



What's Inside!

O's Holiday Picks	3-4.
Traditional Selections	5-10.
O's Big Band Picks	9.
O's Latin Features	11.
O's Piano Features	12-16.
O's Sax Features	17-18.
O's Drummer Features	19-20.
O's Vocal Features	21-23.
O's Trumpet Features	24.
O's Guitarist Features	25.
O's Bass Features	26.
Contemporary Selections	27-32.
O's Blues Features	34.
<hr/>	
O's Top-10 Scores	2.
O's HiFi Sound System	2.
O's Ratings System	10.
O's Place Jazz Ruler™	12.
Final Notes	33.
O's Jazz Legends	33.
Subscriptions	34.



O'pening Thoughts

As we wrap up our 28th year providing you with concise jazz reviews, the media is telling us (or not reporting otherwise) that Covid-19 is over. No more mask, no mandatory vaccinations, sequestering or virtual meetings! Yes, we hope it not a premature celebration and we are among the 1-2 people still masking in crowded public places like supermarkets. In addition to protection from airborne COVID particles, we like the added protection from cold/flu contaminants as well.

For musicians the pandemic isolation afforded time for reflection, deep thought and introspective writing. Hopefully virtual recordings are over, though there have been several new technologies that allow better on-line engagement. It's time to get back on the road and excite audiences. Let's get that spontaneous engagement between the musicians and their fanatics going again!

That's already happening and happening a lot. We can see that live concerts are

---> Sound advice at a nice price!

www.OsPlaceJazz.com

O'pening Thoughts cont.

in full swing! O caught Quentin Baxter live in Charlotte with Renee Marie for an energized session and the venues are packed everywhere!

We've got piano reviews in abundance - 5 pages of our 135 reviews. And two Holiday releases made our top 10. Listen now and let's put 2022 to bed!

Hello 2023!

O

Click on the "ARTIST'S NAME" to go directly to the review

THE TOP TEN SCORES

1. JEREMY MONTEIRO - [A Jazzy Christmas](#)
2. OWEN BRODER - [Hodges: Front & Center, Vol. 1](#)
3. TITO CARRILLO - [Urbanessence](#)
4. CONRAD HERWIG - [The Latin Side of Mingus](#)
5. RICHARD BARATTA - [The Sequel](#)
6. BENNY BENACK III - [Season's Swingin' Greetings](#)
6. JAZZ FUNK SOUL - [Forecast](#)
6. SAMARA JOY - [Linger Awhile](#)
6. JASON MARSHALL - [NEW BEGINNINGS](#)
6. STEVE TINTWEISS - [Live at NYU: 1980](#)

O's primary listening is done with a Sony XA777ESSACD player, Ayre C5-xe^{MP} CD player, Jeff Rowland Consonance preamp, two Jeff Rowland Model 1 amplifiers (balanced mono mode), Classe CA-200 amplifier, Mirage M1 speakers and B&W 800D speakers wired with Cardas Hex 5C speaker wire, Transparent Audio interconnects, Pro-ject Debut turntable with Sumilo Blue Point No. 2 Cartridge and E.S.P. Essence Reference Power Distribution System.

O's Rating Scale (X)

0

65

80

95

Pass

Contemplate

Buy

Strong Buy

*Unbiased Sound Advice **from** O's Place Jazz*

ARTIST Title <i>Label</i> Rating	Holiday Picks O's Notes
JEREMY MONTEIRO <u>A Jazzy Christmas</u> <i>Jazz Note</i>	Pianist Jeremy Monteiro produces <u>A Jazzy Christmas</u> that will have jazz fans smiling, nodding and tapping in appreciation. He shares the spotlight with the band, and they are all worthy! Tony Lakatos (sax, Axel Schlosser (t, flugelhorn), Wesley Gehring (g), Christy Smith (b) and Shawn Kelley (d) all contribute strong solos on these freshly arranged classics. Definitely a consideration for adding to your Holiday rotation!
BENNY BENACK/ STEVEN FEIFKE <u>Season's Swingin' Greetings</u> <i>Cellar Music</i>	The combination of Benack's warm vocals with Feifke's large ensemble is quite a treat! They comb through the Holiday songbook to deliver <u>Season's Swingin' Greetings</u> , and it is pure bliss! There are freshly arranged classics along with a few originals to spice up the egg nog! "My Girlfriend Is An Elf" and "My Wishlist Is You", are our favorites in a strong set.
JEFF HAMILTON T^B <u>Merry & Bright</u> <i>Capri</i>	Drummer, producer Jeff Hamilton and his trio featuring bassist Jon Hamar and pianist Tamir Hendelman bring us <u>Merry & Bright</u> , a swinging Holiday set. They jazz up ten classic Christmas selections that can easily be appreciated year-round. The approach is soft but powerful with all of the boxes checked. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" Is a prime example with each of the musicians rotating through the spotlight!
RICHARD WILLIAMS T^b <u>Hollywood Christmas</u> <i>Richard Williams</i>	<u>Hollywood Christmas</u> is a fresh collection of 22 vocals + 18 instrumental classics and originals by composer, arranger, producer Richard Williams. There are many solid but lesser known vocalists along with Benny Benack, III. The Hollywood Big Band includes Eric Marienthal (sax), Wayne Bergeron (t) and Bernie Dresel (d). The Budapest Scoring Orchestra provides strings and woodwinds. It's a Christmas sampler on one disc!
JOYCE COOLING <u>The Holiday's On!</u> <i>Rhythm Kitchen</i>	Joyce assembles a collection of 7 fresh contemporary, jazz tunes with lyrics that match the times and the spirit of the holiday season for <u>The Holiday's On!</u> These original tunes will appeal to a wide audience and certainly fans of Cooling's warm guitar and vocal style. Long time partner Jay Wagner mans the keyboards and adds vocals with Billy Johnson (d), Danny Montgomery (d) and Peter Michael Escovedo (perc, d) rounding out the band.
DENISE FINK <u>Silent Night...</u> <i>Harp2Harp</i>	Denise Fink plays harp with flautist Roselyn Smith-Brinkman on fourteen Holiday classics. These soft renditions are suitable for the baby's room or anywhere that gentle, soothing Holiday music is desired.

ARTIST Title <i>Label</i> Rating	<u>Holiday Picks</u> O's Notes
CAROLYN LEE JONES T^b <u>Christmas Time</u> <u>Is Here</u> 75 <i>Catlin' Round</i>	Carolyn presents her Holiday album, <u>Christmas Time Is Here</u> with her personalized vocal imprint making a jovial set. The songs are relaxing, warm and gentle notably on "Warm in December" featuring trombonist Tony Baker, "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To" with Keith Jordan (flugelhorn) & Tom Burchill (g), and "White Christmas" with Mario Cruz (sax).
UPTOWN VOCAL JAZZ QUARTET T^b <u>Fools For Yule</u> <i>House Kat</i> 75	If you like harmonized vocals, you'll be thrilled with this seasonal outing from the Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet. They are Ginny Carr, Robert McBride, Holly Shockey and Lane Stowe with musical support from a fine team that includes vibraphonist Chuck Redd. Lyrics are mostly in English, but we also enjoyed "L'Amour Nous Entoure Ce Soir" in French. Other highlights are "I've Got Love To Keep Me Warm" and "Santa Dear, Where's Mine?" These Holiday arrangements are jazzy and can be enjoyed year-round making this a step above your average seasonal sampler.
DOUG MUNRO <u>A Very Gypsy</u> <u>Christmas</u> C^P <i>GotMusic</i> 72	Gypsy style + Traditional Holiday tunes = A Very Gypsy Christmas and it's a very favorable blend over 16 freshly arranged tracks. Cyrille-Aimee Daudel adds vocals on "The Christmas Song", "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" and "Christmas Time Is Here". Other highlights are "Let it Snow", "Sleigh Ride" and "We Three Kings".
CHRIS RUGGIERO C^P <u>Christmas with</u> <u>Chris Ruggiero</u> <i>C. Ruggiero</i> 70	23-year-old vocalist Chris Ruggiero is at home in a number of different genres, and he samples quite a few on his Christmas album. For Chris, the Holidays bring family together to celebrate each other, all the different flavors of age and experience. Ruggiero soars on "The Christmas Song" and harmonizes with Darlene Love on "Grown Up Christmas List". We also enjoyed "This Christmas" and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" featuring Wayne Bergeron on trumpet.
VARIOUS C^P <u>from Kate Smith</u> <u>Promotions</u> <i>K. Smith</i> 68	<u>Happy Holidays</u> is a compilation of selections from the roster of Kate Smith Promotions. There are eight selections that provide good variety. Our favorites are "Jesus Gonna Be Here" by the Lucy Smith Quartet and "It Doesn't Feel Like Christmas" by the Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet.

