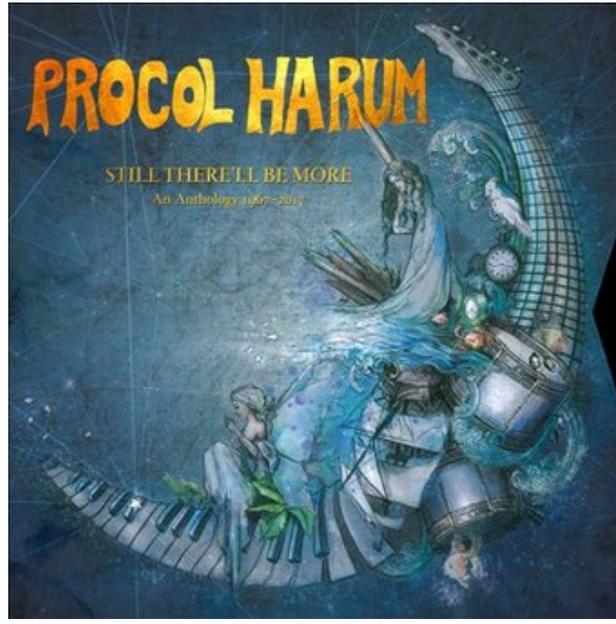


## Dave Hartl's 2020 Top Ten (Or So) Most Influential Albums

It's time once again to look back and do that annual tradition of picking out the 10 or so most influential albums I heard in the past year. Not the most popular, or even the best, but what made me think the most as a musician.

You can always go to <http://www.davehartl.com/top10.html> and look at all the other years' postings. The links there go all the way back to 1998, when I started this with George Tucker. **It's a way of hearing about great music you might otherwise miss.** If you want to contribute your thoughts, please write to [dave@davehartl.com](mailto:dave@davehartl.com) with your own list and your contribution will be added to this document online for future downloads. This is why I do this! It always gives me some great recommendations for what to listen to that would be off my radar otherwise. So, don't be shy! Last year, I didn't bother doing this; in an age of streaming, the idea of an album almost seems quaint. But I seem to like my music in organized wholes, and admire the art of the album compilation. So, I'll try again. If no one responds, I may make this the last.

## Procol Harum: Still There'll Be More

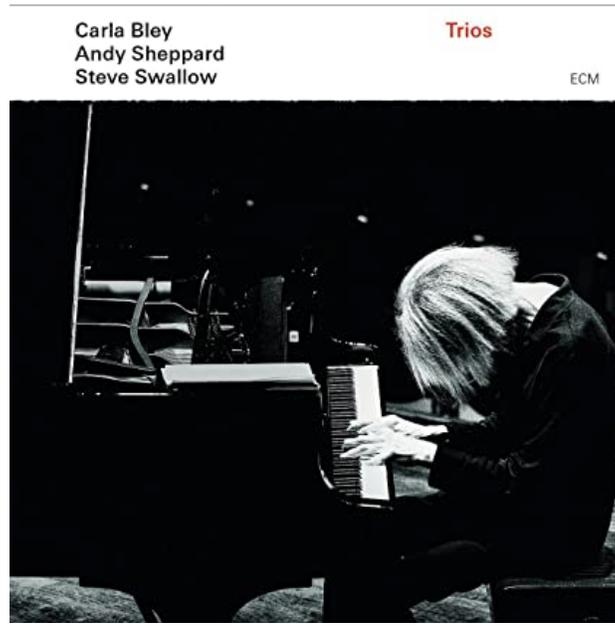


I've liked Procol Harum since they released "A Salty Dog" way back when. I saw them on the "Grand Hotel" tour, too late to catch the original lineup with Robin Trower but still amazingly good, and again in the early 2000's opening for Jethro Tull. They had a great reputation for their live performance, and seeing them made me a believer.

This box set has it all. A 50-year overview of their entire career, remastered with 5 CDs of music including 1973 and 1976 concerts, and 3 DVDs of BBC and German TV performances from 1967-1977. It also has a great 68 page book with lots of essays and photographs as well as a large concert poster.

If you ever loved this group, this box has everything of note they ever did. I only wish more underplayed groups would get this deluxe treatment.

# Carla Bley: Trios



Known for her big band and ensemble work, Carla Bley has been a mainstay of the New York jazz scene since “Escalator Over the Hill” appeared in 1971. Quirky, iconic, humorous, and clever, her music never became mainstream, but was appreciated by jazz fans everywhere.

I’ve enjoyed her, but this album is beyond anything else I’ve listened to in her canon. Featuring longtime partner Steve Swallow on bass and superb woodwindist Andy Sheppard, this is a textbook example of jazz composition and clean, expressive playing. I don’t want to analyze it and deconstruct it, I just want it to wash over me and take me away with its beauty.

