

Dave Allen

Real and Imagined

Seamus Blake

Mark Ferber

Drew Gress

Dave Allen *Real and Imagined*

1. Slipping Glimpser 8:53
2. Always Beginning 8:29
3. Musing 6:48
4. Mantra 5:50
5. Real and Imagined 9:15
6. Intimate Distance 4:32
7. Perpetuum Mobile 7:08
8. Playground (Part 1) 1:28
9. Untold Story 8:58

Dave Allen - Guitar

Seamus Blake - Tenor Sax

Mark Ferber - Drums

Drew Gress - Bass

All Compositions by Dave Allen

Slipping Glimpser Music BMI

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Paul Wickliffe

At Skyline Productions, Warren, NJ

Produced by Dave Allen

Executive Producer: Jordi Pujol

Daveallenjazz.com



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Thank you to Mark, Drew and Seamus for their extraordinary playing on this CD.

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This CD is dedicated in loving memory to Victor Herrera and Take Toriyama

Dave Allen, *Real and Imagined*

Those who've heard guitarist Dave Allen's auspicious 2005 debut, *Untold Stories*, are already aware of his intricate, flowing lyricism and sheer technical command of the guitar. On *Real and Imagined* he joins forces once again with Seamus Blake on tenor and Mark Ferber on drums. Drew Gress, one of the busiest players in the music, anchors the session on bass. Interpreting nine of Allen's originals — from the spacious waltz "Always Beginning" to the involved 7/8 of "Mantra" to the bright, loosely structured swing of "Untold Story" — the quartet achieves a fine-grained intensity that the leader couldn't have scripted.

If you're like me, you'll be struck by the title of "Slipping Glimpser," which leads off this fine sophomore outing. "The phrase comes from one of my favorite painters," Allen explains. He's speaking of Willem De Kooning. Here is the quote:

When I'm falling, I'm doing alright; when I'm slipping, I say, hey, this is interesting! It's when I'm standing upright that bothers me; I'm not doing so good; I'm stiff... I'm really slipping, most of the time, into that glimpse. I'm like a slipping glimpse.

As a window into Allen's artistic temperament, one couldn't ask for more. With *Real and Imagined* he makes clear his aversion to stiffness, his preference for rhythms and lines that fall and slip, even as they facilitate musical clarity of a high order.

Two of the titles, "Musing" and "Perpetuum Mobile," have poetic origins (Wallace Stevens and William Carlos Williams, respectively). "The Playground," a brief and meditative sketch, is the first part in a series that is still taking shape. "Intimate Distance" features Allen in a trio setting, with Gress kicking off the solos. The title track, says Allen, "comes from an idea of mine that the things we imagine are as much a part of our reality as the 'real' things around us." This plays out in the music, with the first theme representing the real, the second theme what is imagined or dreamed. The outro combines both elements, deliberately blurring the distinction.

Drawing inspiration from the deep trough of jazz tradition, the wider world of art and the shape of jazz to come, Dave Allen has communicated something palpably real with *Real and Imagined*. From this Philadelphia native, now one of New York's most promising talents, there's clearly much more to come.

— David R. Adler

David R. Adler writes for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Jazz Times*, *Downbeat* and other publications.





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