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ARTIST Title <i>Label Perf/Sound</i>	<u>Top Traditional Picks</u> O's Notes
JAZZ MASTER TRACKS T^C <u>Standards</u> 78 <u>Sessions Vol. 1</u> <i>Jazz Master Tracks</i>	<p>This is the first volume of Jazz Master Tracks with Tony Lakatos (sax), Alex Sipiagin (t) and Danny Grissett (p), featuring Hans Glawischnig (b) and Bruno Castellucci (d), all excellent musicians performing a 10-song set. The songs are jazz standards like Todd Dameron's "Good Bait", Cedar Walton's "Bolivia" and Dexter Gordon's "Fried Bananas". Solos are meaningful and vibrant making this a truly enjoyable session.</p>
ENRICO RAVA T^B FRED HERSCH <u>The Song Is You</u> <i>ECM</i> 78	<p>Trumpeter Enrico Rava teams up with master pianist Fred Hersch for a series of duets including both classics and originals. The mood is relaxed on ballads like Jobim's "Retrato em Branco e Prato" and "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You", but includes many fleeting passages of note, including Rava's sprint on "Child's Song".</p>
ALEX SJOBECK & DAVID BAKER T^B <u>Pictures in Time</u> <i>Next Level</i> 78	<p>Pianist Alex Sjobeck and bassist David Baker team up on for Pictures In Time, a collection of eight fresh, modern jazz selections. They are energizing on "Arabiah". Baker walks while Sjobeck dances around the keyboard on "Liberation", complemented by warm ballads like "With A Naked Heart" making this a enchanting encounter. These are tunes that are snapshots of their shared history.</p>
MATHIEU SOUCY T^B <u>Recollecting</u> <i>Inner Bop</i> 76	<p>Young guitarist, composer Mathieu Soucy strikes a strong chord with <u>Recollecting</u>. He's accompanied by Gentiane MG (p), Mike de Masi (b) and Jacob Wutzke (d). Caity Gyorgy adds voice notably on "Where or When" and "Thinker and A Fool". De Masi does a fine job on "Turner Days". But it's all Soucy on "Reflections" and he takes the lead on several others like "Blues For Barry" trading with Wutzke. It's a solid debut.</p>
DIANA PANTON <u>Blue</u> T^b <i>Ontario Ats</i> <i>Council</i> 75	<p>Canadian vocalist Diana Panton has a soft delicate voice. She's made many children's albums as well as romantic collections. Blue is more of the latter. Panton sings in front of Phil Dwyer (sax), Reg Schwager (g), arranger Don Thompson (p), Jim Vivian (b) and the lush Penderecki Quartet (strings). There are 16 freshly arranged classic tune for ~64 minutes of pleasurable entertainment.</p>
JIM WITZEL T^B <u>Feelin' It</u> 72 <i>Joplin Sweeney</i>	<p>Composer, guitarist Jim Witzel leads an organ trio with Brian Ho on the B3 and Jason Lewis on drums. Guest Dann Zinn adds tenor sax on three selections notably on "<u>Feelin' It</u>". The sound is warm and swings with a variety of different voices (sax, B-3, g) on the melodies. Highlights include "Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise", "Beyond Beijing" and "The Old Country".</p>

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O's Place Features

JASPER BLOM & IAN CLEAVER

81
Modern
Just Listen
2022

Zilt

Dutch saxophonist Jasper Blom is the teacher. Trumpeter Ian Cleaver is his student. Zilt is a café in Amsterdam where they came together in a jam session that evolved to this album! Bassist Thomas Pol and drummer Wouter Kuhne round out the quartet. The program is primarily based on songs by Duke Ellington and Misha Mengelberg. I'd characterize the program as a blend of edgy improvisation (the brief Impros), with swinging jazz. We enjoyed "Rollo III", "Rollo II" and "Blues After Piet" best in the set.

Photo: Olga Beumer

Ana Nelson

2022 Modern
Ana Nelson 74

Bridges

Saxophonist, composer, arranger, producer Ana Nelson enjoys many genres having worked with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, the Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Ensemble and recorded with Bootsy Collins! Her mellow sax tones greet us right away on "Wanderlust" and spill into the seven originals on Bridges. Pianist Jamaal Baptiste, bassist Brendan Keller-Tuber and drummer Carter Pearson round out her core quartet. "LCB" is more contemporary fusion featuring Baptiste, then moving to a cool swing on "Fruit Of The Groove" with Bill Nelson (t-sax), Jeremy Allen (b) and Steve Houghton (d) stepping in. Nelson also employs a string quartet for two selections notably "Let The Light In".

CARLO MOMBELLI

Lullaby for Planet Earth

South African bassist, composer Carlo Mombelli engages guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel and drummer, vibraphonist Jorge Rossy for his latest project, Lullaby for Planet Earth. The 10-song set is a relaxed session that allows the musicians to express emotion through their instruments in a cordial dialogue. Carlo adds primary vocals with Muthspiel adding background voice. "Gina's Song", "Gentle", and "It Hurts When I Laugh, It Tickles When I Cry" are some of the best.

76
ClapYourHands
Ballads
2022



Photo: Christo Doherty

O's Place Features

Jason Marshall

New Beginnings

Baritone saxophonist Jason Marshall greets us with warm throaty sax on the opener, "Recordame" and we're off to a satisfying set of eight jazzy classics. Pianist Marc Cary, bassist Gerald Cannon and drummer Willie Jones III provide strong support to make *New Beginnings* a vibrant 41-minute set. We particularly enjoyed "Airegin" with a rousing drum solo, "Peggy's Blue Skylight", "Black Orpheus" and the swinging "I'll Never Stop Loving You."

87
Cellar Jazz
Bebop
2022



Photo: Jason Marshall

Kevin Kastning & Mark Wingfield

I Dreamed of Invisible Journeys

Avant Garde 74
2022 Greydisc

I Dreamed of Invisible Journeys is a duet featuring guitarist Mark Wingfield with Kevin Kastning playing 36-string and 15-string guitars. Kastning's innovations are not only in his compositions but also in the guitars he invents to convey his music. The sounds are deliberate and descriptive much like a dusty old town out west. Their music crosses New Age, Avant Garde, Progressive Rock and Jazz in an approachable amalgamation.

Patricia Brennan

More Touch

82
Avant Garde
Pyroclastic
2022

Port of Veracruz native, Patricia Brennan plays marimba, vibes and electronics on *More*

Touch, her latest release. She leads a quartet with Mauricio Herrera (perc), Kim Cass (b) and Marcus Gilmore (d). The ten Brennan originals are heavily syncopated, free jazz that is galactic but accessible, drawing listeners in on "Space For Hour" and provoking deep thoughts elsewhere. Of note are "Square Bimagic", "Sizigia", and "Convergences" with a strong opening solo from Cass. Peter Erskine (d) provide a solid foundation. Guest John Scofield shines on "Morning Sunrise of A Spring Flower". "All Blues" and "Autumn Leaves" are notable.

Photo: Noel Brennan



O's Place Features

JUSSI REIJONEN

Three Seconds

Jussi Reijonen plays fretted & fretless guitars and the oud. He leads a large ensemble playing his compositions. Three Seconds (Kolme Tristan) is his second release, 9+ years after his debut! Much has transpired but Reijonen has re-emerged with a vengeance. His music is world-fusion jazz with mid-East and Indian spices generously applied. There are five lengthy originals that at times are intergalactic, adventurous and soothing. We liked "Verso", "The Veil" and "Median".

