

Dave Hartl's 2023 Top Ten 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 new releases, 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 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, Ted Singer, Mike Dotterer, Don Knabb, Brian Groder, Bob Kimmel, Chico Huff, and Jack Loughhead all responded and shared their own opinions of what was hot for them, and I've enjoyed a year of exceptionally good music thanks to all of their suggestions! **Please** respond, I don't like streaming (it's basically the biz's latest way to rip off the musicians) and don't listen to the nonsense of corporate radio, so this is really the only way I find out about the Good Stuff you stumble upon.

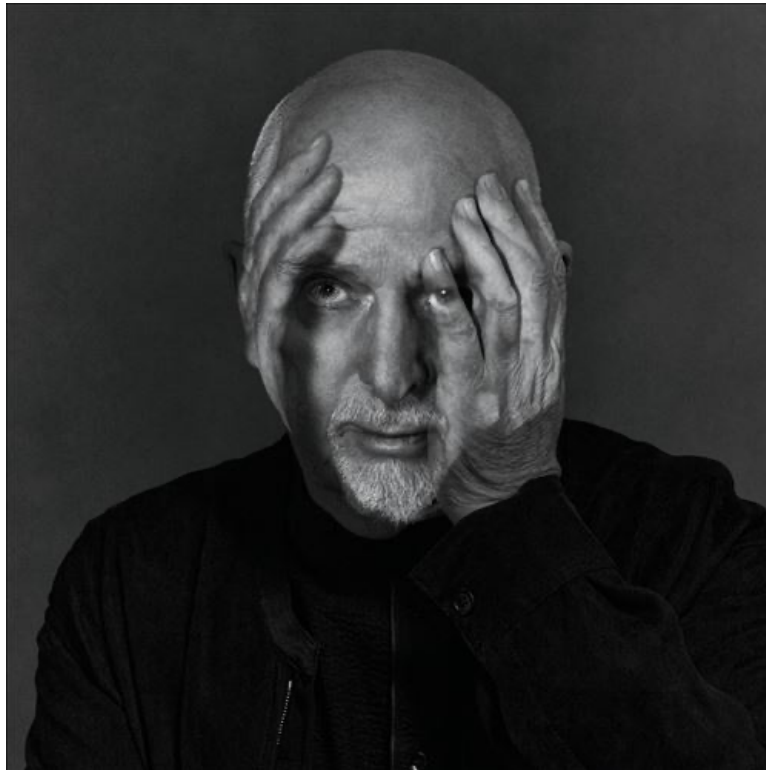
Here's the albums that shaped my musical concepts in 2023:

Marianne Faithfull – “A Secret Life”



In December 2022 we learned of the passing of Angelo Badalamenti, film score giant. He did this album with vet rocker Marianne Faithfull, and I added it as an extra pick on last year's list. This year, it spent more play time in my house than anything else. Mysterious, dark, and haunting, it's a moving tribute to the sonic universe Badalamenti could create, and is the album that I reached for more times than I can count in 2023, and I highly recommend it.

Peter Gabriel – “i/o”



21 years after the release of his last album of original music, Peter Gabriel snuck this one out in the last weeks of 2023 after spending the previous months releasing each song in a light and a dark mix and touring the world, premiering the tunes on this as he went. At the time of this writing, I'm still absorbing this double CD set (one disc of the light mixes, one of the dark mixes), but it has all the hallmarks of a classic, and a career high point for one of the most important artists of the last 50 years.

Dave Hartl & The Divine Hand Ensemble – “Viva Astor!”



