

marlbank

2018 albums of the year

1-10

Kamasi Washington *Heaven and Earth* Young Turks

Every track is like an album. Leading the Afrofuturist trend however paradoxically Kamasi also increases our appetites for the 1970s.

Jakob Bro *Returnings* ECM

Two albums this year from the talented Dane. A spatial wonderland.

Dave Holland/Evan Parker/Craig Taborn/Ches Smith *Uncharted Territories Dare2*

Improv supergroup. A challenging listen of rugged interplay and perception.

Kandace Springs *Indigo* Blue Note

Inspired covers and incredible songcraft from a singer who has superstar written all over her.

Kit Downes *Obsidian* ECM

Imaginatively rewriting the case for improvising on an organ. Utterly unique.

Julian Siegel Quartet *Vista* Whirlwind

Making post-bop that bit more relevant.

Jeff Williams *Lifelike* Whirlwind

New Cool mastery, ideas and texture to the fore.

Joshua Redman *Still Dreaming* Nonesuch

Songs for his father, a gift to us all. Redman goes back to the future and forward to the past.

Sons of Kemet *Your Queen is a Reptile* Impulse!

All conquering: tub-thumping and tuba togetherness as you never heard it before.

Martin Speake *Intention* Ubuntu

With input from Ethan Iverson the altoist responds to produce his most mature work to date.

11-20

Van Morrison and Joey DeFrancesco *You're Driving Me Crazy* Exile

Van's most accomplished jazz flavoured album to date supported by a lively band.

Keith Jarrett Standards Trio *After the Fall* ECM

Peerless trio still astound.

Linley Hamilton *Making Other Arrangements* Teddy D

Belfast trumpeter Hamilton moves to a new level.

Anthony Joseph *People of the Sun* Heavenly Sweetness

A successful Trinidadian homage with firm support from Jason Yarde.

Mark Turner/Ethan Iverson *Temporary Kings* ECM

Intimate and severe, serene and elegant the sax piano pairing that punches above its weight.

Miles Okazaki *Work: The Complete Compositions of Thelonious Monk* milesokazaki.com

A stupendous achievement that reinvents Monk for guitar.

Janne Mark with Arve Henriksen *Pilgrim* ACT

Numinous hymnal surprise of the year from a talented singer with a unique timbre.

Terence Blanchard *Live (Featuring The E-Collective)* Blue Note

More jazz-rock than ever Blanchard never rests on his laurels.

The Stanley Clarke Band *The Message* Mack Avenue

A groove masterclass, Clarke's best album in years

Steve Coleman and the Five Elements *Live at the Village* Vanguard Pi

Less oblique than usual and all the better for it: top live album of the year from the MBASE pioneer.

21-30

Justin Brown *NYEUS!* Biophilia

Afrofuturist beat science breakthrough.

John Zorn *Insurrection* Tzadik

Making no compromises, formidable composition.

Emile Parisien *Sfumato* ACT

Full of joie de vivre and a pulsing sense of wonder.

Tim Garland *Weather* Walker Edition

Brit tenorist shows again that he is world class.

Tia Fuller *Diamond Cut* Mack Avenue

Inspirational bop.

Matthew Shipp *Zero* ESP-Disk

High wire act pianism.

Bobo Stenson Trio *Contra la Indecisión* ECM

Metaphysical moods by a Swedish icon.

Eric Harland *Voyager* 13th Floor GSI

Big themes, grooves going places.

Tord Gustavsen Trio *The Other Side* ECM

The quiet trio whose sound always compels attention.

Sara Colman *What We're Made Of* Stoney Lane

Moving songs and vivid breakthrough vocals.

31-40

Lorraine Baker *Eden* Spark

Newcomer of the year delivers on an Ed Blackwell homage.

Harriet Tubman *The Terror* End of Beauty Sunnyside

Finding plenty of new things to say via jazz-rock and the electric blues.

Andrew Cyrille / Wadada Leo Smith / Bill Frisell *Lebroba* ECM

Summit meeting art of the improvisers.

Steve Kuhn Trio *Piano Images* Sunnyside

Melodic, inspired, impressionism from the ex-Coltrane pianist.

Christian McBride *Christian McBride's New Jawn* Mack Avenue

Philadelphia inspires the great bassist.

Kenny Werner *The Space* Pirouet

Solo piano joy from an influential figure.

Phronesis *We Are All* Edition

The writing gets better and better.

GoGo Penguin *A Humdrum Star* Blue Note

Fusing electronica and jazz in a uniquely exhilarating blend.

Antonio Sánchez and Migration *Lines in the Sand* CAM Jazz

Birdman composer urges on his band to new heights.

Marc Cary *Solo in Prague* marccary.com

Prodigious command of the solo piano canvas

41-50

Binker and Moses *Alive in the East!* Gearbox

Expanding the band, deepening the core approach.

Ant Law *Life I Know* Edition

Sinuuous guitarism cuts into avant post-bop until it bleeds.

Makaya McCraven *Universal Beings* International Anthem

Drawing a new generation of fans in via great ideas.

Kenny Barron *Concentric Circles* Blue Note

Heartland pianism that never takes any short cuts.

Aaron Goldberg *At the Edge of the World* Sunnyside

On 'Poinciana' and more Goldberg continues to astonish.

Don Byron and Aruán Ortiz *Random Dances and (A)tonalities* Intakt

Furious, feverish blend that rewrites the clarinet and AfroCuban rulebook.

Nicole Mitchell *Maroon Cloud* FPE Records

Painting an avant hippie spell like no other.

Tyshawn Sorey *Pillars* Firehouse 12

Composition is first and foremost the Sorey appeal.

Dinosaur *Wonder Trail* Edition

Laura Jurd continues her remarkable ascent.

Raymond MacDonald and Marilyn Crispell *Songs Along the Way* Babel

Playing bond deepens in remarkable duoplay.

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