Photo: Juan Carlos Villarroel



80
Challenge
Fusion
2022

The Ostara Project

The Ostara Project is a super-group of Canadian, female musicians led by bassist Jodi Proznick and pianist Amanda Tosoff. The plan is to have a fluid roster but always first class music. The self-titled debut is a worthy effort that hits the mark. Joanna Majoko provides rich vocal harmonies notably on "Storms and Oceans" and "Little One" along with Allison Au on alto sax. Rachel Therrien (t), Jocelyn Gould (g) and Sanah Kadoura (d) round out a band that is cohesive and polished.

2022 Bebop
Cellar Jazz 78

The Ostara Project

Walking Cliché Sextet

Micro-Nap

74
Endectomorph
Avant Garde
2022

The Walking Cliché Sextet is a band that layers overlapping and colliding patterns with spontaneous improvisation. Bassist, composer SeaJun Kwon says Micro-Nap "reflects my emotional frustrations, nonlinearity, the transience of feelings, and the emptiness of noise, as well as my attraction to them". The music is more appealing than the quote suggests. After several chaotic episodes we favored the final track, "Transient".



Photo: Gaia Wilmer

ARTIST Title <i>Label</i> Rating	<u>Big Band Picks</u> O's Notes
CONRAD HERWIG T^L <u>The Latin Side of Mingus</u> <i>Savant</i> 89	<p>Trombonist Conrad Herwig is quite a musician and bandleader having made highly lauded recordings focused on Afro-Caribbean music. The latest tribute is <u>The Latin Side of Mingus</u>, and it is superb! Herwig starts with a slamming rhythm section of Bill O'Connell (p), Luques Curtis (b), Robb Ameen (d) and Camilo Molina (congas). Add Randy Brecker (t), Alex Sipiagin (t, flugelhorn) and Craig Handy (sax, fl) to arrive at a powerful large ensemble. All compositions were written by the late Charles Mingus, who'd certainly approve of these arrangements. They bring it into today's vibe with "Don't Let It Happen Here" narrated by Ruben Blades.</p>
STEVEN FEIFKE/BIJON WATSON <u>Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra</u> T^N <i>Cellar Live</i> 86	<p>Arranger Steven Feifke (p) and Bijon Watson (t) share leadership of the <u>Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra</u>, a large ensemble stuffed with talent! "Sassy" features Kurt Elling (vocals) and Christian McBride (a-sax), John Fedchock (tb) shines on "Scenes From My Dreams", Sean Jones (t) and Feifke take solos on "Dollar's Moods" and Ulysses Owens, Jr. (d) sizzles on "Inner Urge", just a few of the many highlights.</p>

Jazz thrives, our legacy artform!

Franco Ambrosetti

Nora

Swiss trumpeter Franco Ambrosetti has matured as a musician through the decades. At 80, he's more focused on rich, sweet sound from his flugelhorn than blazing across the scales with piercing high notes! Nora is a collection of warm ballads with a lush string orchestra conducted by Alan Broadbent featuring Sara Caswell (violin). The songs are classics, with fresh arrangements that will sooth your soul. Scott Cooley (b), Uri Caine (p) and Peter Erskine (d) provide a solid foundation. Guest John Scofield shines on "Morning Sunrise of A Spring Flower". "All Blues" and "Autumn Leaves" are notable.

83
Big Band
Enja
2022

Photo: Franco Ambrosetti

Traditional Selections

ARTIST	Title	Label	X	T
DAVID CHESKY	<u>The Great European Songbook</u>	<i>Audiophile Society</i>	77	T ^B
SINTON, WILSON & FALCO	<u>Adubratons</u>	<i>FIP</i>	76	T ^A
GENE ESS	<u>Ah-Bop</u>	<i>SIMP</i>	73	T ^B
TOMAS JANZON	<u>Nomadic</u>	<i>Changes Music</i>	73	T ^B
AKIKO AOKI	<u>Pure Imagination</u>	<i>Akiko Aoki</i>	72	T ^b
JOE COUGHLIN	<u>Dedicated To You</u>	<i>Cellar Music</i>	72	T ^b
JUDY NIEMACK	<u>What's Love?</u>	<i>Sunnyside</i>	72	T ^b
ESTHESIS QUARTET	<u>Esthesis Quartet</u>	<i>Orenda</i>	72	T ^B
BURTON/MCIPHERSON TRIO	<u>Summit Rock Session at Seneca Village</u>	<i>Giant Step Arts</i>	71	T ^B
TRAYCE EILEEN	<u>You Hit The Spot</u>	<i>Honey Crystal</i>	71	T ^b
JOSHUA STAMPER	<u>Soma Schema</u>	<i>Adhyaropa</i>	71	T ^B
JEREMY ROSE	<u>Disruption!</u>	<i>Earshift</i>	70	T ^B
JIM DEDRICK	<u>Findings</u>	<i>Jim Dedrick</i>	66	T ^B
BEVERLEY CHURCH HOGAN	<u>Sweet Invitation</u>	<i>Cafe Pacific</i>	60	T ^b
IN REAL TIME	<u>Blue Shift</u>	<i>Line Art</i>	59	T ^A
ALLEN AUSTIN-BISHOP	<u>Christmas</u>	<i>AAB</i>	57	T ^b

Kenny Barron

2022 Modern
Artwork 77

The Source

This is Kenny Barron's first solo piano release in 40 years! He gives us lots of variety with five fresh standards and four original compositions. The music is vibrant, peaceful, dynamic and compassionate owed to the master, Barron at work.

O's Rating System

O's Place has evolved with our listeners to create a rating system based on three factors: Performance, Sound Quality, and the quality of the Package (including liner notes). The primary criteria is Performance followed by Sound and finally Package.

The ratings (X) have the following weightings and will provide a score from 0-100 with average reviews in the 70 range. Our new ratings are similar to traditional academic ratings.

Performance: 15x, Sound: 5x, Package: 1x

0	65	80	95
Pass	Contemplate	Buy	Strong Buy

O's Latin Features

Wayne Maureau

At The Water's Edge

Drummer Wayne Maureau is a product of the Crescent City, and we hear the Caribbean influence in his music! He leads two trios, one with Ed Wise (b) and Joe Ashlar (p), the other with Jordan Baker (p) and Brian Quezergue (b). They open with a taste of calypso on "Island Life" and continue with upbeat, happy sound on At The Water's Edge. We like the rousing piano, bass and drum solos on "A Day In Paraty". "Twisting Currents" and "South Lake".

78
W. Maureau
Latin
2022



Photo: Scott Meyers

Jackie Ryan

Ballads 2022
Open Art 78

Recuerdos De Mi Madre

Vocalist Jackie Ryan has a fine voice with rich tone, a wide range and loads of passion. This is a set of warm, deliberate, Latin vocals. Ryan is supported by a fine band including Marco Diaz (p, t), Saul Sierra (b), and several percussionists. Special guest Paquito D'Rivera (cl, a-sax) plays on three selections. Ryan's strong, contralto vocal performance in front of a strong set of musicians leads to a rewarding performance on Recuerdos de mi Madre.

82
Latin
Ontario Arts
2022

Joy Lapps

Girl In The Yard

Joy Lapps is a first generation Canadian of Caribbean descent. She fell in love with the steel pans and learned to play them as a child. She's a pioneer of sorts as a woman steel drummer and plays with finesse and dynamics that place her near the top of her field. Joy composed all of the music on Girl In The Yard and presents a balanced musical approach. This is a fine taste of festive, contemporary jazz music.



Photo: Nathaniel Anderson

O's Piano Features

Gonzalo Rubalcaba

Live in Marciac

84

Latin
5 Passiom
2022

We enjoyed Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba's Viento Y Tiempo (81), a live recording with his childhood friend, vocalist Aymée



Photo: Gonzalo Rubalcaba

Nuviola in Tokyo. They performed again on July 31, 2021, Live in Marciac, Occitania, France for this 2022 release. Rubalcaba and Nuviola are a powerful duo that command the attention and engagement of their audience. They perform nine Cuban songs to perfection including "Nada Es Para Ti" written by Nuviola.

O's Place Jazz Ruller™

Traditional

Contemporary

1900

1920

1940

1960

1970

1980

2000

Ragtime T^R
Dixie T^D

Blues&Ballads T^b
Swing T^S

Bebop T^B
Big Band T^N

Latin T^L
Free T^A

Fusion C^F
R&B+Jazz C^R

Funk C^f
Pop+Jazz C^P

Acid C^A

Ted Kooshian

Hubub!



