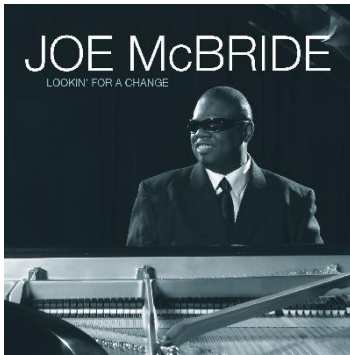


[http://www.e-gear.com/article/jazz-pianist-vocalist-joe-mcbride-covers-pop-hits-new-cd-410352\\_1.html](http://www.e-gear.com/article/jazz-pianist-vocalist-joe-mcbride-covers-pop-hits-new-cd-410352_1.html)



## Music Review: Joe McBride: Lookin' For A Change (Heads Up CD)

Howard Whitman



On paper, this sounds like a really, really bad idea: a piano-based jazz trio doing jazzy covers of current hits by chart-topping artists like Gnarls Barkley, Rob Thomas, Vanessa Carlton, John Mayer and Seal. But amazingly this really, really works. Pianist/vocalist Joe McBride is a gifted musician and singer who beautifully rearranges and adapts this group of songs into the jazz idiom without losing the original songs melodic charm while maintaining his jazz credibility and showing off his considerable chops. He also contributes three original compositions that hold up well in this collection. It's quite a feat, and beyond the accomplishment here, this album is just fun to listen to. Check out how Joe and co. modify Gnarls' huge hit "Crazy" with jazz chords and a relaxed swing groove. McBride (who, incidentally, is blind) has vocal soul to burn and is a natural on the 88s. This is a great disc to spin at a party when you want something cool that won't overpower conversation but will lead people to say, "That song is familiar! Isn't that—?"