Okay, it may be self-serving to put up an album here with me on the cover, but if I'm honest I'd have to say this was definitely one of the most influential albums of the year for me. I arranged seven tangos by the great bandoneon master Astor Piazzolla for The Divine Hand Ensemble, a group with which I play accordion. Transcribing these compositions and arranging them for the group's eccentric instrumentation (string quartet, 2 harps, tuned percussion, auxiliary percussion, accordion, and theremin) was a challenge enough, but learning to play Piazzolla's incredible melodic lines and learning to improvise in his style took me to a whole other place musically. I've been playing accordion for 65 years, and playing this music suddenly elevated my concept and expression to a brand new level. I didn't want to just slavishly copy what Piazzolla did, but use it as a jumping-off point and try to inhabit the space he was in when he created these improvisations within the form.

We finished recording it in the early months of 2023, mixed and mastered it into the summer, and made our plans for a fall release. But fate intervened in the form of a worldwide distribution deal for the group's first release, [Aria 51](#). Suddenly the possibility of similar distribution for this, our second album, became a reality, so that as of this writing you can't actually buy this album yet. We're waiting to see what happens. But our concerts in 2024 will feature it prominently, and even include tango dancers.

Trust me, the wait will be worth it. I'm very proud of what we accomplished here, and feel it's the best album I've ever help to create.

Connie Han – “Secrets of Inanna”



There has always been a trend in jazz and pop for female artists to use their sex appeal and attractiveness to help get a leg up in a field dominated by males. As a longtime veteran of the Atlantic City showroom scene, I saw this at work for many years and, while grateful that I played with some extremely talented women, I also had weeks of backing up some ladies who didn't have much to offer musically but looked great. There... I think that's tactful enough.

Since those halcyon days, I've run across some new artists that were disappointing when isolated from the visual sense, and must admit that I came to regard this packaging strategy with some suspicion. So when my social media feed starting showing a young Asian lady named Connie Han who looked like a gorgeous Asian leather clothes model, I didn't expect much in the way of performance. Boy, was I wrong. This young lady's pianistic abilities, red-hot approach, and harmonic and textural concept that belies her young age knocked me out. She is the Real Deal. She knows what she's got, and she's brilliant at marketing, using social media, and promotion to get ahead. And when I see she's coming to Philadelphia, I'll be the first in line to buy a ticket. I actually hear echoes of McCoy and Herbie, but there's something else at work as well. This is the first album I've checked out from her, but I will be listening to the others. Check her out, and welcome her to the scene.

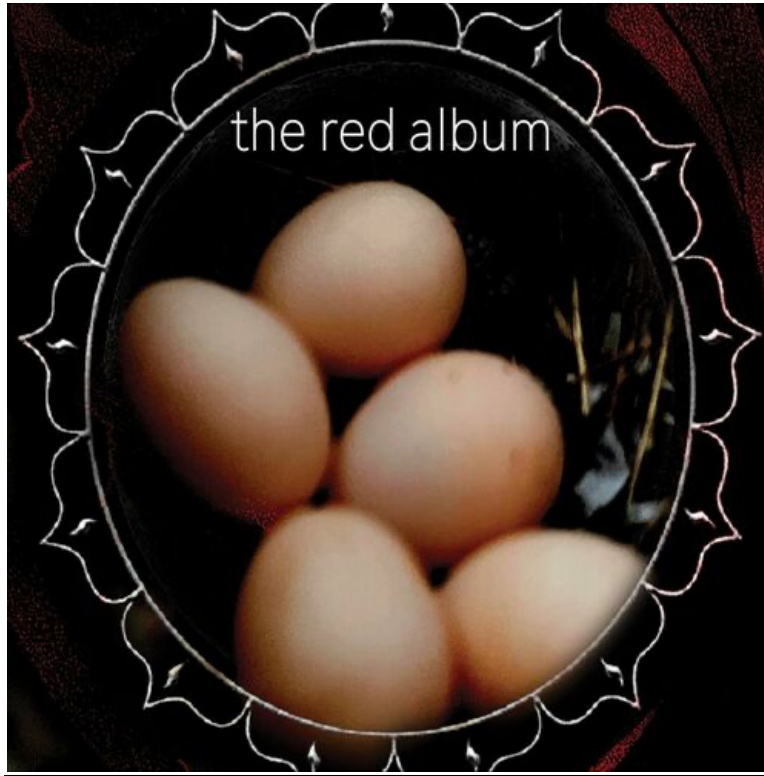
Vijay Iyer Trio – “Break Stuff”



The ECM label has been around for decades, delivering a European sensibility to the jazz world. I enjoy their music, but find myself listening with some set expectations of non-burning, meditative jazz. This album defied that.

