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ALBUM REVIEW SONGS / TRACKS SIMILAR / RELATED CREDITS RELEASES

## Study of Light

Artist [Rick McLaughlin](#)

Album Title Study of Light

Date of Release Sep 2003

AMG Rating ★★★

Genre [Jazz](#)

Tones Elegant, Sophisticated, Refined/Mannered, Complex, Ethereal

Styles [Modern Creative](#), [Post-Bop](#), [Avant-Garde Jazz](#)

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### AMG REVIEW



Not everything that saxophonist [Russ Gershon](#)'s Boston-based Accurate Records has put out over the years is avant-garde. But if the company is best known for a particular approach to jazz, it is an inside/outside approach — artists who can be mildly avant-garde, but are not hard-left iconoclasts and don't isolate themselves from "the tradition" (meaning straight-ahead jazz). Accurate isn't as radical as Knitting Factory, but at the same time, [Gershon](#) doesn't expect his artists to spend all their time regurgitating "I Got Rhythm" clichés. And if that inside/outside approach is your view of Accurate Records, Rick McLaughlin's *Study of Light* should be considered a

quintessentially Accurate release. Like so many other Accurate titles, *Study of Light* (the acoustic bassist's first album as a leader) is a non-dogmatic effort that looks to both the inside and outside for inspiration. Actually, this post-bop/avant-garde CD (mildly avant-garde, that is) is more inside than outside — probably about 80 percent inside, 20 percent outside.

Forming a drumless trio with pianist [Greg Burk](#) and saxophonist [Jeremy Udden](#), McLaughlin is often mindful of the ECM catalog — and much of the playing tends to be ethereal and lyrical. McLaughlin and his colleagues provide their share of inviting, very digestible post-bop melodies, and the fact that they include [Duke Ellington](#)'s "Isfahan" lets you know that they aren't oblivious to the tradition (far from it). But on *Study of Light*, a sophisticated, urbane melody can lead to some AACM-influenced outside improvisation — that is, if the trio feels that it is appropriate. McLaughlin, [Burk](#), and [Udden](#) keep their options open and by doing so demonstrate that jazz really can be "the sound of surprise" (to borrow a phrase coined by critic [Whitney Balliett](#)). Thoughtful and lucid yet spontaneous, *Study of Light* is a memorable outing for the New England bassist. — **Alex Henderson**

### SONGS/TRACKS



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1. [Assev Vif/Très Rhythmé](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 8:52
- ✓ 2. [Ink](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 6:17
3. [Marina](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 7:43
- ✓ 4. [O.P.](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 10:15
5. [Blink to Be](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 5:00
6. [Delicate](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 7:39
7. [Colours of Chloë](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 8:50
- ✓ 8. [Isfahan](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 5:49
9. [Without a Song](#) performed by McLaughlin, Rick Trio - 11:14

## CREDITS



[Russ Gershon](#) - Package Design  
[Peter Kontrimas](#) - Engineer, Mixing  
[John Weston](#) - Mastering  
[Michael Manning](#) - Photography  
[Rick McLaughlin](#) - Bass, Arranger, Producer, Liner Notes, Photography, Package Design, Group Member  
[Greg Burk](#) - Piano, Group Member  
[Peter Halter](#) - Photography  
[Jeremy Udden](#) - Saxophone, Group Member

## ALBUM RELEASES



2003	CD	Accurate	5048
2003	CD	Accurate	5048

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Some of Both

- |   |                       |  |                                      |
|---|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Energizing, Exciting <input type="radio"/>        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Soothing, Relaxing         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Dense, Thick <input type="radio"/>                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Light, Free, Transparent   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Harsh, Aggressive <input type="radio"/>           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Gentle, Peaceful           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Cold, Firm <input type="radio"/>                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Warm, Soft                 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Bright, Dynamic, Ornate <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Low Key, Calm, Melancholic | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Popular, Plain, Simple <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Elaborate, Sophisticated   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Dark, Pessimistic, Bitter <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Light, Cheerful, Sweet     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |
| Emotional, Sensual, Playful <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Sober, Arranged, Proper    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A |

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