
Critics' Poll 2010

TOP 10 NEW ISSUES

Charles Lloyd	<i>Mirror</i>	60
Ray Bryant	<i>In The Back Room</i>	45
Loose Tubes	<i>Dancing On Frith Street</i>	35
Roger Kellaway	<i>Heroes</i>	30
Dave Holland	<i>Pathways</i>	30
Brad Mehldau	<i>Highway Rider</i>	30
Phronesis	<i>Alive</i>	30
Stan Tracey	<i>Senior Moment</i>	30
Norma Winstone	<i>Stories Yet To Tell</i>	30
Michael Janisch	<i>Purpose Built</i>	27

TOP 10 REISSUES

John Coltrane	<i>Ascension</i>	50
George Russell	<i>New York, N.Y.</i>	50
Warne Marsh/Lee Konitz	<i>Two Not One</i>	48
Clifford Brown/Max Roach	<i>Clifford Brown & Max Roach</i>	40
Gillespie/Rollins/Stitt/Getz	<i>The Eternal Triangles</i>	40
Gerry Mulligan	<i>Meets Ben Webster</i>	40
Dizzy Gillespie	<i>The New Continent</i>	35
Charlie Parker Quintet	<i>Complete Live At Birdland</i>	35
Horace Tapscott	<i>The Dark Tree</i>	35
Benny Carter	<i>Jazz Giant</i>	30

EDITOR'S SUMMARY

Polls, awards, competitions - they're all flawed, reflecting the makeup of the electing panel, the nominations on offer and heard by panellists, and often enough the mood of the panellists on the day they sit down to choose. The sceptic might even suspect collusion for commercial advantage. No rigging here (as far as I know - any contributor need to own up?), so we have a fair snapshot of the most admired jazz records of 2010, mainly because the panel is large and the coverage wide.

Not surprisingly, with so many factors involved (30-odd critics and 796 issues reviewed in 2010) we don't have any landslide victories. There are more contemporary selections, which reflects the addition of new writers and is a proper reflection of a music that has always been progressive, either by the design of musicians or through the influence of markets and culture. The JJ poll also reflects, though, the breadth of the music. That breadth is not found in all polls, best-ofs and the like. One way or the other, almost every important issue makes these lists.

A word on marking: critics were as usual asked to choose five new issues and five reissues and allot a total of 50 marks to each batch of five, with a

maximum of 20 for any individual issue. Also, as we had a full year's run in 2010 of comprehensive CD coverage, choices were limited to those CDs reviewed in JJ in 2010. In 2009 two issues (February and March) were not published, so that poll was open to any CDs issued in 2009. In addition, this year we return to indicating (on the master lists on pages 15 and 16) the month of review so that readers can refer easily to reviewers' comments.

An old Eddie Cook pastime was to rank critics according to who 'predicted' most top 10 winners. If we still indulged in such trivia, those with fingers closest the pulse of 2010 would be Richard Palmer (chose five winners), Sam Braysher, Pete Gamble, Mark Gardner (chose four), John Adcock, Garry Booth, John Chadwick, Bruce Crowther, Mark Gilbert, Barry McRae, Brian Robinson and Michael Tucker (chose three). Richard Palmer for editor then, although I should say in mitigation that 20 years ago the current ed always zeroed on this test. But since it's jazz, sound of surprise, top honours should perhaps go to those stout individualists who picked two winners or fewer

SIMON ADAMS

NEW ISSUES

Wadada Leo Smith	<i>Spiritual Dimensions</i>	10
Dylan Howe/Will Butterworth	<i>Stravinsky - The Rite Of Spring Part 1</i>	10
Paul Motian	<i>Lost In A Dream</i>	10
Odean Pope	<i>Odean's List</i>	10
Jason Moran	<i>Ten</i>	10

REISSUES

Horace Tapscott	<i>The Dark Tree</i>	10
Graham Collier	<i>Darius/Midnight Blue/New Conditions</i>	10
Charlie Haden	<i>Complete Black Saint And Soul Note</i>	10
John McLaughlin	<i>My Goals Beyond</i>	10
Ahmad Jamal	<i>Complete Trio Argo Sessions</i>	10

This year I was completely spoiled for choice when selecting my best new issues. My worthy five could easily have been joined by a further five from the Colin Towns/HR-Big Band (*Visions Of Miles*), Bill Dixon (*Tapestries For Small Orchestra*), Food (*Quiet Inlet*), Nils Petter Molvaer (*Hamada*) and David S. Ware (*Saturnian*), and I'd still be arguing with myself who else to include as well. Five good reissues too, to complete a fine year for my ears.

JOHN ADCOCK

NEW ISSUES

Norma Winstone	<i>Stories Yet To Tell</i>	20
Charles Lloyd	<i>Mirror</i>	10
Eric Alexander	<i>Lazy Afternoon</i>	10
Chris Garrick/John Etheridge	<i>Men On Wire</i>	5
Eric Legnini	<i>Trippin</i>	5

REISSUES

Chick Corea	<i>Solo Piano</i>	10
Art Pepper	<i>Meets The Rhythm Section</i>	10
Art Pepper	<i>Among Friends</i>	10
Art Pepper	<i>Art Pepper + Eleven</i>	10
Gerry Mulligan	<i>Meets Ben Webster</i>	10

Once in a while something very special comes along, and for me in 2010 it was Norma Winstone's magical *Stories Yet To Tell*. Brian Morton's eloquent review captures the essence of the music, and the opportunity to hear some of the material live at the London Jazz Festival convinced me that this was in a league of its own. It touches the soul like nothing else I've heard this year. Talking of soul, Art Pepper touches mine more than Charlie Parker can any day of the week: three re-issues from the great - often underrated - altoist get my unreserved recommendation.