



September 20, 2014

S. Victor Aaron

<http://somethingelserreviews.com/2014/09/20/peripheral-vision-sheer-tyranny-of-will-2014/>

A small ensemble of young, creative musicians out of Toronto who nimbly mix mainstream jazz, modern jazz and rock? Think Myriad3. And, think Peripheral Vision, too.

Peripheral Vision is a quartet that's been around since 2008 and quickly made an impression with an eponymous titled album two years later. It's a four-piece band with Trevor Hogg on tenor sax and Nick Fraser on drums, but the masterminds are longtime musical partners Don Scott (guitar) and Michael Herring (bass). On September 23, 2014, the four piece band will put forth their third CD, *Sheer Tyranny Of Will*, which like the trio Myriad3 just seems to be hitting their stride.

The secret ingredient on *Sheer Tyranny Of Will* that sets it forward from their first two albums is Jean Martin. He's the additional engineer brought in to add overdubs and studio-derived sonic accouterments that complement Peripheral Vision's live-in-the-studio (or in the case of *Spectacle: Live!*, live on stage) way of laying down tracks. Your ears will pick up the spectral soundscapes that makes the choruses soar on "Robbed and Ridiculed" and "Neurosis And Everyday Life." The overdubs also give an illusion of comfort within "Wiretap" just before an abrupt, sharp passage full of guitars attacking from various directions jolts the song out of getting too comfortable with itself.

The after-hours tinkering might alter the colors of the sound — and does so with good discretion — but Herring's and Scott's songs and how they actualize them remain the central point of intrigue. "Cement Watchers" goes through movements of jazz, folk, avant-garde and indie rock but it's meshed together so well that the stitches aren't showing. On top of all that, Herring uncorks a sublime sawed bass turn amid the free jazz section.

The aforementioned "Robbed" exhibits the quartet's signature jerky, start-stop energy and wholly unpredictable progressions and rollercoaster tempos. The off-kilter funk of "Charleston Heston" forces everyone to be on their toes, with nimble lead from Herring and rhythm guitar from Scott. The percolating "Backbone" is a feature for Hogg, who rides this groove in Donny McCaslin fashion. "The Ill Conceived Plan" is a moment where the straight-jazz influence that's always present in the band's work goes to the front, marked by a deadly bass/guitar riff going low while a guitar/sax riff goes up high (Scott's a busy man on this tune).

It all ends with one of the few softer numbers, "Patina," an unhurried pastel melody that's increasingly challenged by the restless rhythm section from Herring and Fraser, luring an acid-toned guitar solo from Scott.

Unfailingly fresh, incalculable and rewarding, Peripheral Vision is giving jazz the swift kick in the pants that it needs. *Sheer Tyranny Of Will* is sheer inventive talent on display.



REVIEWS > IMPROV & AVANT-GARDE > SEP 19 2014
by Glenn Hall

Long-time musical brothers Michael Herring (bass) and Don Scott (guitar) have developed a strong rapport that powers both their music and their tenacity. In a time when almost daily posts bemoan the dearth of paying gigs and the death of jazz, their quartet, Peripheral Vision, is a living example of integrity, persistence and creativity. Featuring national treasure Nick Fraser on drums and Trevor Hogg on tenor saxophone, this ten-track album has consistently propulsive tunes that are energized and engaging.

The opener, "Robbed and Ridiculed," features robust bass lines, horn-section-ish guitar figures and a unified group sound. "Wiretap" has fluid, strong-voiced sax locked in with a snapping drum part that cedes to an almost churchy organ simulation, which yields to an abstract thrash, then back to guitar and sax solos: it's complex and cohesive. "Neurosis and Everyday Life" has crisp Fraser drumwork that buoys Scott's winding guitar and Herring's agile bass solos. The writing by Herring and Scott is skilled and intriguing, although the tunes lend themselves to somewhat restrained performances. Still, Hogg does get skronky on "Cement Watchers." Sheer Tyranny of Will is the sound of solid musicians making solid music.