## Once Upon a Time in Mexico (Soundtrack)



Robert Rodriguez is better known as a director than a musician, but one discipline definitely informs the other. I was watching the usual endless TV background of the pandemic this year when this came on, and the music really grabbed me by the lapels and made me sit down and pay attention.

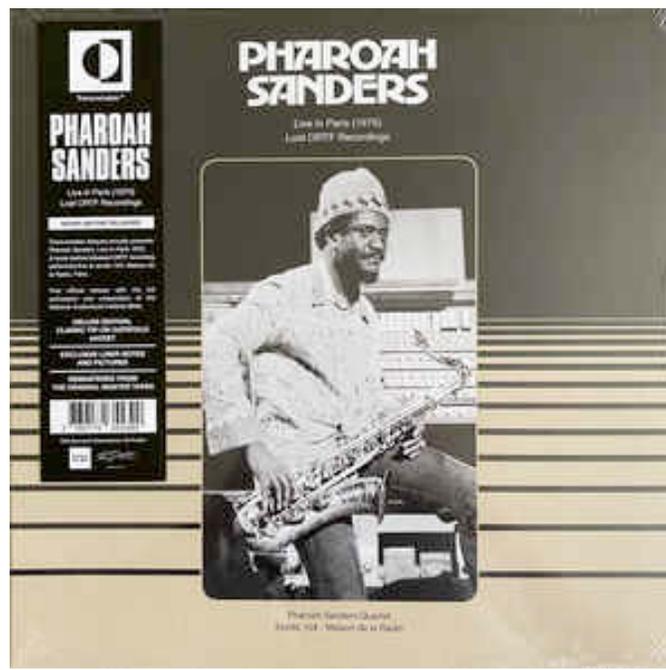
I'm not an expert on Latin music, but I'm hearing a shift in this soundtrack from the traditional forms to a rocking, strong and exciting form that transcends even the music of Eddie Palmieri and other modern bandleaders. Make sure you find the soundtrack version if you go looking for this, there's another very similar package that is actually Rodriguez's own album and is very good, but not as magical as this one is.

## John McLaughlin, Shankar Mahadevan, & Zakir Hussain: Is That So?



John McLaughlin gave the world a pandemic gift this year and made this album available for free on Bandcamp in the summer. It's a continuation of his fascination with Indian music and goes beyond what he did with the amazing group Shakti. The reason is the vocalizations of Shankar Mahadevan, who is unbelievable. I have to admit, I liked and admired Shakti, but didn't connect in a visceral way. This is different, and hope you'll find the will to go over to <https://mahavishnujohnmclaughlin.bandcamp.com/album/john-mclaughlin-shankar-mahadevan-zakir-hussain> and check this out. It's no longer free, but it's worth the \$10 for a digital download, as is every other album on McLaughlin's site. Bandcamp rules.

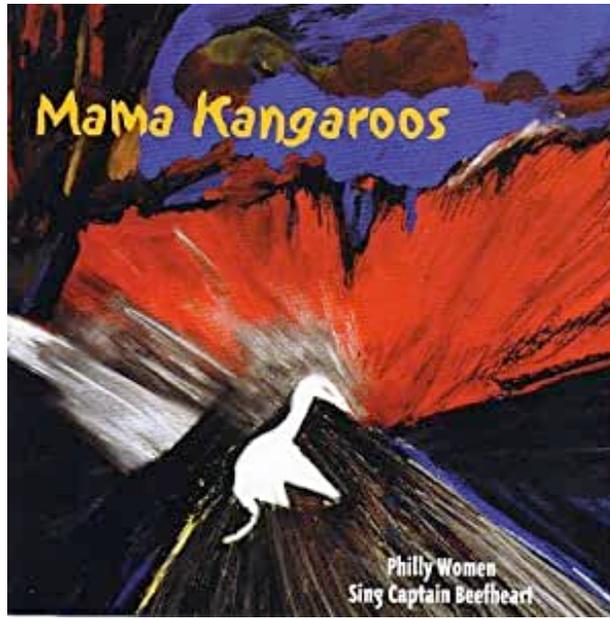
## Pharoah Sanders: Live in Paris 1975



I saw Pharoah Sanders in a small club in New York City a couple of years ago and finally appreciated him. This album was discovered and released this year, and is a vintage concert that is worth seeking out. It's released by Transversales Disques, "a French record label based in Paris, specializing in releasing long lost tapes and reissuing rare records & soundtracks." I will be watching their catalog if this is the level of recordings they're uncovering.

Sanders is, to me, the last living link of the explosion of Free Jazz on the New York scene in the 60's. He played with Coltrane and has carried that torch ever since, to the benefit of all. Wynton Marsalis be damned, THIS is what jazz is.