I don't know much about Vijay Iyer other than this is the first album ECM let him do with his trio, and they seem intent on redefining what a piano trio is and what it can do. The title is perfect, they are breaking stuff here, including all my assumptions. The compositions can be thorny, with chromatic ostinatos and asymmetric rhythms, but I find them still appealing and accessible. There's some brilliant piano playing and simpatico accompaniment at work on this disc, and I look forward to checking out Iyer's other work to see if this is the exception to the rule or his normal M.O.

RED – “The Red Album”

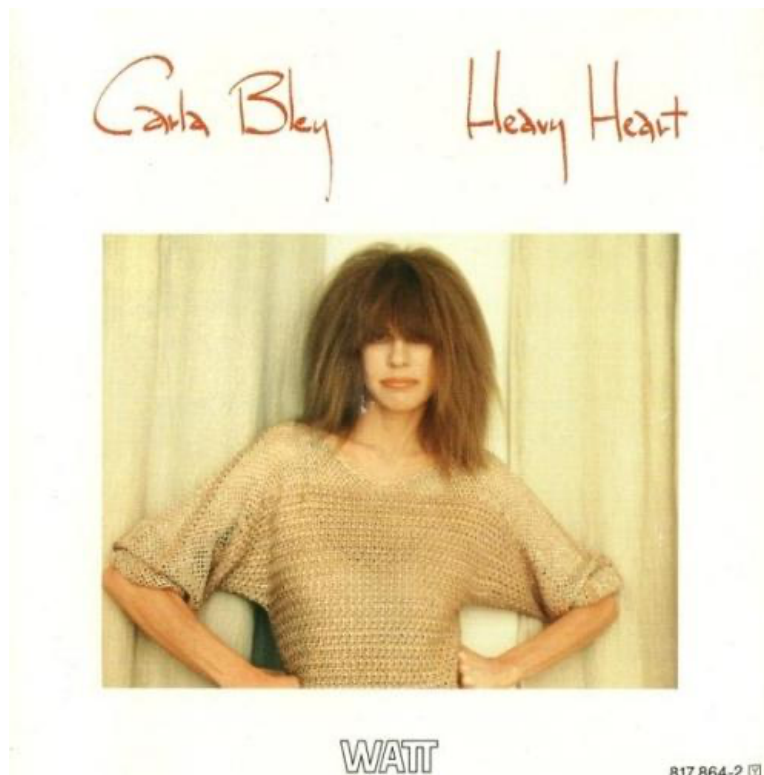


RED is a group centered in South Jersey, led by Andy Schlee with longtime musical partner and drummer Bob Kimmel. During most of the year, they can be found playing at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, where they play classic rock tunes (no, not the “Stairway to Heaven” type, more like “Something in the Air” and other underplayed favorites), aided and abetted by Patty Balbo on vocals, Danny Eyer on guitar, and Rich Kurtz on bass. No summer is complete for me without organizing a pilgrimage to their outdoor deck and enjoying an evening of their music.

In addition to their classic rock, they occasionally sneak in some original music (against the wishes of casino management, I assume) and it’s great stuff. This is their third album, I waited for it with baited breath, and it didn’t disappoint.

This is intelligent pop music for adults, wonderfully performed and engaging in every way. I hope Andy keeps coming up with these gems, and I'll be making that yearly trek as long as he does.