the**WholeNote**

by Stuart Broomer
October 31 2014
Jazz and Improvised

Several Toronto musicians have recently released projects that play creatively with genre expectations. Bassist Michael Herring and guitarist Don Scott formed Peripheral Vision in 2008 as a vehicle for their compositions and a contemporary fusion style that incorporates jazz elements with sometimes rock-derived rhythms and a full complement of guitar pedals. They're joined on Sheer Tyranny of Will (peripheralvisionmusic.com) by tenor saxophonist Trevor Hogg and drummer Nick Fraser. The interest in composition is real and the concentration on the music's total effect extends to the judicious use of studio resources: both Herring's "Wiretap" and the title tune develop complex moods through contrasting segments and Scott's overdubbed guitar parts. Peripheral Vision may be at its best, though, on simpler material: "Charleston Heston" has a tremendous buoyancy, with Scott and Hogg floating aloft on the rhythmic verve that Herring and Fraser can generate.

Peripheral Vision - Sheer Tyranny Of Will - Radio Highlights

Numerous weeks at #1 on Canadian National Jazz Charts

Featured on:

Earshot Jazz Charts (Canada)

Jazz FM (Toronto)
BBC 3 - Jazz On 3 (UK)
WWPV (Richmond, VT)
CKCU (Ottawa, ON)
CBC Music Library
Peninsula Radio (Italy)
WRTC (Harford, CT)
CFMU (Hamilton, ON)
CFRC (Kingston, ON)
CFBU (St. Catherine's, ON)
WCOM (Carrboro, NC)
WNMC (Traverse City, MI)
Radio ARA (Luxembourg)
WMBR (Cambridge, MA)
WCDB (Niskayuna, NY)
WVIA (Pittston, PA)
KUAF (Payetteville, AR)
CKCU (Ottawa, ON)
KSVY (Vallejo, CA)
One Man's Jazz (Winnipeg, MB)
CFUV (Victoria, BC)
ANIMAJAZZ (Italy)
CFBX (Kamloops, BC)
HPR2 (Hawaii)
KSFR (Santa Fe, NM)

Oct 7 - CFRC - #2
Oct 7 - CFRU - #4
Oct 7 - CFUV - #2
Oct 7 - CILU - #5
Oct 7 - National - #1
Oct 14 - CFRC - #3
Oct 14 - CFRU - #7
Oct 14 - CFUV - #4
Oct 14 - CILU - #2
Oct 14 - CJSR - #10
Oct 14 - National - #1
Oct 21 - CFRC - #3
Oct 21 - CILU - #1
Oct 21 - CJAM - #3
Oct 21 - CKUT - #8
Sept 9 - CJSR - #2
Sept 16 - CFRC - #1
Sept 16 - CFRU - #7
Sept 16 - CJSR - #8
Sept 16 - National - #7
Sept 23 - CFRC - #2
Sept 23 - CFRU - #4
Sept 23 - CFUV - #1
Sept 23 - National - #3
Sept 30 - CFRC - #2
Sept 30 - CFRU - #4
Sept 30 - CILU - #6
Sept 30 - National - #3



EXCITING JAZZ GROUP PERIPHERAL VISION HITS N.B.

Tue, Jun 26, 2012.

Okay jazz fans (and those keen to see some hot playing of any kind), there's a visiting treat in store for you over the next couple of nights in N.B. Direct from a Toronto Jazz Festival gig comes Peripheral Vision, a rules-breaking quartet comprised of some of the best modern players around. Fast-paced, intricate, and inventive, this group touches on the experimental while keeping their feet anchored in the classic 60's avant-garde, when free jazz giants ruled the world. The band's second, and brand-new disc is called *Spectacle: LIVE!*, and this is exactly the stuff they'll give us on the tour.