Various Artists: Mama Kangaroos: Philly Women  
Sing Captain Beefheart

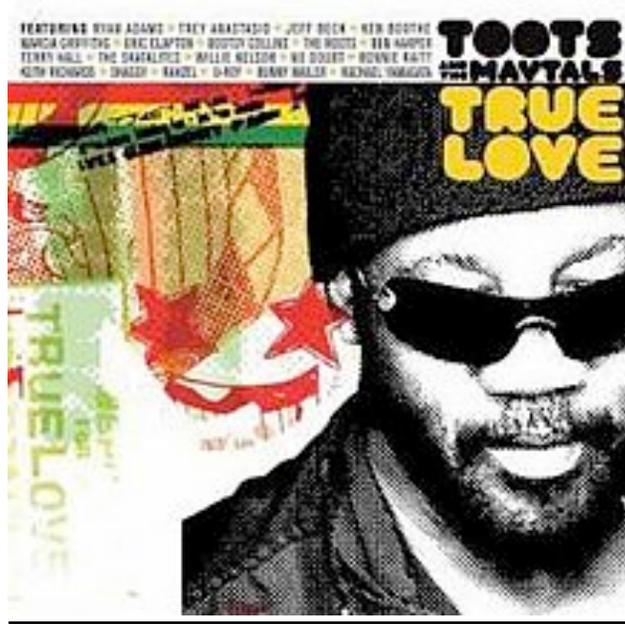


How did I ever miss this? A casual reference to it on social media let me to tracking this down (found a great deal on Discogs at a time when it was going for \$100 elsewhere) and listening to it a lot. I liked (and saw) Beefheart in the '70's, and to hear other people try to come to grips with his angular music is always enjoyable, but the fact that these were performed by women from Philadelphia, my home town, made it more intriguing. I then realized the players' names were sprinkled with familiarity, and I was in a band right now with two of the participants, Mano Divina and Randy Rhodes.

So even being predisposed to this, I was still pleasantly surprised to find the range of ideas people brought to this project, and the skill with which they pulled it off. Knowing the material covered probably is

a major part of enjoying this, but I can see people into edgier alt-rock or whatever the hell they're calling it these days enjoying this. If you like Beefheart, jump in, this is some good stuff.

## Toots and the Maytals: True Love



One of the losses from COVID-19 that hit the hardest was the loss of Toots Hibberts ( <https://tinyurl.com/yy9qnstk> ), the centerpiece of one of the original reggae bands. I saw these guys at the Keswick Theater in the fall of 2019, and loved what I saw. Toots had one of the most powerful voices on the planet and a lifetime of experience in top form and his live show was stunning. I saw Bob Marley twice, and I have to confess to the heresy of thinking Toots put on a much more exciting show.

This album is not for the purist looking for one of the classic albums. This was a 2004 project that brought Toots together with some

music notables, playing from the Maytals' decades-spanning catalog. The notables include Willy Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Eric Clapton, Ryan Adams, Jeff Beck, Bootsy Collins, Bunny Wailer, Keith Richards, and more. People trashed this album when it came out (the Sacrilege!!) but it influenced me this year, pondering the flexibility of a true artist who literally named and defined his style but can bring anyone into his influence, the unfairness of the current pandemic, and the loss of one more great musician.

## John Zorn: Nosferatu



John Zorn has put out such a huge catalog that even defining it is exhausting. Go to [Allmusic.com](http://Allmusic.com) if you're interested. The high points for me have been Naked City, his boogie band; Simulacrum, an organ trio featuring John Medeski that he sent out on the road; and a couple of

one-off projects like with Kronos Quartet and covering the music of Ornette Coleman and Ennio Morricone.

This year, along came this one-off project, composed for a Polish theater group's dramatic production of the vampire legend. It's a regular score, with Zorn adding odds and ends to a trio of piano/organ, bass, and metallic percussion. It's moody stuff, but it successfully avoids all the clichés that are a danger in doing this kind of project. Play this as background music at a social gathering (remember them?) and someone will surely ask, "What are we listening to?", but in a good way.

