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FEATURES | JULY 1, 2020

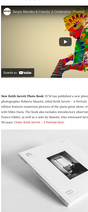
Keith Jarrett, Sergio Mendes, Melissa Aldana & More: The Week in Jazz

The Week in Jazz is your roundup of new and noteworthy stories from the past week. It's a one-stop destination for the music news you need to know. Let's take a free lap.

Noteworthy

Michael Silverman and Eric Marienthal, "In These Times" (Deep Premium): Longtime collaborators Michael Silverman and Eric Marienthal have been composing and recording together for more than 40 years. Their latest collaboration, the contemplative instrumental "In These Times" is the first single from this collection between the keyboardist and the saxophonist. Recording in live studios across America during the early days of the pandemic, the track also features Jimmy Tomlin on bass and Rob Silverman on drums, plus additional keyboards and production by James Lloyd of Nexus of a Dream. Listen to it via the player below.

Bill Mays' Bluesy Singles From New Fourth Beats Tribute Album: Bill Mays has shared two new singles from their forthcoming fourth Beats tribute album, Modern Cool, out May 28. The first track, which you can hear on the player below, is Jeff Harlan & The New Breed's cover of "Road Lover" featuring Ruby Parker. The second track a female Hancock cover of "Modern Love" and is available as an instant gift download to those who pre-order the album digitally. Pre-order Modern Love here.



Sergio Mendes Special Comes to PBS in Jan.: Sergio Mendes & Friends: A Celebration, a star-studded salute to the Brazilian music pioneer, will make its world premiere as part of special programming on PBS stations in June 2021. Check local listings here. The program, which was recorded in Los Angeles in 2019, features Mendes' longtime musical partner and collaborator on Bossa Nova Quintet, Carlos Jobim, John Legend and many more. It was created especially for PBS and is derived from the forthcoming feature documentary Sergio Mendes. In The City II by the acclaimed filmmaker John Schenkman.

New Keith Jarrett Photo Book: ECM has published a new photo book by Italian photographer Roberto Masotti, titled Keith Jarrett – A Portrait. The large-format hardcover book, which is limited to 1,000 copies, features 100 photos of the legendary pianist taken with Leica Ducks. The book also includes introductory observations by Geoff Dyer and Francis Gabbur, as well as a note by Masotti, who witnessed Jarrett in action over a period of 30 years. Order Keith Jarrett – A Portrait here.

New Impulse! Box Set Out Now: Impulse! Records has released a new 4 CD box set titled Impulse Records: Music, Message & The Movement as part of its year-long campaign celebrating the label's 60th anniversary. The box set spotlights the political, social and cultural impact of the iconic jazz label, and features music by John Coltrane, Archie Shepp, Quincy Jones, Charles Mingus, Oliver Nelson, Pharoah Sanders and other legendary Impulse artists. Order it here.

Inaugural Episode of New Gregory Porter Cooking Show: Gregory Porter has launched a cooking show online, called The Porterhouse with Gregory Porter. Presented by The Nest, the series has been uploaded to the series's YouTube channel. In the inaugural episode, Porter prepares his side Grandma's Kinda Soup for the dinner table. Watch.

Blue Note Signs Melissa Aldana: Blue Note Records has announced the signing of Melissa Aldana to its prestigious roster. The saxophonist/composer will be heading into the studio later this month to record her Blue Note debut, which will be released in early 2021. Blue Note President Dave Stephens said, "Melissa is a fantastic saxophonist and a powerful, poetic storyteller. In a piano-release and jazz. Her vibrant artistic vision, mastery of the instrument and her deep groove make [her] a perfect representation of the Blue Note ethos."

Steven Bernstein Announces Four-Volume Album Series: Trumpeter/composer/bandleader Steven Bernstein's Sexteto Metropolitano (Commercial Community Music), a four-volume series presenting one album every three months over the course of a year, released via independent label Royal Potato Family, featuring his bandmates Millennial Territories Orchestra and The Hot 8. The series has been introduced with a four-song sampler that you can listen to here. As first album, Titanoboa In Time, will be released on September 4, 2020, and ahead pre-orders for all four albums is now available on bandcamp.