Photo: Ted Kooshian

Ted Kooshian plays piano, arranges and composes most of the music on Hubub! John Bailey (t), Jeff Lederer (t-sax), Dick Sarpola (b) and Greg Joseph (d) round out the quintet. They swing on the opening title track as well as on "Schiermonnikoog".

We dug the retro-fusion of "McQueen", the soulful ballad "Wandelen", sweet brass harmonies on "Somewhere", and "Hymn For Her" featuring vocalist Jim Mola, Katie Jacoby (violin) and Summer Boggess (cello).

75
Summit
Bebop
2022

O's Piano Features

Rique Pantoja

Live in Los Angeles



Photo: Rique Pantoja

Keyboardist, vocalist Rique Pantoja composed and produced Live In Los Angeles, a session that makes you feel like you are there! The 6-piece band includes guitarist Ricardo Silveira and Steve Tavaglione on sax and flute. The program is a cool blend of instrumental, contemporary jazz with Pantoja adding vocals on “Que Loucura”. We enjoyed the smooth, funky “1000 Watts”, a taste of calypso on “Da Baiana”, Latin-infused “Bebop Kid”, and Silveira’s liquid guitar on “Morena”.

81
R&B+Jazz
Moondo
2022

Cheryl Ann Spencer

Modern 2022
C.A. Spencer **78**

Serendipity in Venice

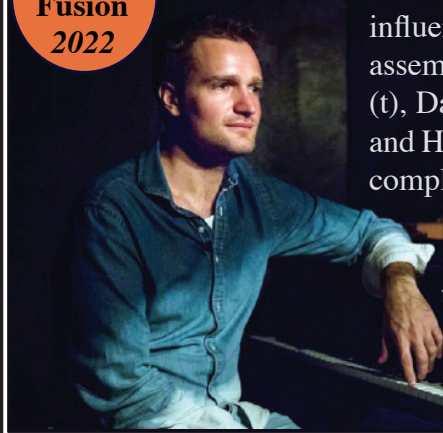
Singaporean pianist Cheryl Ann Spencer performs in a quintet with Sasha Mashin (d), Alex Sipiagin (t, flugelhorn), Robert Bonisolo (sax) and Makar Novikov (b) for Serendipity in Venice, 51 minutes of musical splendor. There is excellent musicianship throughout the session across the band. The program is mostly enticing ballads along with the grooving vibe of “Voyage” and “Reunion” to finish the set.

Beams

Dan Costa

78
D. Costa
Fusion
2022

Photo: Alon Levin



Dan Costa is a pianist and composer with European roots and influences from his education in France, Brazil and Boston. He assembles a strong team including John Patitucci (b), Dave Douglas (t), Dave Liebman (s-sax), Teco Cardoso (a-sax), Mike Stern (g) and Hermeto Pascoal (perc). The rich sax tones on “Acalantando” complement Costa’s fine work on the keys. Beams is nine views of amazing light, through music. This is a team that listens to each other, allowing the accents to stand out in a warm presentation. We enjoyed “Sparks of Motion”, “Cypress”, “Paw Prints” and “Então” with scatting from Anne Boccato on the latter two.

O's Piano Features

Keith Jarrett

Bordeaux Concert

Veteran jazz pianist suffering serious health issues in 2018. This concert was recorded live in July 2016. It is an exercise in solo piano, free fusion where Keith is expressing his inner feelings across XIII unnamed songs. Bordeaux Concert is appreciated by a large, warm crowd.

Keith Jarrett was engaged in solo piano concerts prior to health issues in 2018. This concert was recorded live in July 2016. It is an exercise in solo piano, free fusion where Keith is expressing his inner feelings across XIII unnamed songs. Bordeaux Concert is appreciated by a large, warm crowd. This is much more than just random musings as Keith's enthusiasm spills over into the audience. We feel his passion, and so will you. The ladder parts are far more accessible, leading up to a blues romp before several ballads and the finale.

81
ECM
Fusion
2022

Photo: ECM

Andrés Vial

2022 Fusion
Chromatic 76

When Is Ancient?

Canadian pianist composer Andrés Martin Heslop and drummer Tommy Crane for nine vibrant original tunes. The music is pleasant and easier to embrace, centered around Vial with varied tempos. "Mister Mystery" and "Orundellico" are highlights.

Amina Figarova

Joy

82
Amfi
Modern
2022

New York-based jazz pianist and composer Amina Figarova presents a swinging set of jazz on Joy, her latest release. She gets fine accompaniment from Wayne Escoffery (sax), Bart Platteau (fl), Alex Pope Norris (t, flugelhorn), Yashshi Nakamura (b) and drummers Rudy Royston & Brian Richburg, Jr. Highlights are plentiful including "Ruby At Play", "Joy", "Road Ahead", "Only Peace Liberates" and "Getting There". This is a passionate engagement.

Photo: Amina Figarova

O's Piano Features

82
Latin
Sunnyside
2022

Jason Yeager

Unstuck In Time

Pianist, composer and educator Jason Yeager teams up with a large group of talented musicians for Unstuck In Time, a collection of songs inspired by parts or characters from the late Kurt Vonnegut's witty books and short stories. We enjoyed the vibrant "Bokonon" and "Unk's Fate", both featuring guest artist Miguel Zenon (a-sax). Other highlights are the warm "Ballads For Old Salo", "Nancy's Revenge" featuring Riley Mulherkar (t), and "Blues for Billy Pilgrim".

Photo: Jason Yeager

Photo: Jim Levitt

George Colligan

King's Dream

Ballads 79
PJCE 2022

This is an excellent solo piano recording from veteran George Colligan. He composed all of the music, inspired by Martin Luther King's Dream, hoping that compassion and intelligence can prevail over some recent major setbacks. Colligan communicates from left-hand to right hand, and left hand again and again. Melodies are warm and the mood is bright providing a foundation for a difference. He accentuates the splendor of the session on the closer "Finally A Rainbow".

Cedric Hanriot

Time Is Color

Guest vocalist Days delivers spoken word on the opener "Monday, The 26th" (and four other tracks). It comes on top of cool, contemporary jazz rhythms from pianist, sound designer, leader Cedric Hanriot with Bertrand Bernard (b), and Ellie Martin Charriere (d, perc). They mix the lyrical tracks with pure instrumentals in the 13-song session. Hanriot's piano exchanges standout, especially on "Water", and the funky "Souly" featuring Bernard. Time Is Color is an album that makes Cedric Hanriot a relevant artist in edgy contemporary jazz space.

77
Morphosis
R&B+Jazz
2022

Photo: Cedric Hanriot

O's Piano Features

Benjamin Lackner *Last Decade*



Photo: Benjamin Lackner

79
Fusion
ECM
2022

Pianist Benjamin Lackner leads a quartet with Mathias Eick (t), Jérôme Regard (b) and Manu Katché (d). They perform nine of Lackner's originals on Last Decade. The music is rich with beautiful tones and sound quality that allows listeners to engage pleasurably. Eick does a fine job leading melodies with passion vs. pyrotechnics notably on "Circular Confidence" and "Camino Cielo" leading to a relaxing session.

Spike Wilner

2022 Modern
Cellar Live 79

Plays Monk & Ellington

Pianist Spike Wilner, bassist Peter Washington and drummer Joe Farnsworth form a trio that Plays Monk & Ellington. This also includes a couple of Billy Strayhorn compositions. The music is bubbly and swings, as expected from this polished team. These musician love to play and honor the legends, Monk and Ellington. We are happy to say they do a fine job.

Laszlo Gardony

Close Connection

75
Pop+Bop
Sunnyside
2022

Pianist Laszlo Gardony combines Progressive Rock with Modern Jazz and his native, Hungarian folk music to arrive at a forward groove. His band is a trio with bassist John Lockwood and Yoron Israel on drums. They have played together for over 20 years with a Close Connection that allows Gardony's creations to flourish. Among the best are warm ballads like "Hopeful Vision" and the spirited "Night Run".



