



It's been a hot summer and we've enjoyed it so far assisted by some sizzling new jazz that we're happy to share with you. There are 133 new reviews with heavy concentration on piano and vocal features.

We are not happy to report continued issues with web site developers. The last one started with a bang and then left us with an equation that would feed her an annuity at a cost greater than our profits! So our site is now static :(

Please enjoy the emailed edition while we regroup. We are all ears for suggestions in this arena. Our new concept is amazing if we can implement it.

Sit back and enjoy the music and don't hesitate to share your thought with us.

Happy listening,



What's Inside!

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O's Place Jazz Newsletter

P.O. Box 38430

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ARTIST Title <i>Label Perf/Sound</i>	<u>Top Traditional Picks</u> O's Notes
JEFF WILLIAMS <u>Lifelike</u> T^B <i>Whirlwind</i> 4/4	Drummer Jeff Williams leads a sextet with special guest Gonalo Marquez (t), John O'Gallagher (a sax), Josh Arcoleo (t sax), Kit Downes (p) and Sam Lasserson (b). They play seven Williams originals; mostly hard bop tunes extracting the most from each of the musicians. We enjoyed "Under The Radar" and "Cano do Amolador" most in a set with varied pace and feverish intensity. They end on a high note with "Double Life" capping a fine set.
TOM BRUNER <u>Homage To A</u> <u>Hero</u> 4/3 <i>Gresco</i> T^b	Guitarist Tom Bruner pays a tribute to Wes Montgomery on <u>Homage To A Hero</u> a 2-Disc collection of nineteen ballads that Wes made popular with a guitarist perspective. Bruner is backed by an enchanting orchestra including strings to present a solid, warm backdrop for his liquid melodies. It is a unique, and worthy approach. Wes would be proud of this performance in his honor. We were soothed by Tom's delightful work.
KIRA KIRA T^A <u>Bright Force</u> 4/3 <i>Libra</i>	To call Satoko Fujii a workaholic would be an understatement. In addition to a global touring, she has been producing 3 to 6 albums annually over the past decade! But she decided to step it up to monthly releases this year celebrating her 60th birthday! Kira Kira is a quartet featuring Australian keyboardist Alister Spence opposite Fujii (p) with Natsuki Tamura (t) and Ittetsu Takemura (d). Bright Force was recorded live in Tokyo September 2017 ten years after Fujii and Spence first connected. Alister adds a futuristic element to the mix with the Rhodes melding with the edgy free jazz we've come to expect from Fujii and Tamura. The "Luna Lionfish" triage is the strongpoint of a rather unique and <i>yet another dimension from Fujii</i> .
DAVE YOUNG & TERRY PROMANE <u>Octet Vol. 2</u> 4/3 <i>Modica</i> T^B	Bassist Dave Young & trombonist Terry Promane combine forces to form a powerful octet. Both artists are well-decorated leaders in their own rights as well as supporters of well-regarded jazz legends. But as leaders of the Octet including saxophonist Mike Murley, they show us the passionate heat that Canadians can generate playing fresh arrangements of 9 classic tunes along with "Can't You See" by Murley. They swing, mesmerize and groove with "Detour Ahead", "Can't You See" and "Jeannine" are just a few of the winners on a moving set.

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O's Place Features

Diva Jazz Orchestra

25th Anniversary Project

4/4
ArtistShare
Big Band
2018



Photo: Kahmeela Adams

The Diva Jazz Orchestra is an all female large ensemble with a wealth of talent. There is an abundance of brass and reeds with a definitive rhythm section including Noriko Ueda (b), Tomoko Ohno (p) and musical director Sherie Maricle (d). The ten selections are all originals that swing with lots of energy and precision. This is a fine 25th Anniversary Project. That's a quarter of a century of fine music and commitment!

Jim Snidero & Jeremy Pelt

2017 Swing
Savant 4/3

Jubilation!

Alto saxophonist Jim Snidero is celebrating Adderley on Jubilation! and he does a fine job of it! He shares billing with trumpeter Jeremy Pelt. Jim's tone is warm and engaging in a way that is very easy to embrace and his harmonies with Pelt are equally rewarding. David Hazeltine (p), Nat Reeves (b) and Billy Drummond (d) round out the quintet. We enjoyed the ride through eight classics

Maguire Twins

Seeking Higher Ground

Bassist Alan Shutaro Maguire and drummer Carl Seitaro Maguire are 22 year old twins who grew up in Japan before moving to Memphis at the age of 15 where they were embraced by Kirk Whalum and Donald Brown! They absorbed the lessons like a sponge and anchor a rhythm section with pianist Aaron Goldberg. Bill Mobley (t) and Gregory Tardy (sax) share the melodies with Goldberg and each of the members contributes at least one original to the set. There is a lot to enjoy with promise of much more to come!

4/3
Modern 2018
Three Tree



Photo: Maguire Twins

O's Place Features

Frank Carlberg/Noah Preminger



Photo: Jimmy and Dana Katz

2018
Red Piano
Modern
4/4

Whispers & Cries

Tenor saxophonist Noah Preminger and pianist Frank Carlberg are like-minded in their improvisational approach. Both seek to play pure tones and rich harmonies centered on classic tunes. They achieve that on Whispers and Cries, a collection of ten popular tunes recast in fresh, unique arrangements with lots of improvisation but with recognizable cores. They feed off of each other and are in no hurry. It was fun trying to guess the tunes before they uncovered the melodies. It's a warm set for a lazy afternoon, suitable for a variety of activities, engaging or in the background.

Pedro Giraudo

4/3 Big Band
Zoho 2018

An Argentinian In New York

Bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo steps away from leading his New York-based large ensemble to conduct the WDR Big Band. The internationally renowned unit performs six of Pedro's works to perfection. For this outing, Giraudo left his bass at home, focusing entirely on the orchestration of the music. All of the nuances are captured effectively in a focused dynamic concert: An Argentinian In New York. Of note is the 4-part Desconsuelo Suite: on tracks 6-9.

O's [Performance/Sound] Ratings

Rating	Definition
5	Can't Miss: You can enjoy all of the selections and over 75% are notable. You can feel the artist's emotion!
4	Very Good: You will enjoy most of the selections and over half are of merit.
3	Good: Two or three strong selections and two or three that should have been left in the studio.
2	Fair: Maybe one decent selection. Consider trading it in.
1	Poor: Avoid unless you are related to the artist!