## Ed Palermo Big Band: The Great Un-American Songbook, Vol. III: Run for Your Life



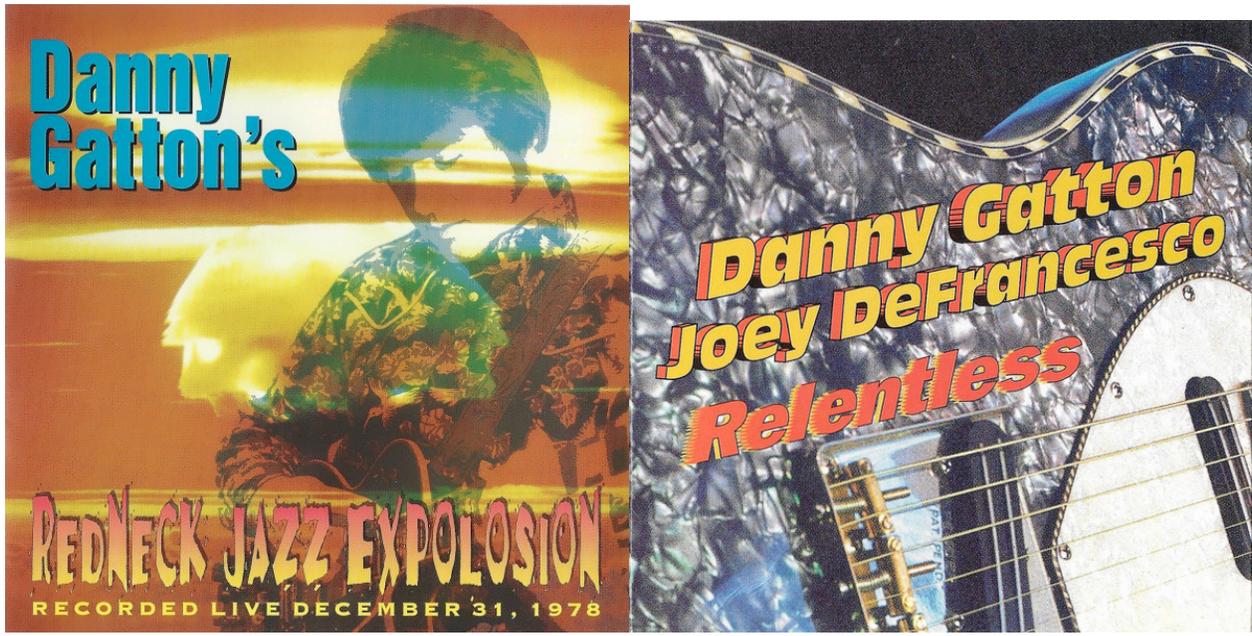
Dammit, give this man a Grammy and a lot more success and financial backing. Full disclosure: I consider Ed Palermo a good friend.

I admire the hell out of him. He keeps amazing me in different ways with his talents, knowledge, and boundless energy. He runs a big band that rehearses in New York City, and I've been lucky to be his rehearsal pianist from time to time. Lucky because I got to see first-hand his scores and to be in the same room with the incredible sound of them being realized. He has a heavy obsession with Frank Zappa, as I do. When rehearsing, we've been known to put our heads together and sing Zappa's lyrics in delight while playing the pieces, other band members going, oh, ok. And Ed's branched out into other teenage obsessions, like Edgar Winter and the entire breadth of Prog Rock. His NYC/ North Joisey concerts are legendary, and has included Zappa alumni like Napoleon Murphy Brock and Denny Walley. And yet he labors on, underappreciated but undaunted. His output is staggering. Please check for yourself and be amazed at

<https://www.palermobigband.com/>.

This album features a lot of Beatles, some Thunderclap Newman, the Moody Blues, the ubiquitous Frank Zappa, Procol Harum, and more, all served up with state-of-the-art arrangements for big band and vocalist, and swerving with quotes that'll blindsides and delight you. Let's give Ed Palermo some serious support, his kind is unapologetically East Coast and unavailable in any form in California and parts west. And he should be a national treasure.

Danny Gatton: Redneck Jazz Explosion/ Relentless  
(tossup)



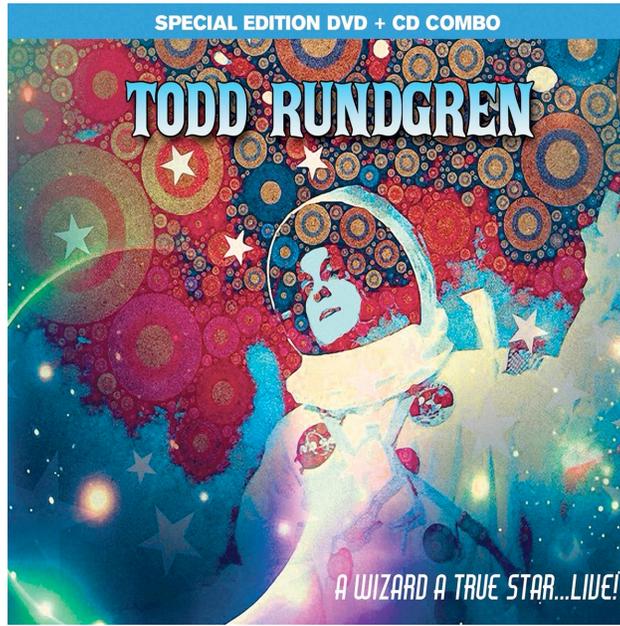
Another artist I've taken for granted over the years is Danny Gatton. A movie that is due for release next year entitled "The Humbler" is something I won't miss – check out the link here:

<https://www.thehumblermovie.com/>

I have two albums of his here because both of them got listened to in detail, and are each very different from each other. One is a spontaneous jam that shows off Gatton's in-the-moment excitement before a crowd, and the second one is a studio session with Joey DeFrancesco, organist extraordinaire. Maybe I had to play a Telecaster for a while before appreciating what Gatton did with one, but I think I just didn't get the chance to hear him enough. Don't make my mistake.