Carla Bley – “Heavy Heart”



2023 saw the passing of composer, arranger, and pianist Carla Bley. She was a fixture on the New York City scene, leading a big band and many other projects, including a series of trio albums including longtime partner Steve Swallow on bass and Andy Sheppard on sax that I unreservedly recommend to anyone.

This album is just a representation of her incredible output that ran from the 1970's up to the present day. It's a good one, but I could have picked any of a dozen others as a favorite. Her output and constant creativity over the years was so consistent that it was easy to take her for granted. Somehow, I never got to

see her live, and I'm sorry for that. But her music will stay with me for the rest of my life, a gift to anyone looking to explore the possibilities of jazz composition.

Kamasi Washington – “Harmony of Difference”



I was in a ramen shop in Doylestown when some music came on, courtesy of the hostess's private play list. It was a cut from this album and the beauty of it struck me immediately. I wasn't aware of this saxophonist, and there's something really nice about the serendipity of hearing something that connects immediately in an unexpected place. I'll be checking out more of his work and if it is anything like this 2017 release, it'll be worth much more than the ramen cost me that day.

ExTC – “ExTC Live”



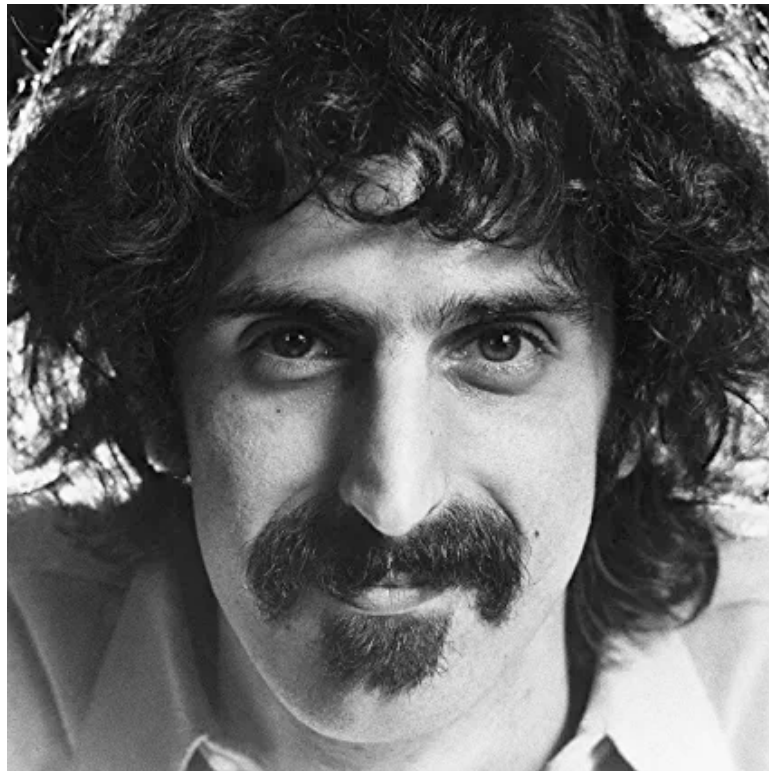
The Sellersville Theater looms large in my life. As a kid, I saw some of my first movies there when it was known as The Selvil. As an adolescent, I was there almost every week, watching the now-classic films of the late '60's & '70's like "Bullitt", "The French Connection", "The Party", "MASH", and many more. When it became the area's premiere live concert hall, it became a venue in which the groups I played (Ronstadt Revue, Divine Hand Ensemble, Night Café Trio) performed their most memorable shows, attended by my high school cronies who never left the area.

But it also serves these days as the venue in which I see not only well-known name acts like Todd Rundgren, Thomas Dolby, The Fifth Dimension, and others as they road-test their shows out of New York before going out into the wider world, but I also see lesser-known bands that still put on amazing shows: The Stick Men, Phil Kaegy, PAKT, The Mahavishnu Project, Graham Parker, Neil Innes, California Guitar Trio, and many more. When I heard a tribute band called ExTC was going to perform their show honoring the English band XTC, I hurried on over to catch it. I had just barely missed seeing the original XTC in Las Vegas in 1981, their tour cut short by lead singer/ guitarist Andy Partridge's nervous breakdown and his refusal to ever tour again. The band proceeded to release some of my favorite albums of all time, but never performed them live. To

have a band that could do this material justice performing all these tunes at last was not to be missed.