ARTIST Title <i>Label Perf/Sound</i>	<u>Traditional Big Band</u> O's Notes
ONE O'CLOCK LAB BAND T^N <u>Legacy: Neil Slater at North Texas</u> 5/3 <i>University of North Texas</i>	The University of North Texas is widely regarded as a premier institution for jazz education. They have produced countless jazz professionals and additionally produced many stellar recordings over the years. This 4-disc set covers The 1980s, The 1990s, 2000s and A New Era celebrating a <u>Legacy: Neil Slater at North Texas</u>. In this case, the title accurately depicts the contents and Slater should be revered. The liner notes document the time, the music and players involved but it's the music that makes this package shine. Excellent all the way around!
ONE O'CLOCK LAB BAND T^N <u>Lab 2017</u> 4/4 <i>University of North Texas</i>	<u>Lab 2017</u> is the 2017 recorded version of the One O'Clock Lab Band under the direction of Alan Blaylock. They remain a top-notch big band and certainly one the premier college jazz bands. We really enjoyed the sax encounter at the end of "Old School", a prime example of the high energy brass work by this large ensemble. The 19 members come from NY to CA and lots of states in between. The results are as always excellent.
IRA B. LISS T^N <u>Tasty Tunes</u> <i>Big Band Jazz</i> 4/3	Big Band Director Ira B. Liss produces a swinging set of <u>Tasty Tunes</u> fortified with standout musicians including Holly Hoffman (fl), Eric Marienthal (sax), Bob Mintzer (sax) and Dean Brown (g). The band is popping from the jazzed up arrangement of "You Don't Know What Love Is" to the racy "Manhattan Burn" featuring guitarist Alex Ciavarelli and trumpeter Peter Green. Janet Hammer adds vocals on "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" and two others but it is the instrumental power that makes this Jazz Machine Work!
FLYING HORSE BIG BAND T^N <u>The Bat Swings!</u> <i>Flying Horse</i> 4/3	The Flying Horse Big Band led by tenor saxophonist Jeff Rupert takes on music from Batman with the theme from Spider-Man added for good measure. It is as grandiose as the legendary super hero was in action. The mood is jovial as the good guys win the battles. Brass solos are scattered throughout the performance against a clean foundation that facilitates endless listening. The package has broad appeal beyond bat-fans to lovers of vibrant large ensembles.
JIM RIGGS <u>Airstream</u> <u>Artistry</u> 4/3 <i>University of North Texas</i> T^N	The Two O'clock Lab Band is one of the finest jazz ensembles to emanate out of the University of North Texas. Under the direction of saxophone professor James Riggs they recorded 10 albums and received the DownBeat Student Music Award 5 times between 1973 and 2008. Countless musicians were a part of the celebratory ensembles and this three-disc set captures many of the highlights. This is clean, vibrant big band music in the traditional sense that will bring endless enjoyment.

Unbiased Sound Advice at a nice price!

Traditional Selections

ARTIST	Title	Label	P	S	T
FREDDY COLE	<u>My Mood Is You</u>	<i>High Note</i>	3	4	T ^b
ANDREW SCHILLER	<u>Tied Together, Not To The Ground</u>	<i>rpr</i>	3	4	T ^B
MARK WADE	<u>Moving Day</u>	<i>Mark Wade Trio</i>	3	4	T ^B
PETER HORSEFALL	<u>Nighthawks</u>	<i>APP Records</i>	3	3	T ^b
JASON KLOBNAK	<u>Friends & Family</u>	<i>Jason Klobnak</i>	3	3	T ^b
SUSAN KREBS	<u>Spring: Light Out Of Darkness</u>	<i>Green Gig</i>	3	3	T ^b
YOKO MIWA	<u>Pathways</u>	<i>Ocean Blue Tear</i>	3	3	T ^S
NEW VISION SAX ENSEMBLE	<u>Musical Journey Through Time</u>	<i>Zaki</i>	3	3	T ^B
ANDREW RATHBUN	<u>Atwood Suites</u>	<i>Origin</i>	3	3	T ^N
THIS IS IT!	<u>1538</u>	<i>Libra</i>	3	3	T ^A
FRAN VIELMA	<u>Tendencias</u>	<i>Papelón</i>	3	3	T ^L
SUNNY WILKINSON	<u>Into The Light</u>	<i>Sunchance</i>	3	3	T ^b
J. YEAGER & R. DESPOMMIER	<u>All At Onceness</u>	<i>rpr</i>	3	3	T ^B
BONERAMA	<u>Hot Like Fire</u>	<i>Basin Street</i>	3	2	T ^D
HEAVYWEIGHTS BRASS BAND	<u>This City</u>	<i>Lulaworld</i>	3	2	T ^D
KAZE	<u>Atody Man</u>	<i>Circum Libra</i>	2	5	T ^A
LISA BERNSTEIN	<u>I Get A Kick</u>	<i>Jazzed Media</i>	2	2	T ^b
MICHAEL MOSS	<u>Helix</u>	<i>4th Stream</i>	2	2	T ^N

Joe Fiedler *Like, Strange*

Trombonist Joe Fiedler is an instructor at Princeton, the musical director for Sesame Street and a prolific performer on the greater NY Jazz scene. He let's his imagination run to create unique voices on his instrument. For Like, Strange, he combines forces with Jeff Lederer (sax), Pete McCann (g), Rob Jose (b) and Michael Sarin (d). This is a strong team that does not disappoint! They glide through nine vibrant Fiedler originals with crisp changes and a ton of passion.

4/3
Modern
Multishonics
2017



Photo: Peter Gannushkin

O's Latin Features

Bill O'Connell

2018
Latin
Savant
4/3

Jazz Latin

Veteran jazz pianist Bill O'Connell leads a trio with bassist Lincoln Goines and Robby Ameen on drums. Guest soloists are sprinkled throughout the set including Andrea Brachfeld (fl) on "Quicksand".

Seven of the eleven selections in this Latin-flavored, modern, bebop set are originals. There are a lot of syncopated beats on songs like "Just One Of Those Things" and the cool arrangement of "Footprints". We also enjoyed "Goodbye My Friend" featuring guitarist Dan Carillo and Randy Brecker (flugelhorn). Nice work Bill!

Photo: Bill O'Connell

Fernando Garcia

4/4 Latin
2018 Zoho

Guasábara Puerto Rico

Drummer and bandleader Fernando Garcia plays punctuated beats that define the Latin groove on this recording. He shines on "The Element" along with guitarist Gabriel Vicéns. Special guest Miguel Zenón (a sax) drives the melody on the title track. Jan Kus plays tenor sax elsewhere with a slamming rhythm section that includes Dan Martinez (b), Gabriel Chakarji (p) and Victor Pablo on congas. All of the musicians get some well-deserved time in the spotlight. Guasábara, Puerto Rico is Afro-Caribbean Bebop in fine form!

Daymé Arocena

Cubafonia

Daymé Arocena is a 26-year-old Cuban vocalist who is taking the world by storm! She has a strong voice and loads of talent steeped in her native land incorporating old and new Cuban music forms. Already well decorated in the US jazz community Cubafonia is her second recording. It features many top Cuban musicians and has an energetic pulse like a fresh cup of coffee! We look to hear a lot more from Daymé.

4/3
Latin
Brownwood
2018

Photo: Denise Guerra

O's Latin Features

Legacy & Alchemy **Alexandra Jackson**

2018

Legacy & Alchemy

Latin 4/3

Latin vocalist Alexandra Jackson plays a jovial set on *Legacy & Alchemy*. The legacy is in the classic tunes and the alchemy is in the collection of artists coming together (posthumously) for the performance. There are seventeen selections spread across two discs and all are fresh arrangements with an abundance of strong talent. Paulo Jobim and Daniel Jobim sing on “A Felicitate”. Jesse Sadoc plays horns on “Girl From Ipanema”. Rod Temperton (keyboards) shines on “Our Time Now”. Al Jarreau stars on “All One”, and Miles Davis, Ivan Lins & Antonio Carlos Jobim surface for “Corcovado”. Our favorite is the finalé “Brazilica” capping a fine set.



Photo: Alexandra Jackson

Juan Andrés Ospina

4/3

Latin

J.A. Ospina

2018

Pianist and composer Juan Andrés Ospina leads a large ensemble for six vibrant songs including five originals. This is a very dynamic performance courtesy of the luscious harmonies and accents from the horns. The rhythm section including bassist Andrés Rotmistrovsky and Marcelo Woloski (perc) provides a solid foundation throughout the set. Of particular note is “Todavía No” featuring special guest Paquito D’Rivera on soprano sax, just one of several strong selections on *Tramontana*.

Tramontana

Yuko Ito

Esperança

4/4

Funny Baby Face

Latin 2017

Japanese jazz vocalist Yuko Ito has a passion for Brazilian samba and she does a credible job on *Esperança*. Helio Alves (p), Richard Miller (g) and Edward Perez (b) are among the supporting talented musicians. Yuko also sprinkles a few pop ballads into the mix notably “What A Wonderful World”. The title track featuring guitarist Romero Lubambo and “Owari No Nai Kisetu” are original tunes that make this a balanced and entertaining session.



