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A guitar stylist and crew in full flight

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CHASING AFTER LIGHT

Michael Occhipinti and Creation Dream

True North Records

Rating 3 1/2

Toronto guitarist Michael Occhipinti's previous CD interpreted the songs of Canadian icon Bruce Cockburn. That same quintet, which includes longtime Cockburn violinist Hugh Marsh, turns to Occhipinti's own compositions on *Chasing After Light*, an exceptional recording.

Occhipinti is never short on ideas, and his guitar touches on many styles, from tangy electric to full-bodied acoustic, with bits of the Caribbean, Bill Frisell-styled twang and '60s psychedelics. *Bouncing Bea* takes off in 7/4 time, and the odd time signature dances from the speakers. Kevin Turcotte's muted trumpet and Occhipinti's wah-wah guitar play off one another on *Compulsive Talkers*.

The musicians are all in fine form. Occhipinti uses so many different approaches and styles that he sounds like four different guitarists. The interaction among Marsh, Turcotte and drummer Barry Romberg borders on ESP during the nine-minute-long *High Romance*. And bassist Andrew Downing performs with great taste throughout the disc.

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