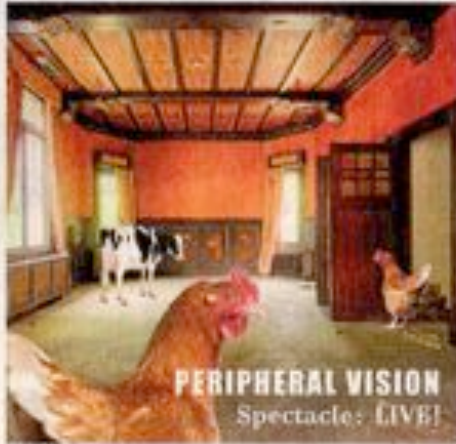
The group features Don Scott on guitar, Michael Herring on double-bass, sax player Trevor Hogg, and drummer Nick Fraser. Each one is an improviser, soloist and team player, and many of the impressive live moments found on the CD come from the sympathetic playing of the others, while one takes the lead. Hearing Scott's delicate and rich chording between Hogg's sax as he leads the tune on *Subway Subtle* is a great example, especially when Scott then switches to duelling the lead with the sax. All the while Herring and Fraser are adding more depth, the bass doing a harmonic end-run around the sax, going down while he goes up, and Fraser sticks going wilder, but quieter than the rest of them.

The lengthy pieces here (only one under five minutes) are a showcase for all the ideas the four bring to the table. Tempo shifts, new segments, and long passages let each member explore and develop their parts, while the audience gets to sit back and soak up a whole lot of impressive moments pouring out of these guys. This is a band that can take off at any moment, and it's easy to predict there will be some flights each concert. You can catch Peripheral Vision tonight (Tuesday, June 26) in Moncton at Cafe Aberdeen, and Wednesday the 27th at Cedar Tree Cafe in Fredericton.

Bob Mersereau, CBC New Brunswick



Globe And Mail, October 15, 2011



JAZZ

Spectacle: Live!

Peripheral Vision

Step 3

★★★★

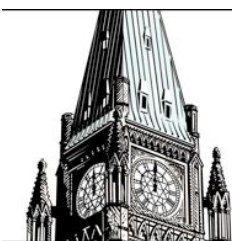
It's always great to hear a jazz group live up to the promise of its debut, and *Spectacle* does that in spades. Although the writing is colourful and evocative, and the improvisations so tuneful they sound like compositions, what really sets this Toronto quartet apart in its second album is the confidence of the playing, which exhibits the sort of semi-telepathic communication you'd expect from musicians who had been together for a decade, not just a year or so. At its best, *Peripheral Vision* recalls the cerebral groove and melodic lyricism of John Abercrombie's recent bands, and its best is mostly what *Spectacle: Live!* delivers.

-J.D. Considine

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Don Scott contact: don@feastyouears.com - 416-825-7173 - Toronto, Canada



OTTAWA CITIZEN

The vision thing (CD review)

By **PETER HUM**

OCT 5 2011

JAZZBLOG.CA

After several weeks on the road in Western Canada, the Toronto-based quartet Peripheral Vision returns home to mark the launch of its latest CD, *Spectacle: Live!*, at the Tranzac with a show on tonight (Oct. 5). The disc, as you'll read below, is one worth celebrating.

Spectacle: Live! (Step3) Peripheral Vision

Recorded last Nov. 4 at The Cellar Jazz Club in Vancouver, *Spectacle: Live!* finds tenor saxophonist Trevor Hogg, guitarist Don Scott, bassist Michael Herring and drummer Nick Fraser delving deeper into their expansive, intriguing collective sound.

Despite its name, the band is no peripheral player on the Canadian jazz scene. This live disc, the band's second, confirms that Scott and Herring are compelling composers of fresh, smartly arranged themes and that together with Hogg and Fraser, they can realize their music in a vivid, uncompromising fashion.



The easy comparison to make is to say that Peripheral Vision draws on the keen tenor saxophone-guitar sound of the paradigm-shifting music that Mark Turner and Kurt Rosenwinkel made roughly a decade ago. Some of Peripheral Vision's tunes thrill with the long, eery, swooping unison lines, the harmonic edge and straight-eighths grooves reminiscent of the Turner/Rosenwinkel groups. Take, for example, Scott's sinewy tune *Says You*, which closes *Spectacle: Live!* Here's a live version of that tune: <http://youtu.be/udJVXOjp9KA>

And yes, saxophonist Hogg is an admitted student of Turner, and some of his teacher's language, daring altissimo manoeuvres and swirling phrasing have rubbed off.

