

1. CHARLES LLOYD

The Sky Will Still Be There Tomorrow (Blue Note)

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 (Tao Forms)

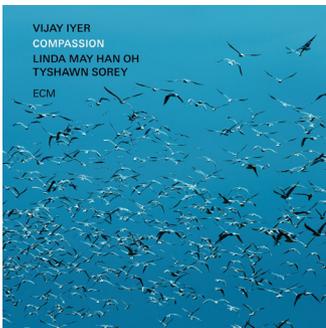
Another fantastic turn from the Quintet, this time leaning toward the gospel side in honor of one of the genre's most wonderful voices.



4. 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.



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.



6. CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE'S NEW JAWN

Prime (Mack Avenue)

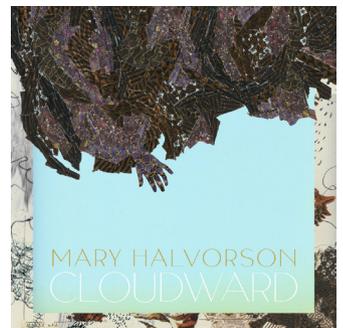
Packed with attitude, power and groove, Christian McBride and New Jawn is certainly in its prime — and you gotta love those moments of "out" the band delivers.



7. DARCY JAMES ARGUE

Dynamic Maximum Tension (Nonesuch)

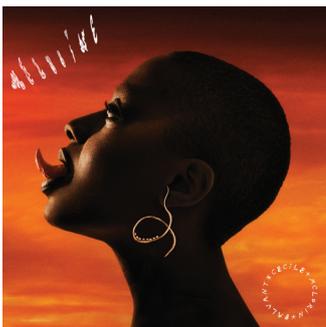
The composer and bandleader serves as one of the driving forces behind new generations of ambitious large ensemble instrumental music. *Dynamic Maximum Tension* serves as proof.



8. 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. CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT (TIE)

Melusine (Nonesuch)

The massively creative vocalist delivers a tour de force in several languages recounting the legend of *Melusine*, 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.

- 11. JOHN SCOFIELD, *Uncle John's Band* (ECM)
- 12. KAHIL EL'ZABAR'S ETHNIC HERITAGE ENSEMBLE, *Open Me, A Higher Consciousness Of Sound And Spirit* (Spiritmuse)
- 13. AMBROSE AKIMUSIRE, *Owl Song* (Nonesuch)
- 14. SULLIVAN FORTNER, *Solo Game* (Artwork)
- 15. ARTEMIS, *In Real Time* (Blue Note)
- 16. JOSHUA REDMAN (TIE), *where are we* (Blue Note)
- 16. MARK TURNER QUARTET (TIE), *Live At The Village Vanguard* (Giant Step Arts)
- 18. BILLY CHILDS (TIE), *The Winds Of Change* (Mack Avenue)
- 18. JOEL ROSS (TIE), *Nucleus* (Blue Note)
- 18. BRANDEE YOUNGER (TIE), *Brand New Life* (Impulse)