And ExTC does just that. This album captures their last tour, and it's dazzling. A point of confusion: the album is that of a quartet, and the live show I saw was a power trio, missing the 4th member, a keyboardist/ guitarist. But yes, they did the songs with spirit and precision. I bought their CD, and this is it. And when they tour in 2024, I highly recommend going to see them.

Frank Zappa – “Waka/Wazoo”



When Frank Zappa passed away, he requested that his wife Gail sell his catalog and get out of the business. She did no such thing. She clung to the rights to his material like Scrooge McDuck clutching his mountains of gold. With her passing, the Zappa Estate has taken a measured approach, hiring a “Vault Master” to comb through the huge amount of tapes that Zappa had produced,

and there has been a steady stream of boxed sets coming out in the past years from his work.

Some of it has been for fans only, with much repetition and multiple takes of songs. But this one is head and shoulders above the rest. Focusing on Zappa's "Waka/Jawaka" and "Grand Wazoo" periods where he was recovering from an attack on stage and wheelchair bound, producing music that was at the forefront of the jazz fusion movement. These sets include a lot of never-heard cuts and amazing playing from some of the best players of the time. If you're curious about any of the Zappa sets, this is the place to start.

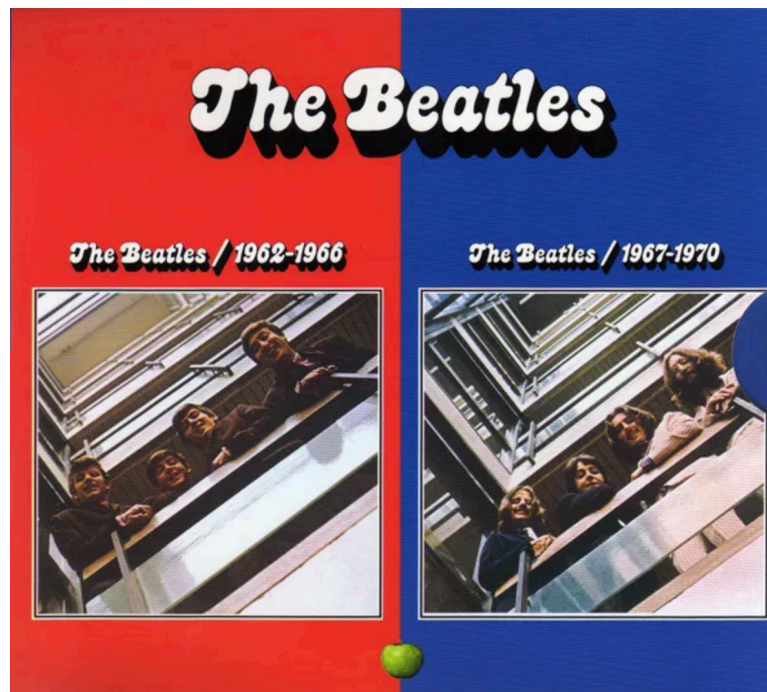
Seriously, this Top 10 list thing only works if you are motivated and share your own thoughts about what music rocked you this year. I miss having friends recommend good music, and I deeply resent the corporate shills making suggested playlists "just for me" filled with whatever swill and copycat crap they want to make a buck from.