## Honorable Mentions

Todd Rundgren: A Wizard, A True Star: Live!



The original A Wizard, a True Star was Todd Rundgren's follow up to his breakout album Something/ Anything?, and provided a soundtrack to more psychedelic journeys in Philadelphia than any other album ever, probably. Swerving from weird, flanged originals to R&B covers ("Cool Jerk" in 7/8 time?), to heroic anthems, it was unlike anything else we were listening to in college. Such an album in the early '70's would have been impossible to replicate live at the time, so Todd waited and finally, in 2009, went out on a tour to do exactly that. This set has it on CD, and also contains a DVD showing the concert

itself. More than just nostalgia, this set shows how far ahead of his time Todd was all along.

## Jimi Hendrix: Songs for Groovy Children



As the turbulent '60's turned over into the political '70's, Jimi Hendrix played the Fillmore East with his new Band of Gypsies. Here's every note of their stand there, released at last. This is not music to listen to from beginning to end, but made to pull out one disc and spin it. Hendrix didn't have a whole lot of time left, and he plays like he means every note here.

## Various Artists: Like, Omigod! The 80's Pop Culture Box



Finally, just a guilty pleasure. The '80's were the last time I played pop music for a living. There's a lot of memories in this box set connected to that time, a lot of tunes I played and others that I heard all the other bands in Atlantic City playing as they cruised through. There's some serious cheese in here, and some pretty amazing songwriting at work sometimes. I just liked this. Keep the fast forward button handy, and enjoy.

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### Don Knabb's picks

OK Dog - here's some of the music that we listened to a whole lot in 2020. This list won't be anything at all like yours, but that's OK, we all like different stuff!

Long Ago and Movementi are two albums by **Fabio Mittino** and **Bert Lams** (of Calif Guitar Trio). We heard them live at the

Kennett Flash - remember that - live music right in front of you? These guys are guitar artists. We bought these albums from the guys right then and there, and also **Simple Music for Difficult People Vol 3** by **Fabio Mittino** solo. It is also an amazing album.

Then we played a lot of **Eternal** and **Space**, two albums by **All India Radio**. These are sort of progressive space rock. **Eternal** uses audio clips from a truly awful movie "Creation of the Humanoids". Actually, it was fun to watch. These albums are just plain fun.

The year was filled with numerous releases by **Steve Roach**, the king of ambient and space music. He probably released 6 or 8 new albums. They vary from upbeat sequencer based driving music to drifting in space with slow drones. Every album is great.

We discovered **Rhian Sheehan**, a New Zealand composer, in 2019 and listed to more in 2020 - **Live at the Wellington Opera House** is excellent.

We got our dose of **Phillip Glass** from the soundtrack to **Tales from the Loop**, an Amazon Prime series that reminds us of the original Twilight Zone. Glass teamed up with **Paul Leonard-Morgan** for the soundtrack and there are quite gentle pieces along with the usual repetitive Glass signature sound.

We bought several releases from various artists under the **Stereoscopic** label off Bandcamp. They are all ambient, some drones. The exception is piano solos by **Ludvig Cimbrelus**, who also records as **Erternell** and **Purl**. We have several of his piano solo albums.

**Small Moments** from **Michael Manring** was a pleasant surprise. He had not put out an album in many years and this one is a treasure of bass guitar. We saw him live at the Kennett Flash in 2019 along with Tim Farrell and another guy. Another amazing concert.

As the year is winding down, Barb would probably include **Suzanne Teng & Gilbert Levy's Autumn Monsoon**. Suzanne's flute is a joy to experience.

And I can't leave out **Robert Rich's** two releases this year. In the summer, he released **Offering to the Morning Fog**. This was a gentle album released to promote healing during the pandemic. Then in December he released **Neurogenesis**, classic Robert Rich world/space/flute music.

So, there you have it. Share it as you see fit, Dog!

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### **Chico Huff's picks**



Hello All,

I'm gonna give this a go after missing the last couple. Dave always has an awesome list of stuff to check out, hopefully I'll bring to the table some stuff worth spending some time with! My tastes have always been eclectic and nothing's changed there. :- ) Some older releases that are new to me. I do feel like my listening has moved somewhat away from new jazz, I'm sure I'm missing some great music. If I listen to jazz, it's usually Miles, Coltrane. Or the "New York" crew, Adam Rogers, David Binney etc.

## Derrick Hodge “The Color of Noize”

Another great album from bassist Derrick Hodge, Philly native. Vibes and grooves, heartfelt music. Hodge was in Robert Glasper’s “Black Radio” band but he really stretches more on this one.