Photo: Laszlo Gardony

O's Sax Features

Sam Taylor

Let Go

78
Bebop
Cellar Live
2022

New York-based saxophonist Sam Taylor leads a swinging quintet with Terrell Stafford (t), Jeb Patton (p), Neal Minor (b) and Willie Jones III (d). They play nine covers and Taylor's original title track. The tempo varies but they all swing, from ballads like "Angel Face" and "Prisoner Of Love" to burners like "Gettin' Together" and "Bye Bye Baby", Let Go is a winner!

Photo: Sam Taylor



JD Allen

JD follows up his solo outing with Hunter, bassist Gregg August and a supporting cast, Allen's sax tones are the struggles experienced during The Great Migration of African-Americans from south to north. This could easily be reflective of today's see-saw progress of African Americans over the last 50 years. There's a country, blues swagger on "The Battle of Blair Mountain" contrasted with urban blues on the opener "Up South". Those are two examples of passionate music on Americana, Vol. 2.

77
Hard Bop
Savant
2022

Americana, Vol. 2

a small ensemble including guitarist Charlie drummer Rudy Royston. Fleshed out with are even more appreciable. His inspirations

Josh Sinton

Steve Lacy's Book of Practitioners, Vol. 1 "H"

Steve Lacy's Book Of Practitioners, Vol. 1 "H" is the next chapter in solo, free jazz, baritone saxophone from Josh Sinton. Josh preforms six of Lacy's compositions dedicated to six sax-masters. There's a lot of musicality in Sinton's playing, owing to dynamics, tempo variation and passion in his phrasing. When you encounter a performer like this, we suggest generously contributing money to his case.

Photo: Worsoe Berg

2022
Avant Garde
FIP 78



O's Sax Features

Hodges: Front & Center, Vol. 1

Saxophonist Owen Broder Mullerian (t), Carmen and Bryan Carter (d).

91 is Johnny
Modern of the Duke
Outside In They get
2022 the opener
swing hard

Owen Broder

Photo: Owen Broder

engages a strong band including Riley Staaf (p), Barry Stephenson (b), The inspiration for this work Hodges, the lead alto saxophonist Ellington Jazz Orchestra. right down to business on “Royal Garden Blues”. They on “Take The A-Train” then warm us with “Ballade For The Very Sad and Very Tired Lotus Eaters”. Hodges: Front & Center is an enjoyable album on all fronts!

Caleb Wheeler Curtis

74 Modern
2022 *Imani*

Heat Map

NY-based saxophonist Caleb Wheeler is not bashful expressing himself on Heat Map. Pianist Orrin Evans, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Gerald Cleaver join him playing ten original compositions. The music ranges from hard bop to warm ballads with more emphasis on the former. We liked “Tossed Aside”, “Trembling” and “Whisperchant”.

Rafael Karlen

Equally True

76
Ballads
Earshift
2022

Australian composer, educator and saxophonist Rafael Karlen assembles a quintet with Matt McMahon (p), Brett Hirst (b) and Simon Baker (d) featuring the voice of Kristin Berardi. Berardi’s vocalizations are soft and smooth, rather inviting whether she is scatting, singing or melding with the band, especially Karlen as on “Equally True” and “Foucault’s Pendulum”.



Photo: Rafael Karlen

O's Drummer Features

Quentin Baxter Art Moves Jazz

Photo: H Groomes

86
Baxter
Bebop
2022



Drummer, composer Quentin Baxter assembles a first class team for Art Moves Jazz drawing on inspirations from his angels on Earth, namely close family, friends and musical mentors. Baxter's quintet includes Charlton Singleton (t), Demetrius Doctor (p), Mark Sterbank (t-sax) and Rodney Jordan (b). Check out the seasonal title suite with a New Orleans swing on "Spring" and "Summer" followed by a simmering, smoky groove on "Winter" that encourages snuggling. We also enjoyed the cool swagger of "Resonant Emotions" and the cover of "In Walked Bud".

www.OsPlaceJazz.com

Brazilian drummer Duduka Da Fonseca leads a fine quartet (Quarteto Universal) through ten Latin-fusion songs, both originals and classics. Yes!!! is a wonderful shared experience across the stage. Da Fonseca provides a wonderful drum solo to open "Transition". "Montreux" is a warm ballad featuring bassist Gili Lopez. Guitarist Vinicius Gomes is blazing on "Exodo", and pianist Helio Alves takes charge on "Viver De Amor".

Duduka Da Fonseca

82
Latin
Sunnyside
2022



Photo: Drummerworld

O's Drummer Features

Richard Baratta *Music in Film: The Sequel*

Photo: Richard Baratta & Joe Pesci



88

Latin
Savant
2022

This is a sequel to The highly praised Reel Deal (82) and Music In Film: The Sequel is even better! Pick any of eleven titles and reminisce about the movie! There's a ton of energy in the "Theme From Pink Panther" including an explosive solo by Baratta. We also enjoyed the peaceful "Pure Imagination", "Soul Bossa Nova" and "You've Got A Friend In Me" featuring guitarist, Paul Hollenbeck. Pianist, arranger Bill O'Connell and Vincent Herring (a-sax) also shine throughout the session.

Jimmy Branly *The Meeting*

Cuban drummer, producer Jimmy Branly releases a fresh set of jazz-fusion on The Meeting, a trio featuring bassist Sezin Ahmet Türkménoglu and guitarist Will Brahm. Each of the musicians contribute original compositions to go along with five classic tunes. "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes", "Presume" and "Gazelle" are highlights.

79 Branly
2022 Fusion



Photo: Yamaha

Jonathan Mills

No Mentions No Worries

Drummer, composer Jonathan Mills releases his debut recording No Mentions, No Worries with a quintet including Luke Weathington (a-sax), Patrick Arthur (g), Tyrone Jackson (p) and Tommy Sauter (b). "Cool Out", "Wait For It" and the title track are excellent, engaging selections, fine examples of the eight tunes that are contemporary jazz with a funky vibe that feels good.

Photo: Jonathan Mills



78

Fusion
J. Mills
2022

O's Vocal Features

John Minnock

Simplicity

Singer John Minnock is a passionate storyteller who teams up with saxophonist Dave Liebman (s-sax) on Simplicity. The primary rhythm section is Mark Lewandowski (b), Matthias Picard (p) and Pablo Eluchans (d). Rising pianist Sean Mason plays on “Angel Eyes” and “You Don’t Know What Love Is” with a statement solo from Liebman. Carlos Mena plays bass on the title track. They trade the spotlight on “Maiden Voyage” and “Cape’s End” balancing a fine session.

81
Ballads
Dot Time
2022



Photo: Birdland Jazz Club

Manhattan Transfer

The Manhattan Transfer is a timeless defy time with yet another stunning supported by the WDR Funkhausorchester. together delighting audiences, just sit back and enjoy. “Twilight Zone”, “What Goes Around, Comes Around” and “God Only Knows” are standouts.

76
Ballads
Craft/Concord
2022

Fifty

quartet of vocalist that seem to harmonious release. They are It’s the celebration of Fifty years

Photo: Rebecca Jade



78
R&B+Jazz
Rebecca Jade
2022

Rebecca Jade

A Shade of Jade

Rebecca Jade is a seasoned singer, songwriter that has toured with Sheila E, Dave Koz and Elton John! She sings in front of a primary band with co-producer Carnell Harrell (p), Kyle Bolden (g) Raymond McKinley (b) and Charles Streeter Sr. (d). Dave Koz (sax) makes an appearance on “My Reason” and Eric Darius (sax) shines on “Bottle Up Magic”. There’s an old-school R&B groove notably on “Please Come Home”. We liked the message and the vibe on “Thankful” as well as the funky “Insane”. The general theme is romance and Rebecca delivers a compelling performance!

O's Vocal Features

Kate Baker & Vic Juris

Return To Shore

Kate Baker has a warm inviting voice that is combined with the full bodied guitar of Vic Juris in a collection of ten romantic tunes produced by Dave Stryker. This is a powerful duo that could entertain in almost any venue from a restaurant to a large stage! Oh yeah, they share their passion not only in music but also in marriage!

