and improviser at least since his debut album 20 years ago, brings deep curiosity and abiding focus to this session, with alto saxophonist John O’Gallagher, pianist Henry Hey, bassist Matt Clohesy and drummer Mark Ferber.



*"Pay For It On the Other Side," by Pete McCann*

The title track — inspired both by McCann’s routine traverse of the George Washington Bridge and some deeper implications of the afterlife — is a kinetic piece set at a forward tilt.

Swerving between a syncopated prog energy and a slaloming swing feel, it brings out some expert work by every member of the band, notably in back-to-back solos by McCann and O’Gallagher, whose rapport is a steadfast feature of the album as a whole.