Album Announcements

Francesca Ancarola, Afrolatora Work (self-released): Italian born, New York based composer/saxophonist Jasmin Francesca Ancarola released her sophomore album, Afrolatora, on June 26 via Bandcamp. Ancarola's band, Afrolatora, blends Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Haitian Vodou congregation and Afro-Peruvian Lando genres of Cajón Dialogue, which for started to record because of the loss for Ellington's mom. The other seven tracks convey American impressions of the life in the United States.

Mace Anderson: Growing Sunday (Independent): Guitarist Mace Anderson will release Something About Me, the second recording for Manuscript Entertainment, on May 29. The record is a musical love letter to his wife, dealing with dazzling melodies, dancing rhythm and sonic harmonies. The group plays other series live with Mace Anderson including David Kenan, Brian Simpson, Philippe Saisse and Marcus Shakabrah, among others. Pre-order it here.

Lauren Henderson, Mass (Brownstone): Award winning singer/songwriter Lauren Henderson known for cultural and musical heritages on her forthcoming record, Mass, out on June 12 via Brownstone. The a her eighth release as a leader and her most personal to date. Mass is a tribute to her family, friends and ancestors who have passed away recently. Twisted in my own way in the lyrics, Mass is a tribute to the people of Indian Hendersen has a press release. "Kind of melding all that makes me me, culturally and musical identity, mass." Pre-order Mass here.

Dominel Chapman Orchestra, There's More Where That Came From (Cadence): There's More Where That Came From is the debut album from the Dominel Chapman Orchestra, a contemporary big band swing project. Kelly Tenney, nominated vocalist, David Chapman and Grammy nominated bandleader/producer/saxophonist Cadet Chapman. The their debut album, which was recorded in Los Angeles and Nashville, Tennessee, Chapman's goal was to spread swing the beats to the Great American Songbook to include the songs of today's most Dominel is a press release. "There doesn't need to be a distinction between jazz and rock and pop—it all goal grand music." There's More Where That Came From is now a free Original Records.

Live Music and Festival News

NYC Blue Note Jazz Club Reopens with 40-Day Festival: New York's Blue Note Jazz Club celebrates its reopening with its annual Jazz Festival, Blue Note Jazz Festival. The event will take place on June 30 August. Each Reopen in person concerts both indoors and at the Greenwich Village venue, and outdoors at Summerlounge & Central Park. The festival's lineup, which includes Kenny Barron, Dave Stryker, Ron Carter, Christian McBride, Cecile McLorin Salvant, Al Di Meola and Dave Carter, among many others. Click here for tickets and more information.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Bryan Stevenson Multi-Disciplinary Event: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Bryan Stevenson will perform a multi-disciplinary event that has been performed by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and Bryan Stevenson, a civil justice activist Bryan Stevenson. The event will premiere on May 21 and feature a live performance of Marsalis's composition, Blues for Ms. Liberty, and a conversation between Marsalis, the 4th and second of Ms. Liberty, and by Saul Evans, inspired by Red Summer of 1919. Click here for more.

Lalah Hathaway, Gregory Porter and Ray Aparo to Headline New St. Louis Festival: The inaugural Jazz Festival, presented by Jazz Festival Productions, will take place in Downtown St. Louis, Missouri, on September 18-20. The festival is a two-day/two-night presentation Kuumbwa Arts Foundation and Stewart Family Foundation. It will take place at the venues throughout the city and feature 40+ acts. Lalah Hathaway, Gregory Porter and Ray Aparo have been announced as headliners. Click here for tickets and more information.

Georgia Anne Muldrow Livestream Performance on Bandcamp, May 29: Musician/composer Georgia Anne Muldrow has confirmed a livestream performance, "PAYCHECK" for May 29. The performance will be streamed exclusively through Bandcamp, beginning at 8:00 PM PST. Tickets are available for purchase here. "PAYCHECK the third installment in her FRUITS series, was on May 15 on FORMATS Entertainment in partnership with Mindtrees's own Epistemphi Punch Sound imprint. Click here to pre-order it.

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