Photo: Yuko Ito

O's Trombone Features



Photo: Jacob Blickenstaff

Roswell Rudd *Embrace*

The late trombonist Roswell Rudd formed a quartet with vocalist Fay Victor, pianist Lafayette Harris and Ken Filiano on bass. They reshaped eight classics around the talent of the team. Rudd and Victor do a fine job carrying most of the melodies with warm, earthy tones.

They take their time in a very deliberate process in a clean soundstage absent a drummer. These are an entertaining set of tunes!

4/3
Modern 2017
Rare Noise

Michael Lake The Elektrik Project Vol.

Michael Lake is an innovative alto trombonist with a very unique and generous approach to music and his fans. If you go to www.altobone.com you can sign up to receive a free song each month from Lake by email! The Elektrik Project Vol. 1 features Michael on eight songs from the project. The music is contemporary jazz that is funky, cool, smooth and groovin'. It's certainly worth a try!

4/3
Fusion 2017
Yamaha



Photo: Michael Lake

James Hall *Lattice*

Trombonist and composer James Hall's quintet includes pianist Deanna Witkowski, bassist Tom DiCarlo, Jamie Baum on flute and drummer Allan Mednard. Shares Cassidy (sax) makes a guest appearance on two selections notably the cover of "Black Narcissus". Six of the eight selections are original tunes. The pace is varied, making *Lattice* an enjoyable encounter that got better with each track.

2018
Modern
Outside In
4/3



Photo: James Hall

O's Piano Reviews

Pete Malinverni Heaven

Pianist Pete Malinverni assembles a core trio with bassist Ben Allison and Akira Tana on drums accentuated by guest artists on three of the ten selections. The music is centered on the concept of Heaven, the place where we can find rest, relief and joy. The music includes traditional spirituals, several fresh arrangements and Malinverni's own "Psalm 23". John Faddis (t) brightens up "Come Sunday"; Karin Allison (vocals) blesses us on "Shenandoah"; and Steve Wilson (sax) adds swing to "Wade In The Water". We also enjoyed "People Get Ready" and the title track in a set that suggests the mood for a place we all desire!

2017
Bebop
Saranac
4/4



Photo: John Abbott



Photo: Shahzad Ahsan

Ben Paterson

Pianist and vocalist Ben ballads while leading a swinging and bassist George Delancey. We like the frolicking interchange between Ben and Chris on "You And The Night And The Music". We also enjoyed "Make You Feel My Love". These are just a couple examples of the good music that gave us That Old Feeling.

4/3
Pop+Jazz
Infrared
2017

That Old Feeling

Patterson plays Cabernet-style trio including guitarist Chris Flory

Joey DeFrancesco

Joey's latest B3 band includes drummer Jason Brown, Troy Roberts on sax, and guitarist Dan Wilson. Just to keep you guessing DeFrancesco also plays a little trumpet and piano in addition to his slamming organ groove. The program is a balanced mix of covers and originals, a lot of blues and burners. Among the best are "Lift Every Voice And Sing", "One" and "Karma". Joey D seems to never run out of steam!

2017
Mack Avenue
R&B+Jazz
4/3

Project Freedom

Photo: Joey DeFrancesco

O's Piano Reviews

Photo: Leslie Pintchik

Leslie Pintchik

You Steal My Girl!

Pianist Leslie Pintchik assembles a fine sextet that includes Satoshi Takeishi (perc), Scott Hardy (g, b) and guest Steve Wilson (sax) on two selections. You Eat My Food, You Drink My Wine, You Steal My Girl! is a joyful collection of eight ballads that resonated with us over and over again. Pintchik composed six of the songs and did a wonderful job. The music is peaceful, relaxed and jubilant. We especially enjoyed the arrangement of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" and "Mortal" but there are no losers here!

2017
Modern
Pintch Hard
5/4

Tal Cohen

Israeli jazz pianist Tal Cohen now a fine band with Greg Osby (a sax), (b) and Nate Winn (d). Nine of the the opener being a freshly shaped take on "Nardis". The bottom is solid and Tal uses it as a trampoline to express himself on tunes like "Ducks", one of our favorites along with the dual personalities of "Lo Haya: Part 1 & 2".

4/4
Modern
Inner Circle
2017

Gentle Giants

resides in New York where he assembles Jamie Oehlers (t sax), Robert Hurst ten selections are Cohen originals with

Monika Herzig

Pianist and composer Monika Herzig invites some of her mentors, her heroes in the jazz space to perform on Sheroes.

As you may have guessed, this is a performance by all female musicians! While jazz is still a male dominated art form, women have made considerable contributions and this is just a glimpse! Ingrid Jensen (t), Ada Rovatti (sax), Leni Stern (g) and Mayra Casales (perc) are just a few of the talented women contributing to the effort. The original music is engaging, as is the transformation of the R&B classic "Ain't No Mountain High Enough". Take time to sit down, relax and embellish all elements of a strong set.

Sheroes

4/3
Modern
Whaling City
2018



Photo: Monika Herzig

O's Piano Features

Photo: Natsuki Tamura

2 from Satoko Fujii Ninety-Nine Years



4/4
Avant Garde
Tokuma
2018

There's a surprising amount of swing on Ninety-Nine Years but this is still free jazz. The Berlin performance was recorded April 2017, mixed in New York late last year and just released. The combination of Fujii (p) and Tamura (t) with the German musicians is a winner and one of our most appreciated Fujii collaborations. "Unexpected Incident" starts the show followed by four other intriguing compositions. Of note is Jan Roder's exceptional bass solo opening the title track. Fujii continues to dazzle her fan base even after 50+ recordings!

4/4
Avant Garde
Libra
2018

Solo

This is a solo effort from the Japanese pianist. It is very relaxed and much more approachable than her free jazz ensembles yet still heavily improvisational. We used it for evening reflection, meditation and yoga. Satoko Fuji Solo is yet another good 2018 release in her monthly commemoration of her upcoming 60th birthday on October 9, 2018. We also consider this CD one of her best!

Manuel Valera

4/3 Latin
Mavo 2017

The Planets

The trio is the configuration of choice on pianist and composer Manuel Valera's latest endeavor. Bassist Hans Glawisching and drummer E.J. Strickland complete a strong team. Manuel draws inspiration from Nicolas Slonimsky's Thesaurus Of Scales and Melodic Patterns, as have many other prominent musicians. The music is linked to The Planets in our solar system, from Valera's viewpoint. The results are down to earth, energetic and appreciable. "Neptune" was our favorite!

Yelena Eckemoff

Composer and pianist Yelena Eckemoff has been producing some rather intriguing music over the past decade with a wide assortment of talented musicians. Paul McCandles (reeds, fl), Arild Andersen (b) and Peter Erskine (d, perc) join her for her latest release Desert. It is a rather melancholic set of compositions reflecting life in the desert. Each song is accompanied by extensive stories that provide great depth into the music. The stories, music and art are all by Eckemoff and it's a fine work from the desperation of "Bedouins" to the hope of "Garden of Eden".



2017
Fusion 4/4
L&H

Desert

Photo: Yelena Eckemoff

O's Piano Features

2 from **Rex Bell** *Songs Without Words*



Photo: Infrared Records

Rex Bell is one of the more prominent pianists with a preference for the Fazioli 308. It has become a part of his signature. We enjoy that sound in concert with his trio featuring bassist Joe Vick and drummer Brian Brown on Songs Without Words. The music swings and the mood is bright end-to-end making for pleasurable listening.