However, there's more to Peripheral Vision (and Hogg) than that. *Spectacle: Live!* also features Herring's alt-rocking, ominous, slow minor-key *Teenage Breakup Song*, which features Hogg and Scott ultimately blurring and blending their melodies. The short tune *Subway Subtle*, another Herring composition, has the direct, plaintive feeling of a choice Wayne Shorter tune, and is by turns cryptic and brusque. The bassist's disc-opening *Living The Dream* is Peripheral Vision at its catchiest, captivating with its odd-meter take on New Orleans-style grooving and an ear-catching theme. *Butter Side Down*, by Scott, and *Abide*, by Herring, build to powerful, rocking climaxes while *Max*, by Herring is a slow swinger that features Hogg and Scott stretching out at their best.

The 30-somethings in Peripheral Vision are making exacting but emotional music that nimbly relays complexity in a heady but appealing way, and with *Spectacle: Live!*, they demonstrate that they can pull off their magic in real-time.

PERIPHERAL VISION: www.peripheralvisionmusic.com

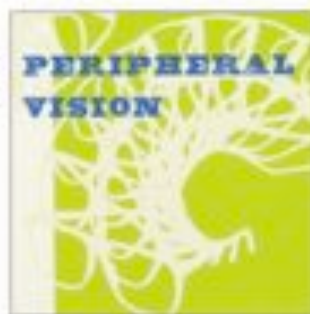
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It's Our Jazz

GEOFF CHAPMAN

Drummer Nick Fraser is also hard at work with new band **Peripheral Vision**, co-led by bassist Michael Herring and guitarist Don Scott, whose debut album is the self-



titled **Peripheral Vision** (Step3 Step3-001 www.peripheralvisionmusic.com). This outfit produces jazz for this century, often fiendishly challenging musical structures, intricate forms that might seem relatively simple but in fact are a dense thicket of tricky harmonies, demanding melodies and punishing rhythms. However, along with tenorman Trevor Hogg, the band shapes interesting paths along the divide between inside and outside playing. All the tunes are by the leaders, whose influences are catholic – pop, rock, classical and more. *Treehouse* exploits fascinating motifs, *Lot* offers eerie moments over walking strings, and all the material has something to say, propelled with elegant momentum and hearty rations of dynamic interplay despite constantly shifting moods. Alongside the contemplative melody making there's passages that crackle with intellectual energy, Herring anchoring the tapestry and pulsating where it counts and Scott all serpentine fluidity.

Concert Note: Peripheral Vision is officially released Dec. 2 at Trane Studio after a 14-venue tour.



MUSIC INTRODUCING...

Peripheral Vision » Rising stars Michael Herring and Don Scott have a distinctive sound, a fine group of collaborators and a CD coming out this week that marks them as mature composers, improvisers and bandleaders. Now they're gearing up to hit the road in Canada and the United States, **J.D. Considine** writes

WHY THEY MATTER

Early in their careers, Herring, 32, and Scott, 33, displayed a distinctive approach to jazz, one that emphasizes rhythmic flexibility and freedom while remaining staunchly melodic.

Herring notes that when he and Scott were at the University of Toronto, they absorbed both the lyrical, composition-based approach of Kenny Wheeler and European jazz groups, as well as the visceral, groove-based New York aesthetic of musicians such as Dave Douglas and Kenny Werner, both of whom taught at the Banff Centre, in Alberta.

"The indie rock scene here is also pervasive, and all of us have played in it to some extent," Herring adds, suggesting that those influences have given the Toronto scene its own identity. "Maybe we are crossing over with other Toronto musics, instead of worrying about where we are in the continuum of jazz," he says.