84
Ballads
Strikezone
2022



Photo: Baker/Juris

Alla Boara

2022 Ballads 74

Le Tre Sorelle

Alla Boara is vocalist Amanda Powell with composer Anthony Taddao (d, vocals), Clay Colley (accordion, p), Dan Bruce (g), Ian Kinnaman (b) and Tommy Lehman (t). Powell's vocalizations are well-integrated with the instruments, notably with Cooley on the title track. We noted the fine trumpet and guitar solos on "Almond Sorters" as well. They touch the full gamut of emotions with "Funeral Lament" and "Mi Me Ne Fon" making Le Tre Sorelle a passionate session.

Shifting Paradigm

Halie Loren

Live at Cotton Club

Halie Loren is the first jazz artist we know from Alaska, now living in Oregon. She breathes warmth into her music on unique arrangements of seventeen classic tunes along with a few originals. She's performing Live at (the) Cotton Club in Tokyo, Japan (2015) to a thankful audience. Accompanied by Matt Treder (p), Mark "Mo" Schneider (b), and Sir Brian West (d), Halie lights a fire! They are a strong team leading to many highlights, notably "Hit That Jive Jack", "Our Love Is Here To Stay", "I've Got To See You Again", and "Feelin' Good".

82
Ballads
Justin Time
2022



Photo: Bob Williams

O's Vocal Features

Samara Joy Linger Awhile

87
Ballads
Verve
2022

It's rare to encounter a rich, silky voice, like that from Samara Joy, reminding us of the legendary Sarah Vaughan. Linger Awhile is her sophomore release and it is strong. Accompaniment comes from Pasquale Grasso (g), David Wong (b), Ben Peterson (p) and Kenny Washington (d). Joy sings ten romantic, classic ballads that suggests, she is hopefully in love with all of the joy, pain and dedication that comes with it.



Jeremy Wong

Vancouver's Jeremy Wong has a rich ten romantic ballads for his latest "near-connections" and "what-ifs" that is rich and inviting whether he's singing on "I Don't Regret A Thing" or scatting as on "Easy To Love", we enjoyed him. Ardeshir Pourkermati (t-sax), Chris Gestrin (p), John Lee (b), Jesse Cahill (d) and Alvin Brendan (g) form a strong unit behind him with Pourkermati and Gestrin contributing strong solos throughout the set. We hope to hear a lot more from Wong in the coming years.

75
Ballads
Cellar Music
2022

Hey There

baritone voice that he place on release, Hey There. The theme is we've all experienced. Wong's tone

is rich and inviting whether he's singing on "I Don't Regret A Thing" or scatting as on "Easy To Love", we enjoyed him. Ardeshir Pourkermati (t-sax), Chris Gestrin (p), John Lee (b), Jesse Cahill (d) and Alvin Brendan (g) form a strong unit behind him with Pourkermati and Gestrin contributing strong solos throughout the set. We hope to hear a lot more from Wong in the coming years.

Nica Carrington Times Like These

Times Like These is a collection of songs about beginnings and endings of relationships but more importantly we find another story describing the path of singer Nica Carrington. She was inspired by the loneliness of the pandemic to focus on her music career, taking lessons and collaborating with pianist, arranger, producer John Proulx. Add Chuck Berghofer (b) and Joe LaBarbera (d) to arrive at a set of classics that warm the soul. "The Summer Knows", "The Shadow of Your Smile", "Here's To Life" and "Left Alone" are highlights.



81
N Carrington
Ballads
2022

O's Trumpet Features

84

Modern

Smoke Sessions
2022

Nicholas Payton

Photo: Nicholas Payton

The Couch Sessions

Trumpeter and composer Nicolas Payton continues his push to collaborate with legends on The Couch Sessions. He invites two members from Miles Davis' rhythm section to join him, bassist Buster Williams and drummer Lenny White. Payton also inserts spoken word from legends like the late Geri Allen on "Feed the Fire" where Nicolas plays piano! We also enjoyed Wayne Shorter reminiscing about Miles leading to "Pinocchio". The blend of Modern jazz, fusion, hip-hop, and retro excerpts makes this a winner!



Bill Ortiz

2022 Fusion
Left Angle 75

Points of View

Jazz trumpeter Bill Ortiz has been lighting up the Bay Area for many years with crisp, warm tones that can penetrate your heart. He's got a strong rhythm section with him including Matt Clark (p), Marcus Shelby (b), John Santos (perc) and Dennis Chambers (d). They waste no time getting down to business on the opener "Sunburst". Terrie Oadby adds buttery, soulful vocals on "A Toast To The People" and "Ain't No Need In Crying" to balance the set.

Tito Carrillo

Photo: Discogs

Tito Carrillo is a trumpeter, bandleader, composer, arranger and 15+ year professor at the University of Illinois. He is a capable performer and demonstrates his prowess on Urbanessence, his second album as a leader. There's a good mix of hot tracks with warm ballads placing him near the top of jazz trumpeter

90
2022
Origin
Latin



lists. Tito is joined by Troy Roberts (sax), Ben Lewis (p), Clark Sommers (b), Jay Sawyer (d) and Victor Gonzalez (congas).

Urbanessence

We liked the groove on "Crazy, Stupid Fine", "Fly By Night", "Momentum" and "Fire and Ice" in a strong session of mostly originals by Carrillo.

O's Guitar Features

I'll See You In My Dreams

Doug MacDonald

79
Blues
dMac
2022

Guitarist Doug MacDonald plays well in many configurations from solo to big band. I'll See You In My Dreams features a seasoned quartet with pianist Tamir Handelman, bassist John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton on drums. We liked the swinging vibe on "Easy To Love" with each of the band members being showcased. However, MacDonald generally takes the lead and does it with poise as on "'Tis Autumn", "New Mark" and the title track.

Photo: Doug MacDonald

Allan Holdsworth

2022

Fusion
Blue Canoe
79

Proto-Cosmos

In a true celebration of the late British keyboardist Alan Pasqua, drummer Chad Haslip produce Proto-Cosmos, a live re-is still sizzling! "Looking Glass", "Pud Wud", "It Must Be Jazz" and "Blues For Tony" are a few of the highlights in a wish-we-were-there set!

fusion guitarist Allan Holdsworth, Wackerman and bassist Jimmy

cording including Holdsworth that

"Blues For Tony" are

Bobby Broom

Keyed Up

75
Steele
Bebop
2022

Veteran jazz guitarist Bobby Broom gained the respect of many jazz pianists notably James Williams early in his career. That has led to many successful outings in guitar/piano ensembles. Keyed Up is his latest in a quartet with Justin Dillard (p, B3), Dennis Carroll (b) and co-producer, Kobe Watkins (d). This is an upbeat bop set that sizzles end to end highlighted by "Quicksilver", "Humpty Dumpty" and "Scoochie" pausing to inject fine ballads like "Misty" and "Soulful Bill".



Photo: Bobby Broom

O's Bass Features

Rodney Whitaker

Oasis

79
Bebop
Origin
2022

Michigan based bassist, educator and composer Rodney Whitaker focused on the music of Gregg Hill for Oasis, his latest release, a collection of late 1950s-style hard bop. Pianist Bruce Barth and drummer Dana Hall anchor the rhythm section with Whitaker. They start out upbeat, swinging behind vocalist Rochelle Fortin on “Betty’s Tine” and again on “To The Well”, two of the four vocal selections. They continue on with a series of happy tunes featuring Terell Stafford (t) and Tim Warfield (sax) resulting in a strong ode to tradition.



Photo: Rodney Whitaker

Photo: Lydia Lieberman Promotions

77
Modern
Savant
2022

Santi Debriano Ashanti

Bassist, composer Santi Debriano assembles Arkestra Bembe including Andrea Brachfeld (fl), TK Blue (a-sax), Robby Ameen (d) and several other talented musicians for Ashanti. He leaves room for strong bass solos as on “Imaginary Guinea”. We enjoyed the relaxed groove on “Till Then”, “Spunky” featuring Ray Sero (b-sax), Emile Turner (t), and Brachfeld, also the swinging “Basilar”.



Alex Tremblay

Thoughts & Images

77
Fusion
A. Tremblay
2022

Bassist, composer Alex Tremblay hits the New York jazz scene with big sound from the small state of Rhode Island. Thoughts & Images is his debut with a band including Taber Gable (p), Nicholas Biello (a-sax), Tony Davis (g) and Evan Hyde (d). Vocalist Vanisha Gould breathes soul into “The Yellow Rose” complimented by a fine sole from Davis. We also enjoyed the warm ballad “Helen’s Waltz” and the blazing “Karma” featuring Biello and Gable.



