



## Stuart McCallum

### Distilled

Naim Label release date 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

#### Cinematic Orchestra guitarist Stuart McCallum releases stunning solo album

*"The music suggests the feel of the Cinematic Orchestra, Brian Eno and In a Silent Way-era Miles Davis"*  
The Guardian

Manchester guitarist and composer **Stuart McCallum** is best known for his work with **Cinematic Orchestra**. The distinctive, ethereal and atmospheric sound of his guitar has been at the heart of their sound since 2004, including on the albums '**Ma Fleur**' and '**Live At The Royal Albert Hall**' and the award winning soundtrack '**The Crimson Wing**'. His own music influenced by jazz and DJ Culture is a distillation of many influences, creating a sound that is concentrated and distinctive. McCallum who admits to influences from Wes Montgomery to Bjork, Flying Lotus to Bon Iver and James Blake to Bill Frisell, as well as modern art, eschews over complicated harmonic and rhythmical structures in favour of a rich mix of electronica and improvisation enriched by elegant orchestral writing.

**Distilled**, McCallum's brilliant third album, and first for new label **Naim**, is a culmination of the music he has written over the last few years and the idea of '*distillation*' is right at the heart of how the record was written. McCallum 'sampled' the best bits of his compositions, using them as the basis for further writing, before again sampling the results, and so on, until arriving at the perfectly distilled version of what he wanted to say. The result is a sublime slice of ambient-jazz-electronica with beautiful melodies and gorgeous soundscapes. But it isn't just the process, McCallum's own music is 'distilled': simple, memorable and melodic, minimalist and repetitive like modern dance music. His music owes as much to dance music as it does jazz. McCallum's music thrives in the spaces between genres and on **Distilled** the improvisation is part of the compositional process. But it's his use of technology that helps give the music its unique sound, be it looped instruments, samples, or his ethereal guitar. McCallum utilises technology to create unique soundscapes, that are in equal part performance, composition and improvisation.

**Distilled** features McCallum on guitars and sampler alongside bassists **Ira Coleman** and **Robin Mullarkey**, harpist **Rachel Gladwin** (best known in the jazz world for her work with Matthew Halsall), drummer **Dave Walsh**, legendary Manchester based percussionist **Chris Manis** and **Iain Dixon** on woodwinds. Amongst the album's key tracks are **Part 3**, part of a suite that McCallum wrote for John Surman after a commission from Manchester Jazz festival. There are samples of the music from this suite in the tracks **Lament for Levenshume** and **dR Doctor** but it is here that we hear the most intact version of the original written music. The soaring **Inflight** was written on a flight to Australia and perfectly captures the spirit of motion. **La Cigale**, named after the venue in Paris, features a sample of a string quartet movement that McCallum wrote while sitting in a tour bus outside the venue. But it is **dR Doctor**, the opening track, which presents the clearest statement of what the album is about. Simple and melodic, with a catchy bass line and drum beat, the sampled strings are from the suite McCallum wrote for Surman and the rest of the track grew around the sample, a perfect example of how McCallum has distilled his music and which like a great Scotch proves that in the hands of an artist the perfect blend is one **Distilled**.

Further information, images, interviews: email: [kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com](mailto:kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com) ph: 07775655573

*"Guitarist Stuart McCallum's compositions are exemplary of everything that is exciting about new British jazz."* **Jazzwise**

" Simple, understated and hypnotic he had the audience locked in and silent...Living proof that less is more". **Jez Nelson, Jazz on 3**

### **Distilled is launched at the Manchester Jazz Festival**

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July, Royal Northern College Music, 7.30pm, £16/£13 (concs available)**

The distinctive sound of McCallum's guitar, is set at the heart of a 16-piece ensemble, conducted by **Ben Cottrell** (recently praised for his orchestral arrangements for Mercury Prize nominated **Everything Everything** and his own jazz ensemble **Beats & Pieces**) consisting of drums, percussion, bass, harp, strings, double bass and woodwind.

The premiere, performed in the Royal Northern College of Music's Theatre as a feature of MJF, will also treat the audience to a special visual show from **Linder**, a radical feminist photographer and artist, best known for her iconic artwork for **The Buzzcocks** debut single 'Orgasm Addict'.

Further information about the Manchester Jazz Festival premier here:

<http://www.manchesterjazz.com/2011/stuart-mccallum-distilled-album-launch-in-collaboration-with-linder/>

[www.stuartmccallum.com](http://www.stuartmccallum.com)

[www.naimlabel.com](http://www.naimlabel.com)