## Sault “Untitled (Rise)”

A new band for me, discovered during my nephew’s local Martha’s Vineyard radio show on wvvy.org. Really cool stuff, something a bit fresh. Grooves, samples, cool sounds and cool vocal hooks. Very nice music for driving. :-)

## Ola Belle Reed “Rising Sun Melodies”

Good old fashioned mountain music from one of the best, the real deal.

## Sara Jarosz “World On The Ground”

This album has grown on me. A bit more produced than her earlier discs which were more contemporary bluegrass/mountain music and acoustic. This album has most definitely grown on me, for sure. Great, great songs and I just love where they go. Personal fave, “Orange and Blue”. Other faves? All of em.

## Fiona Apple “Fetch the Bolt Cutters”

This album is just friggin brilliant. No holds barred Fiona Apple. Totally true to her unique vision.

## Lianne La Havas “Lianne La Havas”

Sort of Neo-soul for want of a better term but much more than that. Check out her version of Radiohead’s “Weird Fishes” to start out. The whole album is that good. I’ve been a fan for awhile but this new one is the best yet.

## Little Dragon “New Me, Same Us”

Little Dragon has upped their game again. If you know and like the band you'll love this one. Yukimi Nagano's voice is just wonderful.

## Gorillaz "Song Machine, Season One: Strange Times"

Kind of lost touch with this band after the first album but absolutely loving this new one.

## Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Christian McBride, Brian Blade "RoundAgain"

Selfless playing by four masters, such a great ensemble as well as brilliant playing. Great compositions as well. Highly recommend!

## The Jimi Hendrix Experience "Live In Maui"

What can I say, Hendrix! Pushing the boundaries!

**Bonus:** Not an album, just a vid performance by bassist Thundercat with DOMI, JD Beck and, of all people, Ariana Grande. So. Bad. Ass!!



Wow, I got this done before 2021? Wooo Hoo!  
Happy listening, folks, and all the best for a great,  
peaceful New Year!

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## Paul Jost's picks

### 1. Sinatra "A Swingin' Affair" (Arr. Nelson Riddle)

I love the live feel of this recording and the charts, players and Sinatra are impeccable. I'm always stunned at how hard he could swing, his note choices, his phrasing, his incredible control throughout his entire register. Seems he can go from a full out bellow to almost a whisper an octave away and be just as intense without the volume. His intonation and diction are ridiculous. He says "Har-lem" not "Har-lum". He could fool with a lyric but he could also define it as clearly as the most flawless diamond (same as Nat) and the

intimacy and storytelling is ALWAYS prevalent while sounding so effortless and conversational. This album is stunning to me and with perfect examples of so many of the elements that made him truly great.

## **2. Sinatra "For Only The Lonely" (Arr. Nelson Riddle)**

With Riddle and Sinatra killin again but from a completely different direction. Riddle with emphasis on the orchestra rather than the big band sound of "A Swingin' Affair" and Sinatra so eloquent, sincere...and hurting. I don't believe there's a better opening song to represent the journey than this, and then all the songs to follow that reinforce the point. "In Angel Eyes" when he sings, "s'cuse me...while I...disappear"...you can feel it's not just about fading from her view, but perhaps from his own sense of self as well.

"One For My Baby" (and Bill Miller) changed my life. The musicians, music, lyrics, arrangements and delivery are breathtaking and resonate so deeply. I used to sing so many of these tunes when I was young. I knew much about sadness and could relate in a lot of ways, but you gotta be an adult to sing these. You need a few more miles and cuts and bruises to make them real. The orchestration is incredible, and again Sinatra's interpretation and delivery so completely vulnerable.

I'm not trying to "hip" anyone about Sinatra and would never say this art/artist is better than...but I think many of us (myself included) can sometimes become forgetful about what an amazing and influential artist he was (not just to the wanna be's and pretenders). He was around forever, sang just about every good song there was to be sung, but he was also part of the supremely elite group of The Beatles, Elvis & Michael Jackson, and no one gets prepared for that kind of success and attention. He was an industry unto himself and gave work to so many great musicians, arrangers and others. It may be easier to remember some of the less than stellar moments in his career because (as is always the case) the bad titillates more than the good, but damn could he sing and tell the story.

## **3. "Neighbors" Dave Liebman & Nancy Reed**

Nancy Reed is such a beautiful vocalist (and bassist). Her voice haunts me in the most wonderful ways. This is what "singing like breathing" sounds like.

I've been listening over and over to this recording with David Liebman, Phil Markowitz, Bill Goodwin and Steve Gilmore. Trust me, you could just cut to the chase and buy it, but if you need to check it out first, give a listen...but then buy it. Bring it into your home, your head and your heart .

4. **Adam Rogers "Time and the Infinite"**
5. **Ignacio Berroa Trio "Straight Ahead From Havana"**
6. **Orrin Evans "The Evolution of Oneself"**
7. **Jacob Collier "DJESSE"**
8. **Mike Stern "Trip"**
9. **Vic Juris "Eye Contact"**
10. **Joe Locke "Love Is A Pendulum"**
11. **Bob Berg "Enter The Spirit"**

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### **Bob Kimmel's picks**

So, my tastes and my 2020 album picks run a little more main stream but some good stuff nonetheless. So here ya' go.