4/3
Pop+Jazz
Infrared
2018

4/3
Pop+Jazz
Infrared
2017

Faust

Contemporary jazz pianist Rex Bell extends his repertoire to include The Legend of Faust in one act. It is a jazz opera that is indeed entertaining with both instrumental and vocal selections featuring Mary Ann Robinson and Eric Cheshire. "Lost Youth", The Spinning Wheel" and "Walpurgis Night" are among the best in this musical illustration of the devil (Mephista) and God's battle to influence Faust. The liner notes fill in the blanks and make this a complete work of art.

Hiroe Sekine

4/3 Modern
Sony 2017

One World One Sun

This is Japanese pianist Hiroe Sekine's third album as a leader and it is a strong encounter. Peter Erskine (d), Andy Narell (steel drums), Alex Acuña (perc) and producer Russell Ferrante (melodica) are just a sampling of the fine musicians on One World, One Sun. The music is a global presentation of jazz-fusion with contemporary twists like the reggae beats of "Sunshine" and a taste of India on "Soorya Ka Prakaasha". It is a relaxing, insightful set.

Roger Davidson **Oração Para Amanã**



4/3
Latin
Soundbrush
2017

Oração Para Amanã pairs veteran pianist Roger Davidson and his trio with the living legend Hendrick Meurkens on vibes and harmonica. It is a live recording at New York's Zinc Bar during 2016. Davidson has a penchant for Brazilian music and features twelve originals here. Meurkens pours emotion into the harmonica making good tunes extraordinary while his work on vibes imparts yet another angle of beauty to Davidson's repertoire.

Photo: Roger Davidson

O's Piano Features

Origins

Photo: Dan Siegel

Dan Siegel

Contemporary jazz pianist Dan Siegel invites some of the best LA musicians to join him on his latest release, *Origins*. He places the money bets in the rhythm section with percussionist Lenny Castro, co-producer/bassist Brian Bromberg and drummer Vinnie Colaiuta. They lay down a foundation for ten smooth jazz songs and stretch out for a precious few. "Lost and Found", "Moon and Stars" and "After All" are among the best.

4/4
Dan Siegel
Pop+Jazz
2017

Sam Javitch

People and Places

New York based pianist and composer Sam Javitch leads a Trio+1 including Adrian Moring on bass and Matt Niedbaski on drums. They start with a bluesy, bebop take on "The Pitch To Rich" featuring Rich Perry, their guest saxophonist. Perry makes his presence known here and across all seven tracks! Javitch stands out on "Lifted" and does a good job unifying the musicians on *People and Places*, his sophomore release as a leader. The groove is vibrant and will keep Mr. Javitch on our radar.

4/2
Bebop
Sam Javitch
2018

Miguel De Armas

What's To Come

Cuban pianist and composer Miguel De Armas leads the charge with an abundance of cool syncopated riffs throughout *What's To Come*. Guitarist Elmer Ferrel shines on "A Song for my Little Son". We also loved "His Bass And Him" with standout performances by Marc Decho (b) and Galen Weston (g). The percussion is vibrant courtesy of Michael Medrano (d, perc), Armen Villegas (congas) and Carlitos Medrano (congas, perc). Guest Jane Bunnett plays soprano sax on the title track rounding out a super Latin-fusion set.

4/4
Latin 2018
Ontario Arts
Council

Photo: Miguel De Armas

O's Trumpet Features

Bill Warfield

For Lew

4/4
Big Band
Planet Arts
2018



Photo: Bill Warfield

Warfield leads a swinging big band on an informative journey through the life of the late trumpeter, composer and actor, Lew Soloff. There are many layers of glorious sounds emanating from this ensemble. The sound is dense but not congested, a testament to the recording quality and tonal accuracy of the musicians. There's a cool calypso feel on "Scootzie" and "Salsa En Mi Alma" while they put a funky back-drop on "When Janie Takes The Stand". For Lew is a fitting tribute to Soloff!

New Orleans Swamp Band

4/3
Independent
Dixie 2017

Slightly Concussed

The New Orleans Swamp Band is 6-piece captures the high-energy jazz sound of the early Crescent City. Slightly Concussed is a 2-disc set featuring the band in two configurations performing Live at De Melkbus in Dordrecht, Netherlands during 2015 and 2016. Samuel Friend (banjo), Joshua Marotta (perc) and director James Williams (t, vocals) play in both bands. Haruka Kikuchi (tb), Connor Stewart (sax) and Wessell Anderson IV (tuba) join them in 2015. Miles Lyons (tb), Marcus Miller (sax) and Edwin Brown (tuba) play with the sextet in 2016. The sound is a crisp and accurate depiction of the era. Williams is quite a character. We enjoyed the set as much as the crowd!



Photo: Randy Brecker

4/3
Bebop
MVD
2018

Randy Brecker

Live 1988

Live 1988 takes us back to one of New York's storied Jazz venues, Sweet Basil where trumpeter Randy Brecker introduced new music and one his finest bands. Bob Berg (sax), David Kikoski (p), Dieter Ilg (b) and Joey Baron (d) joined Brecker to form his Quintet. The performance was originally recorded on vinyl in June 1988 but it's taken several decades to be released as a video (DVD). The CD is good but seeing the musicians perform takes it to a truly appreciable level, especially with the solos! Sweet Basil closed in 2001 and we lost Berg to a car accident in late 2002 but this video and audio performance is a reminder of great performances.

O's Sax Features

Photo: Katz

4/3
Miel Music
Bebop
2017

Tipico

Miguel Zenon

Saxophonist Miguel Zenón returns to the studio with his quartet featuring pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Hans Glawischnig and drummer Henry Cole, unit that has endured for more than a decade. They are a seamless unit that fires on all cylinders of “Ciclo” and “Sange De Mi Sangre”. Tipico is all original music written and produced by Zenón. It is heavily syncopated and enjoyable.

Adrian Cunningham

4/3 Arbors
Swing 2018

Swing It Out!

This is a wonderful trip to the early 1900s with tastes of swing, ragtime, and the hot bands of New Orleans. The muted brass melodies, sweet guitar and articulated joyous vocals resonate! They move through the years swinging their way to a fresh arrangement of “Caravan”. They are scatting, swinging and a exploding into a party spirit on “Dinah” and “A Pretty Girl” that underscores the fervor on Swing It Out!



Photo: Grant Carroll

Owen Broder

New York based saxophonist Owen Broder's latest project Heritage is billed as an American Roots Project. The music is soothing and well recorded featuring several standout performances by James Shipp (vibes), Frank Kimbrough (piano) and Sara Caswell (violin). Broder successfully marries folk, blues, and spirituals with jazz in a way that will please most fans in these genres. We also enjoyed the vocal selection “Wayfaring Stranger” featuring Kate McGarry and Wendy Gilles with Vuyo Sotashe. This is one of the more successful attempts at combining music forms.

Heritage

4/4
Pop+Jazz
ArtistShare
2018



Photo: Owen Broder

O's Sax Features

Sharel Cassity *Evolve*

Saxophonist, composer and producer Sharel Cassity assembles a fine collection of musicians to express many of her own reflections. Ingrid Jensen (t), Marcus Printup (t), Mark Whitfield (g) and Linda Oh (b) are just some of musicians who support Cassity on *Evolve*. The music spans several genres from modern jazz to pop ballads like “New Day” & “Wishing Star” featuring vocalist Christie Dashiell. There are also contemporary smooth instrumentals like “All Is Full Of Love”. We liked the title track best.