Photo: Alex Tremblay

ARTIST Title <i>Label</i> Rating	<u>Top Contemporary Picks</u> O's Notes
J. PETER SCHWALM & C^P STEPHEN THELEN 82 <u>TRANSNEPTUNIAN PLANETS</u> <i>Rare Noise</i>	J. Peter Schwalm (keyboards, electronics) and Stephan Thelen (g, keyboards) are the headliners on <u>Transneptunin Planets</u> . Eivind Aarset (g), Tim Harries (b) and Manuel Pasquini (d, perc) round out the band. Guest vocalist Neil Catchpole adds voice samples on “GongGong”. “MakeMake” sounds like a large construction site, while “Quaoar” boils in the mystery of a chase scene at the aforementioned site. Each of the song illustrates a journey of sorts but we felt it to be more terrestrial than intergalactic.
THE TRACKERS 8:45 <u>VAUDEVILLE</u> C^F <i>Abstract Logic</i> 77	The Trackers is a collaboration between drummer/keyboardist Gary Husband and Norwegian guitarist Alf Terje Hana. They employ several bassists including Jimmy Johnson and Jimmy Haslip. “Nisco”, “Two Foxes” and the pandemonium of “The Middle Distance” are highlights in an energetic rock-fusion session.
ALBARE C^F <u>FREEDOM</u> <i>Alfi</i> 75	Veteran guitarist, composer, producer Albare (Albert Dadon) assembles a strong band with Phil Turcio (p), Randy Brecker (t), Ada Rovatti (sax), Phil Rex (b) and Felix Bloxom (d). We liked “Lost Compass”, “Shimmozle”, “New Expectations” and “Adues” in the ten-song set. <u>Freedom</u> has a predominantly peaceful vibe owed to the polished poise of the band.
JEFF DENSON C^F <u>FINDING LIGHT</u> 75 <i>Ridgeway</i>	Bassist Jeff Denison reunites his trio from <u>Between Two Worlds</u> , with drummer Brian Blade and guitarist Romain Pilon for his latest release, <u>Finding Light</u> , born at the dawn of the pandemic and finally released in 2022. “This Way Cooky”, “The Tipster”, “Sixto” and “Espoir” are highlights that make the journey worth the wait!
CANDY DULFER C^P <u>WE NEVER STOP</u> <i>The Funk Garage</i> 75	Dutch saxophonist, vocalist Candy Dulfer has been entertaining us on the contemporary jazz scene for years. Her groove is smooth and funky with beats that make you want to dance. <u>We Never Stop</u> is a continuation of her magic. Ivan Peroti (vocals), Camilo Rodriguez (vocals) and arranger, multi-instrumentalist Ulco Bed provide strong support. Among the best are “Deeper”, “No Time For This” and “Jammin’ Tonight”.
MATA ATLANTICA C^P <u>Ritiri E Ritmo</u> <i>7D Media</i> 74	<u>Mata Atlantica</u> is the coastal rainforest in Bahia, Brazil, an area that is rich in many species by endangered by man, already 90% destroyed. Master keyboardist, composer, arranger, producer Markus Reuter assembled a large ensemble to capture the beauty of nature and its vulnerability on <u>Retiro E Ritmo</u> . This is a peaceful recording, a sonic biotope that hopefully inspires us to protect and preserve the region. Consider it: https://www.amap-Brazil.org/en

O's Place Features

Photo: Jazz Aspen Snowmass



87
R&B+Jazz
Shanachie
2022

Jazz Funk Soul Forecast

Jazz Funk Soul is a high powered trio featuring Paul Jackson Jr. (g), Everette Harp (sax), and Jeff Lorber (keyboards) playing sizzling contemporary jazz on Forecast. Gary Novak plays drums on most selections with bass duty shared by many strong artists. They embellish their reputations with a stunning performance. The upbeat tunes sizzle and the relaxers like "When The Time Comes" are refreshing. "Funkin' In AZ" features guest artists Marcus Miller (b) and Lenny Castro (perc). "Fish Grease", "Count Me In" and "Keep Holding On" are also noteworthy.

74
Impulse!
Pop+Jazz
2022

The Comet is Coming

Hyper-Dimensional Expansion Beam

The Comet is Coming is the name of the band! They are Danalogue (keyboards), Betamax (d, perc) and Shabaka (sax, Shakuhachi). Yes, the sound is what you'd expect during intergalactic travel with an abundance of electronics and worldly sounds. They open with the pulsating club beats of "Code". That's the prevailing mode throughout the set. Other highlights are "Pyramids", "Aftermath", "Atomic Wave Dance" and "Angel of Darkness". It's worth the trip or at least hanging out at the departure gate!

Manhattan Whispers

Yola Nash

2022
Ballads
Yostar
77

Vocalist Yolanda Nash is a hopeless romantic singing nine ballads in several styles. She wrote the music and lyrics for most of the songs and employs world class musicians including Fella Cederbaum (spoken word), Alex Meixner (accordion), Graham Keir (g) and co-producer Edsel Gomez (p). There's a touch of Eastern European music owed to Nash's Polish heritage mixed with the jazzy Latin vibe. We liked the calypso vibe on "Still Love You", the Mediterranean groove of "World on Fire", and "Truth Tango".



Photo: Yola Nash

O's Place Features

YELLOWJACKETS *Parallel Motion*

The venerable Yellowjackets are back serving up yet another winner with Parallel Motion. Bassist Dane Anderson, saxophonist Bob Mintzer, Russell Ferrante (keyboards) and Will Kennedy (d) have that insatiable groove that captivates us from the opener “Intrigue”, to warm ballads like “Samaritan”, “Il Mio Amico” and the title track. Vocalist Jean Baylor adds warmth on “If You Believe”.



Photo: Roberto+Cifarelli

82
Fusion
Mack Ave.
2022

Steve Gadd, Eddie Gomez & Ronnie Cuber + WDR Big Band

Center Stage

baritone saxophonist
Big Band arranged and conducted by Michael Abene. Guests Bruno Müller (g), Bobby Sparks (B3, Rhodes) and Simon Oslender (p, B3) add to the mix. They play pop classics recast in jazz mode! “Them Changes”, “Signed, Sealed, Delivered” and “Way Back Home” are standouts.

R&B+Jazz 77
Leopard 2022

Drummer Steve Gadd, bassist Eddie Gomez and Ronnie Cuber take Center Stage with the WDR

BILL COLE

Margaret and Katie



Photo: Scott Friedlander

77
Bill Cole
Free Jazz
2022

Bill Cole is an innovative jazz musician and educator who focuses on non-Western horns like the diggeridoo, Chinese sona, Ghanaian flute and Indian shenai. His music is an exploration of tonal harmonies and free, expressive improvisations. His band includes Warren Smoth (d, perc), Joseph Daley (tuba b-sax), Ras Moshe Burnette (sax, fl), Althea SullyCole (kora), Mali Obomsawin (b) and Taylor Ho Bynum (cornet, flugelhorn, shells). The musicians are peaceful, cooperative, and supportive, building and blending on each other's thoughts. Listeners can engage and they aren't locked out, rather invited in to the musical cloud. “The drum sounding a message...” is perhaps the most aggressive, but also the most intriguing of five selections!

O's Place Features

The Baylor Project *The Evening*

The Evening is a live set of delightful, jazzy, R&B ballads recorded at Apparatus in New York City in May, 2022. This design studio is a perfect home for the gospel rooted Jean (vocals) and Marcus (drums) Baylor. You will be mesmerized with Keith Loftis (sax) and Yasushi Nakamura (b) on “Tenderly”. Jean always shines on “We Swing ‘The Cypher’” and this live version is no exception as she jousts with Darren Barrett (t), Terry Brewer (p) and Loftis. The soft, engaging “Love Makes Me Sing” brought out the best from the crowd! Nakamura opens “2020” before we go to church on “Only Believe”, a fitting finale.



