1. **CHARLES LLOYD**

The master’s beautiful double album — featuring pianist Jason Moran, bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Brian Blade — serves as a soothing balm for challenging times.

2. **KRIS DAVIS DIATOM RIBBONS**

*Live At The Village Vanguard* (Pyroclastic)

The pianist and her amazing band deliver an instant classic melding her shape-shifting musical sensibility, live at one of the music’s longest-standing jazz haunts.

3. **JAMES BRANDON LEWIS RED LILY QUINTET**

*For Mahalia, With Love* (Seaforms)

Another fantastic turn from the Quintet, this time leaning toward the gospel side in honor of one of the genre's most wonderful voices.

4. **VIJAY IYER TRIO (TIE)**

*Compassion* (ECM)

The composer and pianist returns to his trio with Linda May Han Oh and Tyshawn Sorey for another set of thoughtful, beautifully performed music.

5. **CHRISTIAN McBride’s NEW JAWN**

*Prime* (Mack Avenue)

Packed with attitude, power and groove, Christian McBride and New Jawn is certainly in its prime — and you gotta love those moments of “out” the band delivers.

6. **DARCY JAMES ARGUE**

*Dynamic Maximum Tension* (Nonesuch)

The composer and bandleader serves as one of the driving forces behind new generations of ambitious large ensemble instrumental music. *Dynamic Maximum Tension* serves as proof.

7. **MARY HALVORSON (TIE)**

*Cloudward* (Nonesuch)

Halvorson’s award-winning sextet, Amaryllis, returns with quirky cool grace following the group’s 2022 Critics Poll-winning albums Amaryllis and Belladonna.

8. **JAIMIE BRANCH (TIE)**

*Fly Or Die Fly Or Die Fly Or Die (world war)* (International Anthem)

The final album from branch, who passed away from an accidental overdose. An ode to being free from genre casting.

9. **CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT**

*Melusine* (Nonesuch)

The massively creative vocalist delivers a tour de force in several languages recounting the legend of Méélusine, a woman cursed to turn into a snake each Saturday night.

10. **TYSHAWN SOREY TRIO**

*Continuing* (Pi)

Along with pianist Aaron Diehl and bassist Matt Brewer, the drummer/composer delivers a master class in slow-down, low-down groove and a new approach to playing standards.