Photo: Sharel Cassity

4/3
*Resha
Smooth
2018*



Andrew Gould *First things First*

Andrew is a native New Yorker adding local character to the jazz scene. He leads a quartet playing hard bop, modern jazz on sax with even a taste of funk on “Cool Off”. The music is all original by Gould except “The Golden Ratio” composed by pianist Steven Feifke. They morph into a quintet for three selections: two with trumpeter Scott Wendholt notably “Mumbo Jumbo”, and Ioana Vintu adds soaring vocals for “On A Darker Moon”, a worthy addition. Gould steps up his game serenading us on “Song For Millie” and swinging on “R Train” and on the title track. We’ll keep *First things First* in our rotation for a while!

4/3
*Outside In
Modern
2018*



Photo: Andrew Gould

Andrew Hadro *Marcescence*

Andrew Hadro plays baritone sax, clarinet and flute leading a trio with pianist Julian Shore and percussionist Rogério Boccato. The music has a soft contemporary feel with improvisational melodies incorporated throughout. Their theme is new music and fresh takes on works by living artists including 3 originals by Hadro and 2 by Shore. Andrew’s baritone sound wonderful as a lead instrument and *Marcescence* is a meaningful release.

4/3
*Tone Rogue
Fusion 2018*



O's Sax Features

Ken Peplowski Sunrise

Photo: Ken Peplowski

The veteran clarinetist Ken Peplowski's latest endeavor focuses on peaceful passages that are clearly representative that spring is here. And what a wonderful time it is with young birds chirping and the fragrances of fresh buds. He gets a relaxed start on "All I Need Is The Girl" evolving to the pleasurable sway of "Estate". The big band format surfaces the power of brass along with all of the subtleties of the reeds mirroring the gentle forces of nature. The talent is in abundance and Ken does a fine job balancing the team.

4/3
Arbors
Swing
2018



Ernie Krivda

4/2 R&B+Jazz
Capri 2018

A Bright And Shining Moment

Ernie's sound on tenor sax is warm, gutsy, and passionate. All of the tunes in this set swing regardless of the tempo with the 70+ year old saxophonist still on top of his game! There's also strong work by trumpeter Steve Enos, trombonist Chris Anderson and pianist Joe Hunter. The late Marshall Baxter Beckley sings a dancing version of "Summer Time" but A Bright And Shining Moment is mostly a collection instrumental swinging jazz emanating from Cleveland back then and a worthy effort it is!

Photo: Andrew Neu

Andrew Neu

4/3
NuGroove
Big Band
2018

Catwalk

Saxophonist Andrew Neu is a composer, arranger, educator and bandleader who has assembled a large ensemble for Catwalk, his latest release. There's a wealth of first call talent here starting with producer, bassist Brian Bromberg, Rick Braun (t), Randy Brecker (t), Bob Mintzer (t sax) and Eric Marienthal (a sax) to name a few! Seven of the eleven selections are Neu originals and they have a lot of sizzle. This is an enjoyable, high-energy set.



O's Drummer Features

Akira Tana

2018
Vega
Latin
4/4

Jazzanova

Drummer Akira Tana brings together a bountiful collection of artists to celebrate the music of Brazil on Jazzanova. Six vocalists do a fine job singing in English and Brazilian Portuguese. The core band includes guitarist Ricardo Peixoto, Peter Horvath (p), Gary Brown (b) and Michael Spiro (Perc) with Tana. Special guests Branford Marsalis and Arturo Sandoval split saxophone duties. These talented musicians embellish thirteen classics with rich tones and excellent form. You'll likely keep this CD in your rotation for a while!



Photo: Akira Tana

2017
Codes Drum
Modern
4/3

Ignacio Berroa

Straight Ahead From Havana

Drummer Akira Tana brings together a bountiful collection of artists to celebrate the music of Brazil on Jazzanova. Six vocalists do a fine job singing in English and Brazilian Portuguese. The core band includes guitarist Ricardo Peixoto, Peter Horvath (p), Gary Brown (b) and Michael Spiro (Perc) with Tana. Special guests Branford Marsalis and Arturo Sandoval split saxophone duties. These talented musicians embellish thirteen classics with rich tones and excellent form. You'll likely keep this CD in your rotation for a while!

Photo: Ignacio Berroa



Jemal Ramirez

African Skies

4/3
Latin
Joyful Beat
2018

Drummer Jemal Ramirez leads talented team on African Skies. The music has a jovial Caribbean feel courtesy due in part to Warren Wolf's work on marimba and vibes. Howard Wiley also makes a notable contribution on sax. They play ten vibrant selections that will put a smile on your face.



Photo: Jemal Ramirez

O's Vocal Features

Bright Lights & Promises: Redefining Janis Ian

Sarah Partridge

4/3
Origin
Ballads
2017

Sarah Partridge is a jazzy blues singer backed by a formidable band that includes pianist Allen Farnham and Scott Robinson on reeds. Bright Lights & Promises: Redefining Janis Ian is a tribute to singer songwriter Janis Ian who rose to fame with "At Seventeen" in 1975. Partridge and Ian collaborate for two originals and Janis joins her singing "A Quarter Past Heartache". The lyrics are catchy and Sarah's arrangements are engaging with rich, harmonized vocals that surface the meaning of the words. There are strong solos dispersed throughout the set by Robinson and Ben Williams (tb) that enhance a solid outing.

Photo: Sarah Partridge

Erin McDougald

Outside The Soirée

4/4
Ballads
Miles High
2018

This is our first encounter with Chicago-based Erin McDougald but she's been making delightful music since 2000 and she's now locked in our radar! Cool ballads and a swinging band make this a solid encounter! Dave Liebman (sax), Tom Harrell (t) and Mark Sherman (vibes) make notable contributions. Erin's exacting vocals and cool arrangements with Rob Block (p, g) make Outside the Soirée a winner. Highlights are "Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most", "Don't Be On the Outside", "Midnight Sun" and "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime".

Amy London

4/3
Ballads
Five Cat
2017

Emanating out of Cincinnati, Ohio and residing in New York for the past three decades or so, Amy London has starred on Broadway, in vocal groups (The Royal Bopsters) and blossoming as a solo artist in 2007 with When I Look In Your Eyes. On Bridges she surrounds herself with strong talent starting with pianist Fred Hersch who also produced and arranged the first eight tracks. Those songs include bassist Harvie S, Victor Lewis (b), Bob Mintzer (sax) and Cyro Baptista (perc). Peter Madden (p), Byron Stripling (t) and Dr. Lonnie Smith (B3) show up later in the set! Amy stays with the pack to deliver a convincing set of jazz and pop classics.

Photo: Amy London

Bridges

O's Vocal Features

E. J. Decker has rich baritone vocals that sooth the soul and set the foundation for his blues based classics. Claire Daly (baritone sax), Chris Bergson (g) and Elizabeth Frascoia (tb) provide strong accompaniment on tunes like “WhatADifferenceADay Made”. Les Kurtz tickles the ivory with bassist Saadi Zain and drummer Tom Melito rounding out the rhythm section. We also liked “Its Too Late Baby, Too Late” with good support from Bergson. This program recreates the songs of Arthur Prysock, a rarely celebrated but formidable R&B legend of the 1960s. Decker’s arrangements are fresh, crisp and appreciable.

4/3
Candela
Ballads
2018

E.J. Decker *Bluer Than Velvet*



Photo: Janis Wilkins

Photo: Kate McGarry

The Subject Tonight Is Love

Kate McGarry

4/4
Ballads
Sunnyside
2017



Keith Ganz (g, b) and Gary Versace (p, organ, accordion) support vocalist Kate McGarry on her latest release, The Subject Tonight Is Love. This is the debut for the talented trio with hopefully more to come. They deliver a meaningful message while stretching classics and originals to fit the mood of romance. Among the best are the classic rearrangement of “My Funny Valentine”, and the medley of “Mr. Sparkle/What A Difference A Day Makes” with some fun scatting by Kate. This is not the same old stuff!