1. **Paul McCartney III** - He's still doing it. Still creating new material and still (except for this year) touring and playing amazing two and a half hour concerts in sold out arenas all over the world. At 78 years old he still rocks like a teenager. His voice is a little different these days and if you're looking for another Let It Be or Maybe I'm Amazed or Helter Skelter you might not be impressed with this new collection but I really like it and I'm just happy that he's still here and still making new music as well as playing all the old Beatles, Wings and solo material in his live shows. I've seen him 3 times and they are probably 3 of the best, most amazing concerts I've ever experienced - and believe me I've seen a lot of shows in my 67 years. This new album may not go down in history as one of his best but it certainly has some cool stuff and the production is really great. The drums and bass tracks sound so deep and full. And it's worth mentioning that like McCartney I and McCartney II he played all the instruments on all the tracks and sang all the lead and backing vocals himself. A true solo effort.

2. **Bad Camper - What You Love Comes Along** - A new, young band from the San Francisco bay area. This is their debut album and its full of great folk/pop/R&B-ish songs that feel good and make your feet tap. You can hear lots of influences from several classic rock icons but it's definitely original and authentic music. Fun stuff that makes me happy. And the back story of the

band's leader and song writer Matthew Fisherkeller, aka Fish is pretty amazing. After he got his bachelors and master's degrees in music he took a 9-month trip all over the USA, Europe and Africa on a bicycle with nothing but his guitar and wrote most of the material that eventually became the tracks on this album. Cool stuff.

3. **Bob Sebellico - Influence** - Local boy does good. I don't know Bob well. I think we crossed paths once or twice but I have always known of him and heard about some of the pretty amazing things he's done over the years. With this new album, I've become a fan and have nothing but respect and admiration for his talent. On this album, Bob plays all the guitars, bass and some keyboards and he's joined by some of the best drummers ever, Dennis Chambers, Will Kennedy, Todd Sucherman for starters. You don't attract high profile and high caliber talent like that if you're not bringing something special to the table. Bob delivers some great funky, jazz, progressive song writing and the performances are killer.

4. **Danny Eyer - Lo Fi Kinda Guy** - Another tribute to another local guy. My good friend and band mate Danny is always such a pleasure to play with. His guitar playing is nothing short of amazing. His singing is a cross between clean pop and bluesy gruff, dirty soul. And then when you look up the word "NICE" in the dictionary there's just a picture of Danny - good friend, nice guy and incredible musician/singer. I've done some recording with Danny in the studio and played with him live quite a bit but on this album, he pulled together a collection of original songs that he wrote and recorded all by himself on small track formats at home over several years. He got the stuff all cleaned up and mastered and it flows together on this album like butter. Great songs with obvious Beatle influence and his own distinct soulful/bluesy style. It is indeed Lo Fi as the title implies, it was mostly recorded on 4 track cassette decks and other inexpensive home recording devices but the material holds up on its own. Danny plays pretty much all the instruments and sings all the lead and backing vocals all by himself and does a great job representing these wonderful songs.

5. **Dean Carrigan - The Taken** - As long as we're acknowledging local heroes, here's a wonderful collection from another good friend. Dean unfortunately died this past year and as shocking and painful as his passing was I was at least uplifted by the fact that he was able to finish and release this album before he passed. It's a beautiful album with songs that Dean wrote and performed wonderfully. I'm not sure what category you would place this album - jazz, new age, world music - it doesn't matter, it's just beautiful and wonderful to listen to. Every time I listen I hear new things. There is so much great stuff going on inside each track. We who knew him will miss him terribly, he was such a great guy and I'm so glad that he left this music with us.

6. **Steve Lukathur - I Found the Sun Again** - OK, this album doesn't actually get released until February 26, 2021 but I got to hear some advance copies of some of it already and its killer! On October 20, 2019, I went to see Toto at The Met in Philly. It was their last show ever! They've always been one of my favorite bands and even though they've been around since the mid 70s I never had a chance to see them live until this, their LAST gig. I wish I could have seen them with Jeff Porcaro before he died but this show was almost as good as seeing them with Jeff. I would rank it in the top 5 shows I've ever seen. Just amazing! I could go on and on, it blew me away and Steve Lukathur totally blew me away. I knew he was amazing but I had no idea that he was one of the best guitar players that's ever lived. So, this new album is gonna be great. The bits I've heard already have me hooked. Not a Toto album but certainly some of that vibe is there and much more.

