

Ratings:

Treasure it
★★★★★

Must have it
★★★★

Buy it
★★★

Borrow it
★★

Avoid it
★



Matty Amendola
Life Commercials
www.mattyamendola.com

Amendola's multi-instrumental talents are on full display for the follow-up to *=Ecstasy*: drums, bass, guitars, piano, percussion, and vocals. When not behind the kit he plays bass for The Classic Futures, but as timekeeper the young New Yorker puts a California bounce into 'Hide', drives solid hi-hat quarters through the urgent 'Now', throws a fat-sounding snare on the poppy 'Summer' and mucho percussion into 'Afro Type S**t'. The vocals may not be the strongest, but he certainly shows much promise as songwriter and all-around musician. DZ

★★★



Pat Metheny
Orchestrion
Nonesuch Records

The normally forward reaching Metheny looked back in time for the inspiration for his latest project, that is essentially a solo record with a difference. The *Orchestrion* is a mechanical multi-instrument where the instruments, including a host of percussion, are played using technology of solenoid switches and pneumatics! Despite its mechanical delivery, the music sounds anything but mechanical. Metheny's guitar soars over his 'orchestral' compositions that are in no way compromised by their mode of execution. BK

★★★★★



Secret Quartet
Bloor Street
Edition Records

Secret Quartet's second album, and first on Edition, features nine originals with an undeniable warmth and quality from four much respected jazz musicians. At no point does the album become 'too much jazz'. Instead, each player demonstrates an intuition for understated playing, a trait that helps the album glide through effortlessly, even during the more upbeat numbers such as 'Unit Six'. Michelli has a beautiful touch, consistently sympathetic to Iles' piano and allowing Speake's alto sax parts to soar and shine. Check out the intro to 'Ants' for some gorgeous snare and hats interplay. SP

★★★★★



Jakko M. Jakszyk
The Bruised Romantic
Glee Club
Panegyric Records

Guitarist, composer and vocalist Jakszyk combines poignant and personal songs, melodic instrumentals, a chamber quartet and a selection of prog-rock covers, even including a Henry Cow tune, on this latest two-disc release! The superb title track, combining a desolate verse, powerful, biting chorus and a searing Mel Collins sax solo and the dark and emotional 'Forgiving' are stand-out tracks while Gavin Harrison plays impeccable drums throughout, particularly on 'No One Left To Lie To'. A haunting and deeply emotive record. BK

★★★★★

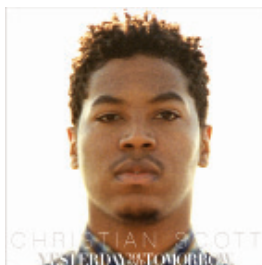


Dan Berglund's
Tonbruket
ACT Records

Berglund, bassist in the sadly missed Esbjorn Svensson Trio, emerges with some new music after Svensson's tragic death in 2008. *Tonbruket* features guitar, keyboards, violin, pedal steel and the drumming of Andreas Werliin and offers some wonderfully atmospheric instrumental music whose influences could include early post-Syd Pink Floyd on 'Sister Sad', E.S.T on the hypnotic 'Sailor Waltz' and 'Song For E' and prog 'Monstrous Collossus', all combining into a unique sound that is strong on melody and texture. BK

★★★★★

Christian Scott
Yesterday You Said Tomorrow
Concord Records



Drummer Jamire Williams takes no prisoners, virtually soloing throughout, on 'K.K.P.D' the intense opening cut of New Orleans born trumpeter Scott's fourth album. Recorded by legendary Blue Note engineer Rudy Van Gelder, it's a strong, dark and forceful album where Scott combines his often soft-edged tone with some pretty

muscular playing from his accompanying quartet. An irritating piano effect pervades Scott's take on Thom Yorke's 'The Eraser', but that's a minor quibble on an otherwise great album of considerable depth. BK

★★★★★

Ashley Maher
Amina
www.ashleymaher.com



Vocalist and songwriter Maher retains several key players from the excellent *Flying Over Bridges*, including producer Andre Manga and drummer Vinnie Colaiuta, to deliver more of her highly crafted and percussive African influenced songs. A new addition to her musical family, however, is Youssou NDour's drummer Abdoulaye Lo who provides the driving,

yet spacious grooves on 'Try To Hide', 'Joy', 'OK' and 'Let's Dance'. However, every member of the considerable cast combines to produce a highly melodic and grooving album. BK

★★★★★

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