O's [Perf/Sound] Ratings

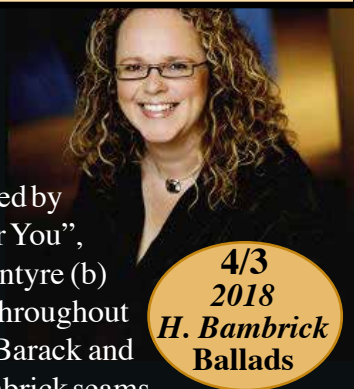
Rating	Definition
5	Outstanding: instruments are easily identified; sound approximates a live performance; no harshness
4	Excellent Resolution and sound with only minor flaws
3	Good sound quality; typical of most currently available music; some minor harshness at higher volumes
2	Less than average; harsh in the higher frequencies; excessive hiss; difficult in sustained listening
1	Terrible. Play this one when you want a headache!

O's Vocal Features

Heather Bambrick

You'll Never Know

Heather's voice has a gentle, youthful character that is complemented by the warm tenor sax of John Johnson (sax) on "I Only Have Eyes For You", Chase Sanborn (t, flugelhorn) on "Never Never Land", Ross MacIntyre (b) on "Surry With The Fringe On Top" and pianist Mark Kieswetter throughout the session. We found ourselves bobbing our head many times as Barack and her swinging ensemble coaxed us out of background listening! Bambrick seems to have popped into jazz space but we can assure you that she is legit!



4/3
2018
H. Bambrick
Ballads

Photo: Heather Bambrick



Johanna Sillanpaa

From This Side

Canadian vocalist Johanna Sillanpaa has a cool, soulful sound spread across a jazzy canvas that spells magic on From This Side. While she's been on the scene for over a decade, this is our first exposure to the creative artist. She gets support from a strong team north of the border including bassist George Koller and pianist, composer and arranger Chris Andrew. They play eleven selections including seven originals (three with Andrew). This is a delightful performance that warrants repeated listening.

2017 Ballads
Chronograph 4/4

The Idiomatiques *Out On The Town*

Photo: Idiomatiques



4/3
Idiomatiques
Swing
2018

The Idiomatiques are Craig Sharmat (g, vocals), Brian Mann (accordion, p, vocals), Kim Collins (b, vocals) and George Quirin (g, vocals). Sharmat, Collins and Mann each contribute original compositions to the mix to go along with two freshly arranged classics. They sing on several selections notably "Life Don't Care" and the title track. Out On The Town is an entertaining, bubbly encounter.

O's Vocal Features

Ármane



Photo: Lauren Henderson

Lauren Henderson

4/3
*Brontosaurus
Ballads
2018*

Lauren is blessed with a beautiful, seductive voice (multilingual) that she spreads across thirteen classics and a few originals. The sound is exotic on “To Wisdom The Prize” and “Better Days” with guest vocalist Terri Lyne Carrington, Gordon Louis (sax) Nick Tannura (g) and Josh Evans (t) also make notable contributions. Bassist Eric Wheeler provides a solid foundation for “Let Me Love You” with Louis and Evans again making a splash along with pianist Sullivan Fortner. Ármane is a warm resonant session.

Gordon Chambers

Gordon is an R&B singer with a free embrace. He also composed the majority of the music on Surrender. Lalah Hathaway makes a guest appearance on “Back To Love” and Carol Riddick guest stars on “Imaginary Lover” adding gentle touches to the mix. There’s a lot of electronic instrumentation supporting the vocals but it all comes together in a memorable set.

2017 Ballads 4/2
Chamber Music

Surrender

flowing, soulful style that is easy to

Tiffany Austin

Unbroken

Creole” Tiffany is soothing us with rich soulful vocals and scatting followed by excellent instrumentation letting us know we’re in for a treat. Cyrus Chestnut tickles the ivory with Aslin Parker (t), Mitch Butler (tb), Teodross Avery (sax), bassist Rodney Whitaker and Carl Allen (d) provide excellent support and some impactful solos too. Austin composed all or part of six of the dozen selections putting an indelible signature on Unbroken. It is rare to hear this level of music anymore and we appreciated every bit of it!

4/3
*Con Alma
Ballads
2018*



O's Guitar Features

John Korbel

Earthlight

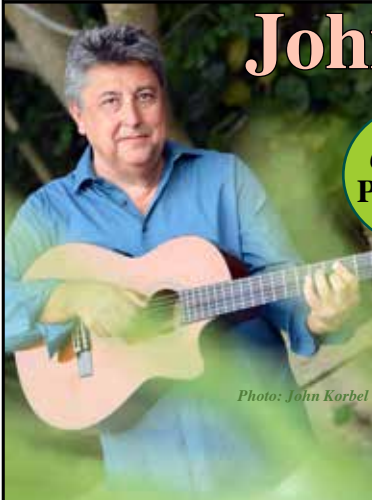


Photo: John Korbel

4/3
Century
Pop+Jazz
2017

John Korbel is a singer and songwriter who combines pop, Latin, country and contemporary jazz in a way that makes his music unique and easily accessible. Bassist/producer Art Ward, Chris West (horns), Joe Davidian (keyboards), James DeSilva (g) and Marcus Finnie (d) provide ample support. Korbel's voice is slightly gruff tempered by Skye Claire's background vocals. The band surrounds him with just the right mix especially on the title track. There are five tunes totaling ~22 minutes of enjoyment with no throwaways.

J. Peter Schwalm

How We Fall

This is a very creative landscape painted by composer, guitarist and pianist J. Peter Schwalm. How We Fall could easily be the soundscape for a mystery movie as the eerie music draws listeners into the story with lots of anticipation and intrigue. Some of the tracks are also suitable for meditation or relaxation.

Photo: Anja Hahn

4/4
World
Rare Noise
2018



David Singley

Good Hope

David Singley is a polished guitarist and educator at McNally-Smith College of Music with degrees from both Berklee and Indiana University. He puts together a great performance of relaxing contemporary jazz on Good Hope. Support comes from many musicians including Pete Whitman and David Milne on sax, Lee Blaske (B3) and drummer/composer Craig Hara. The groove is a cool jazz-fusion that flows on "Inside The Mobius" and "St. Albany's St." as well as on ballads like the title track. We also liked the blues swagger on "First Principal" and the swing of "Take It Out". There's a lot to enjoy!

4/3
Fusion
Wren Sing
2017



Photo: David Singley

O's Bass Features

Tom Kennedy *Points of View*

Bassist and composer Tom Kennedy comes from a musical family and got an early start as a musician. He moved from acoustic to electric bass in his late teens and is comfortable playing either having performed with many jazz legends along the way. *Points of View* places Tom in a leadership role with an all-star band including Dave Weckl (d), Bill Evans (sax), Chuck Loeb (g), Lee Ritenour (g), Mike Stern (g), Bob Franceschini (sax) and Randy Brecker (t). They play a mellow jazz-fusion but swing hard on the title track, one of six originals by Kennedy. swing of "Take It Out".

4/4
Fusion
T Kennedy
2017



Photo: Tom Kennedy

Photo: Gerald Cannon

Gerald Cannon

4/4
Bebop
Woodneck
2017

Combinations

Bassist Gerald Cannon plays in a lot of *Combinations* on his so titled release. He selects a very talented group of musicians to play with including Russell Malone (g), trumpeters Duane Eubanks and Jeremy Pelt; pianists Kenny Barron and Rick Germanson; and alto saxophonists Gary Bartz, Sherman Irby and Steve Slagle. The arrangements are truly unique and reflective, a good mix of classics and originals, ballads and burners.