85
R&B+Jazz
Be A Light
2022

Lisa Hilton

Pianist Lisa Hilton is adept at playing many jazz genres and Paradise Cove is a fine example of that. She is accompanied by bassist Luques Curtis, drummer Obed Calvaire and trumpeter Igmarr Thomas who captures the spotlight on “Birk’s Works” and several other selections. We liked the vamp on “Night Cap A Little Chaos”, “Mercurial Moments”, and the solitude of “Another Simple Sunday With You”. Frankly, we enjoyed the entire session.

2022 Pop+Jazz
Ruby Slippers 78

Paradise Cove



The String Queens

Rise

The String Queens, Kendall Isadore (violin), Dawn Michelle Johnson (viola), and Élise Sharp (cello), are an African-American chamber Jazz Quartet that infuses soul, gospel and R&B into a contemporary jazz format including warm vocals. Rise is their third album and their sound is lethal, poised, polished and wonderful to listen to. They play a collection of classic pop R&B and spiritual tunes including “Billie Jean”, “Eleanor Rigby”, “Amazing Grace”, and “Motherless Child”. Don’t miss it!


78
String Queens
R&B+Jazz
2022

O's Place Features

82
R&B+Jazz
LD Jazz
2022

Loren Daniels

Ticket To Ride



Ticket To Ride is a fine selection of retro-R&B, vocals, backed by jazz rhythms, sung by Loren Daniels, including back up, harmonies and all keyboards. He started to project pre-pandemic and used the abundance of free time to enhance the project, making it "richer, deeper and juicier!" We (listeners) are the beneficiaries of the effort which includes ten of Lennon and McCartney's best. "Drive My Car", "I'm Only Sleeping", "Blackbird" and "Eight Days A Week" are highlights.

Photo: Loren Daniels

Alvaro Rojas

Guitarist, composer, producer Meredith Bates (violin), Josh Lee (cello). There are many guest Anne Muldrow provides vocals on "Past Lives" and Neelamjit Dhillon plays tabla on several selections. We also enjoyed the string work on "Music for 22". Other highlights include "BB Tango", "Caiman" and "Meditation Park".

76
Fusion
A. Rojas
2022

Music For 22

Alvaro Rojas assembles a core quintet with Zubot (violin), Lucy Strauss (viola) and Peggy artists that provide additional color. Georgia

Whitney Marchelle Jackson

Strong Black Women

A wide array of strong talent, powerful messages and fine musicianship make Strong Black Women a strong statement. Some of the best are Felicia Collins' vocal tribute on "Nina, Nina Simone" and Dee Dee Bridgewater singing the title track. Bassist Endea Owens makes a strong statement on "Walking With A Purpose". We also enjoyed Raydar Ellis and Shanell 'Lady Luck' Jones injecting a dose of hip-hop on "Hip Empowerment".

78
2022
R&B+Jazz
Empowerment



Photo: Jazz Foundation of America

Contemporary Selections

ARTIST	Title	Label	X	T
SONICA	<u>Sonica</u>	<i>Outside In</i>	76	C ^R
TIMUCIN SAHIN	<u>Funk Poems For Bird</u>	<i>Kalan</i>	75	C ^F
DAVE BASS	<u>The Trio, Vol. 2</u>	<i>Dave Bass</i>	74	C ^P
MICHAEL BLAKE	<u>Comcoculate</u>	<i>Newelle</i>	74	C ^F
BRIAN LANDRUS	<u>Red List</u>	<i>Palmetto</i>	74	C ^F
FELIPE SALLES	<u>Tiyo's Songs Of Life</u>	<i>Tapestry</i>	74	C ^F
TREVOR DUNN	<u>Séances</u>	<i>Pyroclastic</i>	73	C ^F
GORDON GRDINA	<u>Night's Quietest Hour</u>	<i>AttaBoyGirl</i>	73	C ^P
BEN BIERMAN	<u>Songs For Aunt Mary</u>	<i>New Focus</i>	71	C ^P
KEVIN KASTNING	<u>Levitation I</u>	<i>Greydisc</i>	66	C ^F
STEVE KNIGHT	<u>Persistence</u>	<i>Steve Knight</i>	66	C ^R
MATTHIEU MAZUÉ	<u>We Stay Still</u>	<i>Jazzdor</i>	66	C ^F
CAMILLE ALBAN-SPRENG	<u>Dear Uncle Lennie</u>	<i>Yolk</i>	66	C ^P
COLLIN SHERMAN	<u>Organism Made Luminous</u>	<i>Ex-Tol Recordings</i>	64	C ^F
FABIAN WILLMANN	<u>Balance</u>	<i>Clap Your Hands</i>	63	C ^F
GORDON GRDINA	<u>Oddly Enough</u>	<i>AttaBoyGirl</i>	61	C ^P
JASON KAO HWANG	<u>Uncharted Faith</u>	<i>Blue Coast</i>	61	C ^F
C. MONNIOT & M. DUCRET	<u>Dernier Tango</u>	<i>Jazzdor</i>	61	C ^F
MAHOGANY FROG	<u>Faust</u>	<i>Moonjune</i>	59	C ^P
BLUE LARGO	<u>Got To Believe</u>	<i>Blue Largo</i>	55	C ^R

Unbiased Sound Advice from O's Place Jazz

O's Rating Scale (X)

0 65 80 95



Pass

Contemplate

Buy

Strong Buy

O's Place Legends

Steve Tintweiss

Live at NYU: 1980 is a free-**2022 87 Inky Dot** jazz treasure recently unearthed and released (2022) by bassist, composer Steve Tintweiss. He leads the Spacelight Band with Charles Bracken (t-sax, s-sax), Byard Lancaster (a-sax, s-sax, fl, piccolo, b-cl), Lou Grassi (d, perc) and Genie Sherman (vocals). The band was in rare form playing new music on 11/8/1980 at NYU's Loeb Student Center. There are 13 songs across two discs. It is truly melodic and rather memorable as recounted by admiring fans, a legendary performance.

Avant Garde

Live at NYU: 1980

Wolfgang Lackerschmid & Chet Baker

This is the third documentation of trumpeter Chet Baker and vibraphonist Wolfgang Lackerschmid on **Welcome Back** with Nicola Stylo (fl) and Günter Lenz (b). They play nine soothing ballads instruments. All the compositions were originally released in 1992 on West Wind and re-released on Dot Time in 2022.

Welcome Back

77
Dot Time
Ballads
2022

Ramsey Lewis

The Beatles Songbook



71
Steele
Pop Ballads
2022

Photo: Ramsey Lewis.com

The Beatles Songbook is the first volume of The Saturday Salon Series featuring the late pianist Ramsey Lewis. The sound quality is not ideal, but Ramsey's solo piano arrangements of these pop classics is outstanding. Of note are "And I Love Her", "Hard Days Night" and "Let It Be".

Final Notes Baritone saxophonist **Ronnie Cuber** died at the age of 80 on October 8, 2022. No cause of death given. Jazz trombonist, arranger **Terry Woodson** died at the age of 81 on October 19, 2022. No cause of death was reported. On November 16, 2022 we lost **Mick Goodrick**. He was a jazz guitarist and educator. He died at the age of 77 from COVID-19. **David Ornette Cherry**, was a multi-instrumentalist (primarily piano), and composer. He died from an asthma attack following a concert on November 20, 2022. He was 64. The musical contributions of these fine jazz professionals will remain with us forever.

O's Blues Features

Wendy & DB

Into The Little Blue House

86
PopBlues
Wendy&DB
2022



Photo: Wendy & DB

Vocalists Wendy Morgan and Darryl Boggs (DB) collaborate on a blues album for children, Into The Little Blue House. They make it a blues history lesson on “Women Of The Blues” featuring lead vocals by Ivy Ford, and incorporate lessons into their blues on “Tie My Own Shoes Blues”, “Peanut Butter Blues”, and “Please Go To Sleep”. This is a well done effort for both young and older listeners!

Dr. John

2022 Blues
Rounder 74

Things Happen That Way

Dr. John had a raspy deep baritone voice that blended very well with blues stories. The late legendary singer's last studio recording, Things Happen That Way, was just released three years after he passed. Though he was fading at the time of the recording, it represents strong memories of his best performances. Highlights are “I’m So Lonesome”, “Funny How Time Slips Away” and “End Of The Line” featuring Aaron Neville.

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