7. **David Bowie - Hunky Dory** - Yeah, I know this isn't new. It's from 1971 and I played it to death back then and I played a bunch of the songs from this album in bands over the years. But I hadn't listened to it for a long time and throughout this past summer I pulled it out and got back into it so much so that I found myself listening to it several times and that's why it made it to this year's list. It isn't new but I found it again this year and relived 1971 all over again every time I played it. So many great songs - Changes, Oh! You Pretty Things - Life On Mars - and on and on. Really wonderful tunes and a great recording that takes me right back to those days.

Only 7 albums came to mind from this past year's major listening when I sat down to do this today. I may think of others later but this will have to do for now.

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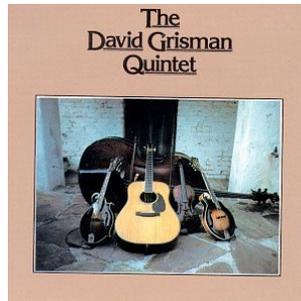
## Jim Ryan's picks

Ornette Coleman – Ornette at 12 / Crisis



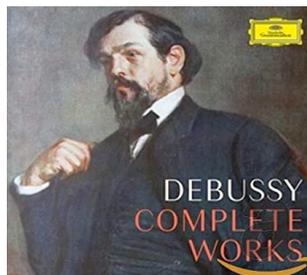
These are two live albums from the late 60's. Crisis was never available on CD until this release. Classic Ornette!

### The David Grisman Quintet



I listened to this album a lot in the 80's and 90's. I finally got the CD last year to replace my original cassette. Each track is great! Sorry to see that Tony Rice passed away on Christmas day.

### Debussy - Complete Works



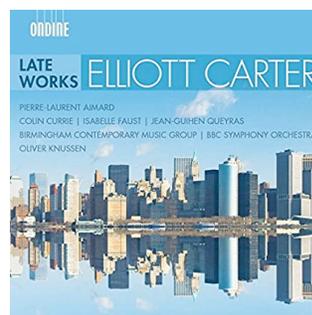
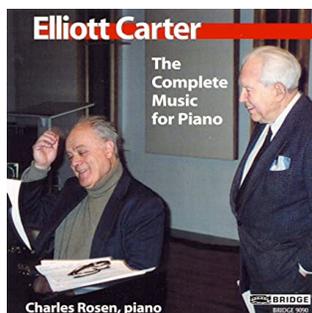
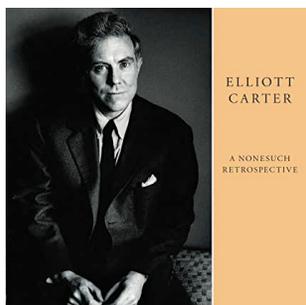
I've always loved Debussy's subtle, fluid style. He was a ground-breaking composer – one of the first modernists. This is a great collection!

## Thelonious Monk with John Coltrane The Complete 1957 Riverside Recordings



I listened to the Milestone LP Monk/Trane constantly in the 70's. It was seminal to my early jazz listening. Finally got the CD version last year. Can't say enough about it – Monk in his prime with the pure sound of Coltrane. To me, this is almost the definition of jazz.

## Elliot Carter

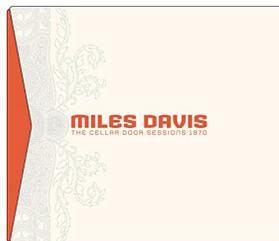


I've been on an Elliot Carter jag the past few years. These are just some of the CDs I've been listening to. One of the greatest classical composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Frank Zappa – Meat Light

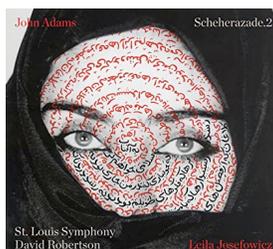


Speaking of great 20<sup>th</sup> century composers...I've been listening to the Project/Object release of the Uncle Meat recording sessions. Enuff said!  
Miles Davis – The Cellar Door Sessions 1970



I wanted to take a deeper dive into Live/Evil having learned that so much was left out of that album from the original sessions. Another mind-blowing step for the ever-evolving Miles as he enters the 1970's.

## John Adams - Scheherazade.2



I saw John Adams conduct this work at the Kimmel Center in the fall of 2019. He composed it for the violinist Leila Josefowicz who performed it at the concert. She's an amazing virtuoso who performs works by modern composers. This is a powerful piece by one of our great contemporary composers.

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Finally, I just found out that Quincy Jones has a streaming channel called Qwest TV with a lot of classic jazz and soul performances from French film archives. This looks like a great site:

<https://videos.qwest.tv/smartlists/04930d93-d629-49c0-9d50-7f7fcb158d85>

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This space reserved for YOUR picks...

Seriously, this only works if you are motivated and share your own thoughts about what music rocked you this year. I miss having friends recommend good music, and I deeply resent the corporate shills making suggested playlists "just for me" filled with whatever swill and copycat crap they want to make a buck from.

Send me your thoughts and I'll add them here!!