Jay Leonhart

Don't You Wish

Bassist, vocalist and composer Jay Leonhart teams up with pianist Tomoko Ohno for an entertaining session titled *Don't You Wish*. Jay's cabaret style vocals marry well with the minimalist accompaniment resulting in clean, open sound. The music is autobiographical and Jay has many good stories to tell, especially the title track. Plug this one in when you want pleasant, humorous, entertainment and good music to boot!

2018
Modern
Chancellor
4/3



Photo: Jay Leonhart

ARTIST Title Label Perf/Sound		Top Contemporary Picks O's Notes
HOUSTON PERSON 4/4 RAIN OR SHINE High Note CR	Houston is reliable, solid entertainment with a winning formula for what warm tenor sax is all about. He's made countless albums over decades performing what seems like the entire American songbook! We never tire of him and his passionate playing. <u>Rain or Shine</u> is his latest endeavor, one tilted towards the soulful, R&B side of jazz. His accompaniment is Lafayette Harris (p), Rodney Jones (g), Warren Vaché (t), Matthew Parrish (b) and Vincent Ector (d). Highlights are "132nd and Madison" with nice harmony from Vaché, "Never Let Me Go" and the title track, just a few in yet another winning set.	
THE NEW CR TRIUMPH KEEP ON PUSHIN' The New Triumph 4/3	The New Triumph is a 7-piece contemporary jazz band led by composer, producer, and bassist Camilo Estrada. Trumpet duty is split between Robby Beasley and Scott Morning. Marc Hager (keys), Arie Patel (g), Adam Kessler (d), Ahkeenu Musa (perc) and Ariel Chi-Linh (sax) round out the band. "Count Dracula's African Vacation" has a funky, calypso beat that bleeds into the retro funky groove of " <u>Keep On Pushin'</u> ". The melodies a somewhat simplistic but they work well in this equation, one that has a lot of throw back magic and embraceable R&B.	
HART, SCONE AND ALBIN CF LEADING THE BRITISH INVASION Zoho 4/3	This is a classic organ trio featuring guitarist John Hart, drummer Rudy Alvin Petschauer with Adam Scone manning the Hammond. These polished musicians come together in South Florida to recreate many of the British pop tunes that became popular in the US. They get a little funky on "Don't Start Lying To Me Now" before mellowing out on "The Look of Love". Hart is screaming on "Royals" and swinging hard on the blues of "Rehab" making this a successful endeavor.	
JOCELYN MICHELLE CR LIVE AT VIVA CANTINA! Chicken Coop 4/3	Jocelyn is one of the few females mastering the Hammond B3. She assembles a fine band to join her latest endeavor. It is a collection of ten memorable tunes, mostly instrumentals with a couple of vocals notably "One Note Samba" featuring vocalist Laura Dickinson. <u>Live at Viva Cantina!</u> excited the audience and the recording captures all of the enthusiasm! Michelle has a unique style that resonates with a large audience. Look for her to be on the scene for a while!	

O's Place Jazz Ruler™						
Traditional			Contemporary			
1900	1920	1940	1960	1970	1980	2000
===== ===== ===== ===== ===== ===== =====						
Ragtime TR Dixie TD	Blues&Ballads Tb Swing TS	Bebop TB Big Band TN	Latin TL Free TA	Fusion CF R&B+Jazz CR	Funk Cf Pop+Jazz CP	Acid CA

O's Place Features

Tony Koch and the Alt News Band

Uberchill

Photo: TK Music



4/4
Pop+Jazz
TK Music
2018

The Alt News Band is Campbell Ryga (sax), Miles Black (p), Miles Hill (b), Bobby Ruggiero (d) and leader Tony Koch (g). They play a laid back, after-work set of smooth jazz instrumentals on Uberchill. We really enjoyed the funky groove on "Who Wants KoolAid" with guest artist Al Davidson on the B3. "Down By The Bay" also cooks along with the mellow "Autumn Tango" to make this a successful outing.

O's primary listening is done with a Sony XA777ES SACD 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.

Hughes Smith Quintet

Motion

Jimmy Smith (t, cornet, flugelhorn) and James Hughes (sax) are the headliners backed by a rhythm section that includes Phil Kelly (p), Takashi Ilo (b) and Nate Winn (d). The funky beats of "The Runaround" underscore the brass melodies presenting the listeners with a head-bopping groove. The album is appropriately titled Motion and it is full of good moves. The exchange between Jimmy and James is seamless on melodies and their harmonies are rich and fluid.



2018
Hughes Smith
R&B+Jazz
4/3

O's Place Features

Hristo Vitchev

Photos: Hristo Vitchev Quartet



2017
First Orbit
Fusion
4/2

Guitarist Hristo Vitchev leads a quartet with pianist Jasnam Daya Singh, bassist Dan Robbins (b)

Of Light and Shadows

and Mike Shannon on drums. They perform nine Vitchev originals in an evolutionary step from his prior quartet recordings. This effort is more tilted towards ballads like "At Your Side" and "A Portrait of A Love Forgotten". But they also include Hristo's characteristic jazz fusion. Robbins stands out on "The Shortest Wavelength" with an appreciable solo. We also enjoyed the sense of mystery on "Pentachromatic Butterflies" and the daunting pace of "Partial Darkness". This is a well-knit band that builds on each other's groove.

Clifford Lamb

Clifford Lamb plays piano and leads Santana (d), Buster Williams (b) and vocals and Chaim Dunbar provides a reflective statement on the current state of affairs in the USA. The total set is just under 30 minutes but is impactful. Lamb does a fine job melding all of the talent, a unifying statement, Brothers & Sisters.

2017
R&B+Jazz
Weber Works
4/3

Brothers & Sisters

a quartet with Cindy Blackman Nicholas Payton (t). Laura Vall adds spoken word on the title track, a

Sonar

Vortex



4/3
Rare Noise
Fusion
2018

Sonar (SONic ARchitecture) is a quartet with bassist Christian Kuntner, drummer Manuel Pasquinnelli and guitarists Stephan Thelen & Bernard Wagner. Special guest David Torn also plays guitar and adds electronics. Vortex is a cool dose of syncopated, jazz-rock, fusion. There are lots of cool riffs that are easy to latch on to and infectious. We liked the viscosity of "Waves and Particles" and the driving passion on "Monolith" most.

Photo: Sonar

O's Place Features

Coast To Coast Connection

Bob Holz

Photo: Bob Holz

4/3
Holz
Fusion
2018

Coast To Coast Connection is a high energy set composed all or in part by drummer, bandleader Bob Holz. The exception is "Spanish Plains" written by Frank Stéphanne (keys, g, b). Special guest Stanley Clarke contributes on two selections starting with his funky bass solo on "Next In Line". Billy Steinway (keyboards) works the Rhodes on "Pink Fur" along with saxophonist Ada Rovati and trumpeter Randy Brecker on "Jammin' Man" with a taste of reggae and another dose of Clarke! Our favorite is the finale "Flat Out" in a fortifying set.

Ryan Meagher

Guitarist Ryan Meagher leads a quintet (sax), George Colligan (p, B3) and mixture of blues, fusion and swinging like "Heart-Whole". Meagher provides the melody on "Deep Ocean Hall" along with a bit of a country twang on "Bayou Brasileira".

4/4
Fusion
Fresh Sound
2018

Lost Days

with Mark Ferber (d), Bill McHenry Chris Higgins (b). Lost Days is a bop tempered by a few mellow tunes

Mike LeDonne

from the Heart

2018
R&B+Jazz
Savant
4/3

This is yet another explosive performance from B3 master Mike LeDonne. There are eight jazzy, R&B-based selections including 3 originals. He reunites his Groover Quartet with saxophonist Eric Alexander, drummer Joe Farnsworth and guitarist Peter Bernstein. Guest drummer Mike Clark adds the funk on two selections notably "Here Comes The Doctor". from the Heart will have you bobbing your head to the beat and sitting on the edge of your chair!