With drummer Nick Fraser and saxophonist Trevor Hogg, bandleaders Don Scott, left, and Michael Herring have launched Peripheral Vision. KEVIN HANELL

HOW THEY GOT TOGETHER

For several years now, Herring has played bass in Scott's quartet, while Scott has played guitar in Herring's band, a sextet called Vertigo. One day, drummer Nick Fraser, who was playing in both bands, asked if the two had ever considered merging bands.

"It made a lot of sense," says Herring. "We were playing similar music, in a similar genre, exactly the same band members. So we stuck 'em together, and it's been great."

"Another reason we put it together," Scott says, "was we had done all this work with Michael's six-piece band. But it seemed to be more of a special project band, where we could only play maybe once or twice a year, depending on everybody's availability. We thought it would be better to put together a working band that could play more often, and develop the material more."

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

Scott came up with the name Peripheral Vision because he and Herring had been focusing on both long-form compositions and "outside" improvisation. "That's kind of the peripheral side of things, and we had a vision for that," he says, laughing.

Along with Fraser and saxophonist Trevor Hogg, Herring and Scott have already made one tour across Canada, and are planning more. "We really developed our sound," says Scott. "We had three weeks to get the music developed to a high level, and had a great rapport on and off the stage. That's why this band is a little different for us."

"We are working on booking a tour in April, to follow up on what we just did," adds Herring. "We're trying to do all of Canada again, probably next fall, and we're working on getting ourselves over to Europe and down into the States."

The Purple Cabbage - www.thepurplecabbage.wordpress.com

PERIPHERAL VISION

REVIEWING THE SELF-TITLED RELEASE OF
TORONTO'S *PERIPHERAL VISION*

DON SCOTT (GUITAR), MICHAEL HERRING (BASS), TREVOR HOGG (TENOR SAX), NICK FRASER (DRUMS)

Peripheral Vision is one of Toronto's most promising Jazz groups, co-led by the dynamic tandem of **Michael Herring** (bass) and **Don Scott** (guitar). The group's debut record features Toronto staples, **Nick Fraser** (drums) and **Trevor Hogg** (tenor saxophone). All of the compositions on the album are originals of Herring's and Scott's and feature a synthesis of many styles, from the classic sounds of *Charles Mingus*, to modern jazz players such as *Chris Potter*, *Ben Monder*, and *Dave Holland*. What I find most satisfying about *Peripheral Vision* is their ability to stretch far rhythmically and harmonically, while remaining rooted in beautiful, sing-able melodies.



Throughout, the interplay between Herring and Fraser is intoxicating. Herring definitely approaches the songs from more of a composer's perspective, guiding the group with often simple, yet powerful bass lines, in turn allowing for Fraser to play a more dynamic role – establishing the groove with rhythmic complexity and using different sounds to achieve this. Fraser has always been a master of synthesizing styles, equally rooted in experimental music, modern swing, and rock. Don Scott weaves through solos with what seems like a heavy *New York* influence, much along the lines of players such as *Adam Rogers* and *Ben Monder*. His solos are exciting, and his guitar tones are nothing to mess with. This guy means business! Right by his side is tenor saxophonist, Trevor Hogg – an accomplished Toronto player, having earned his stripes playing with many of Canada's finest players. He is an extremely melodic player, with a wide range on the horn, and intriguing rhythmic ideas. This is best demonstrated on track five "*What Do You Think Happens...*"

Peripheral Vision is an extremely exciting jazz group and this album is a clear demonstration of the talents of each player, and the strong group chemistry. The compositions of Herring and Scott allow the group to explore the music, all while retaining melodic sensibilities so often lost in modern jazz. I find the group at its best on tunes such as "*Treehouse*" and "*Transcend-Include*". On songs such as "*LBJ*" I find the group falls just a little short of the mark, as the slow tempo and long solos can become a little redundant. *Peripheral Vision* truly excels when the compositions require more group interplay, proving a successful "group first, individuals second" approach to the whole record.

A very enjoyable listen. Recommended Tracks: **Treehouse**, **Transcend Interlude** Please read more about *Peripheral Vision* at www.peripheralvisionmusic.com
The Purple Cabbage February 2011

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