Photo: Mike LeDonne

Contemporary Selections

ARTIST	Title	Label	P	S	T
JOZEF DUMOULIN	<u>Beginner's Guide to Diving & Flying</u>	<i>Yolk Records</i>	3	4	C ^P
JOSHUA TRINIDAD	<u>In November</u>	<i>Rare Noise</i>	3	4	C ^P
TORBEN WALDORFF	<u>Holiday on Fire</u>	<i>ArtistShare</i>	3	4	C ^F
FABIAN ALMAZAN	<u>Alcanza</u>	<i>Biophilla</i>	3	3	C ^P
CHARLIE BALLANTINE	<u>Where Is My Mind?</u>	<i>C. Ballantine</i>	3	3	C ^P
ERALDO BERNOCCHI	<u>Rosebud</u>	<i>Rare Noise</i>	3	3	C ^P
DON BRADEN	<u>Earth Wind And Wonder</u>	<i>Creative Perspective</i>	3	3	C ^R
ROBBEN FORD	<u>Made To Last</u>	<i>Sweetwater</i>	3	3	C ^F
NOA FORT	<u>No World Between Us</u>	<i>Fortisima</i>	3	3	C ^b
LIVING FOSSIL	<u>Never Die!</u>	<i>Fossils Never Die</i>	3	3	C ^F
VINNY GOLIA	<u>Trajectory</u>	<i>Orenda</i>	3	3	C ^F
DUSAN JEVTOVIC	<u>Live At Home</u>	<i>Moonjune</i>	3	3	C ^F
DONGFENG LIU	<u>China Caribe</u>	<i>Zoho</i>	3	3	C ^P
DIANE MOSER	<u>Birdsongs</u>	<i>Planet Arts</i>	3	3	C ^P
MARK MURPHY	<u>Pocketful of Rainbows</u>	<i>Mini Movie</i>	3	3	C ^b
ROBERTO NEGRO	<u>Saison 3</u>	<i>Label Bleu</i>	3	3	C ^F
CHRIS PLATT	<u>Sky Glow</u>	<i>Chris Platt</i>	3	3	C ^b
MAYU SAEKI	<u>Hope</u>	<i>bju</i>	3	3	C ^R
SYRINX EFFECT	<u>A Sky You Could Strike A Match On</u>	<i>Syrinx Effect</i>	3	3	C ^F
TOM TEASLEY / SETH KIBEL	<u>Tiny Planet</u>	<i>Teasley & Kibel</i>	3	3	C ^P
HARINI RAGAVAN RINI	<u>Maya</u>	<i>Rini Music</i>	3	3	C ^P
WORLD SERVICE PROJECT	<u>Serve</u>	<i>Rare Noise</i>	3	3	C ^P
JOE KYE	<u>Migrants</u>	<i>Joe Kye</i>	3	2	C ^b
Gregory Lewis	<u>Organ Monk, The Breathe Suite</u>	<i>Gregory Lewis</i>	2	3	C ^F

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O's Place Legends

Peter Campbell

Loving You

4/3

P. Campbell
Ballads
2017

Vocalist Peter Campbell is a student of the late Shirley Horn, in awe of her ability to put herself into the story of every song she sang. He captures a lot of that drama in his versions of thirteen songs that Horn made hers. Mark Kieswetter (p) Reg Schwager (g), Ross Macintyre (b) and Kevin Turcotte (t) surround him with crisp, clean instrumentation. This is a fine tribute including "Forget Me", "A Time For Love" and "The Sun Died".



Photo: Amazon: Shirley Horn

Wes Montgomery

2017 Bebop
Resonance 5/3

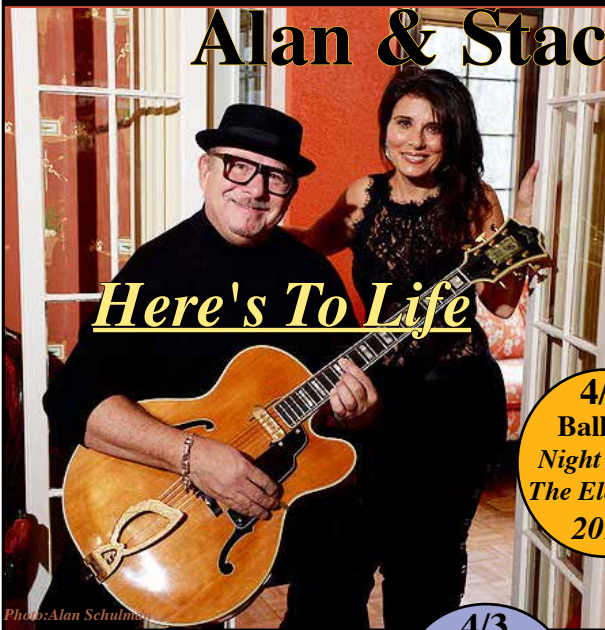
The Definitive OFRT Recording

This is a fine collection of songs recorded by the legendary jazz guitarist Wes Montgomery live in Paris during 1965. It was previously available as a bootleg but Resonance worked with the Office Of French Radio and Television (OFRT) to capture the original tapes. This package is remixed for better sound quality and accompanied by excellent liner notes to further document the performance including comments from Harold Mabern the pianist on the recording! Arthur Harper (b), Jimmy Griffin (sax) and Jimmy Lovelace (d) round out the band. These sessions in Paris were a part of a tour that introduced Montgomery to Europe just prior to his explosion onto pop charts in the US. Two discs and ten songs later we're still smiling!

Final Notes **Cecil Taylor**, a free jazz pianist and composer, died from failing health on April 5, 2018 in Brooklyn. He was 89. **Charles Neville**, the saxophonist of the Neville Brothers (79) died on April 26 from pancreatic cancer. Jazz journalist and activist **Robert "Bob" Byler** passed away on April 28. He was 87. **Bob Dorough**, a jazz pianist, composer and singer died of natural causes at his home in Mount Bethel, PA. He was 94. Blues guitarist and singer **Eddy Clearwater** (stage name of Edward Harrington) died on June 1 from heart failure at home in Skokie, IL. He was 83 years old. **Lorraine Gordon**, owner of the Village Vanguard jazz club in New York died on June 9, 2018, at age 95. Jazz bassist **Wayne Dockery** died of natural causes on June 11. He was 78 years old. The musical contributions of these fine jazz professionals will remain with us forever.

O's Place Features

Alan & Stacey Schulman



Here's To Life

4/3
Ballads
Night Night
The Elephant
2018

Alan plays guitar and leads the band billed *As Is* behind his wife, vocalist Stacey Schulman. Stacey's voice has a soft, youthful, nasal character. There are sweet mixed vocal harmonies on "A Night In Tunisia" featuring Christie Dashiell and Kokayi. Here's To Life features uniquely arranged, diverse selections that will appeal to a wide audience. Guest Gregoire Maret plays harmonica on two selections. "Navin's Ditty" featuring Nadine Girishanker (tabla) and "Street Life" have Indian and R&B influences respectively. There is something here for everyone!

Photo: Alan Schulman

Slivovitz

Slivovitz is Derek Di Perri (t), Riccardo Villari (violin), and Marcello Giannini (g). We enjoyed their last outing *All You Can Eat*. Liver is a live set recorded at Casa Di Alex in Milan, Italy in May 2016. The syncopated riffs are in abundance as is their open soundstage that allows soloists to shine without being overshadowed by accompaniment. We liked the pervasive funky vibe of this encounter.

4/3
Prog Rock
Moonjune
2018

Liver

(harmonica), Salvatore Rainone (d), Ciro Riccardi (b), Pietro Santangelo (sax), Vincenzo Lamagna (b)

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