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

Bob Kimmel:

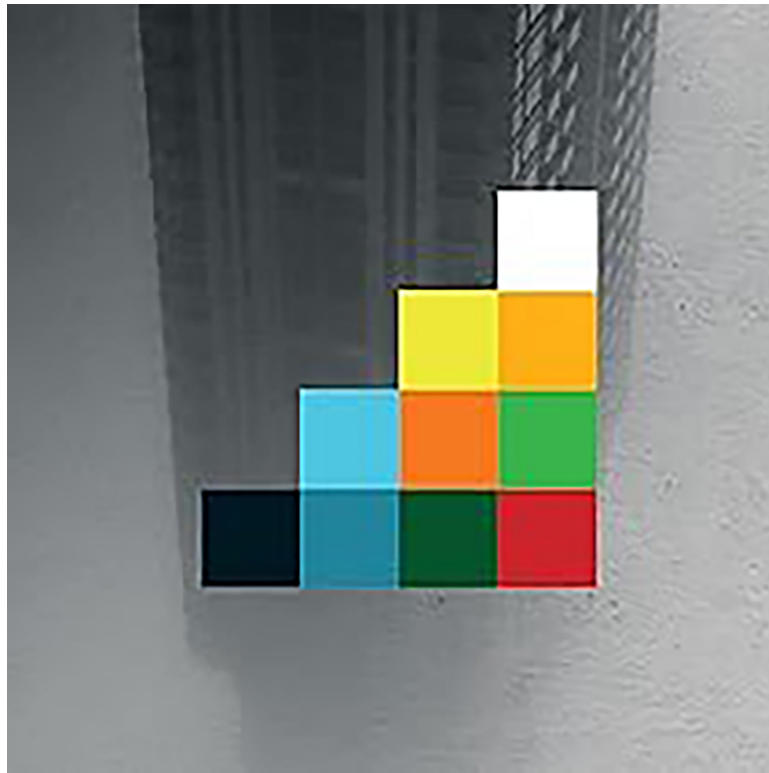
Well, I don't have 10 albums this year - only 5 plus a couple singles.

It's been a busy year and frankly I didn't listen to a lot of other people's music because we were busy finishing our own album and playing a lot of gigs and I just didn't get turned on to that much new stuff this year. Actually I'm sure there's a few others that I listened to earlier in the year that I'm just forgetting at the moment but here's at least a few things that I found fun and interesting.



1. The Beatles - Reissues of the RED Album (1962-1966) & the BLUE Album (1967-1970)

There's nothing really new here, just the great hits from the greatest pop-rock band in history remixed and remastered to sound amazing and new again. All the hits are here and even if you've heard them a million times before it's worth checking them out again with this new mix treatment. They sound great and as you listen you're once again reminded of just how much incredible material those guys came up with in the short amount of time that they were actually together. The one new thing that they added to the end of the BLUE album is The Beatles latest and final single "Now And Then." The history of that song and the way it came to be recorded again using tracks by ALL FOUR of the Beatles to make a REAL Beatles new single is a fascinating story and the back story of the tech behind the making of that recording is incredible in and of itself.



2. **Steven Wilson - The Harmony Codex**

I love pretty much everything Steven Wilson does, from his work with Porcupine Tree to his remixes of classic rock albums to his own solo records. This one is another great album that really sounds amazing. It contains a lot of electronic, computer generated tracks which is something that I don't usually gravitate to but in his hands this genre becomes very musical indeed and it is also interspersed with some rhythm section oriented tunes as well and they kick ass.



3. Trevor Rabin - RIO

This album really kicks ass! Great guitar tones and sounds and incredible vocals. Trevor plays everything on this album - guitars, bass, keyboards, etc and has a couple drummers in for percussion duties. I have to say that I was completely unaware that he sang like that. His vocals are killer. The whole thing has hints of the Yes album **90125** on which Rabin contributed a lot of material. Trevor Rabin is a name that has fluttered around my conscience and I've been aware of him without really investigating his solo work in any depth - that's my loss and after being turned on to this new album I'll be going back to visit his earlier work more.

simon lethem



invincible

4. **Simon Lethem - Invincible**

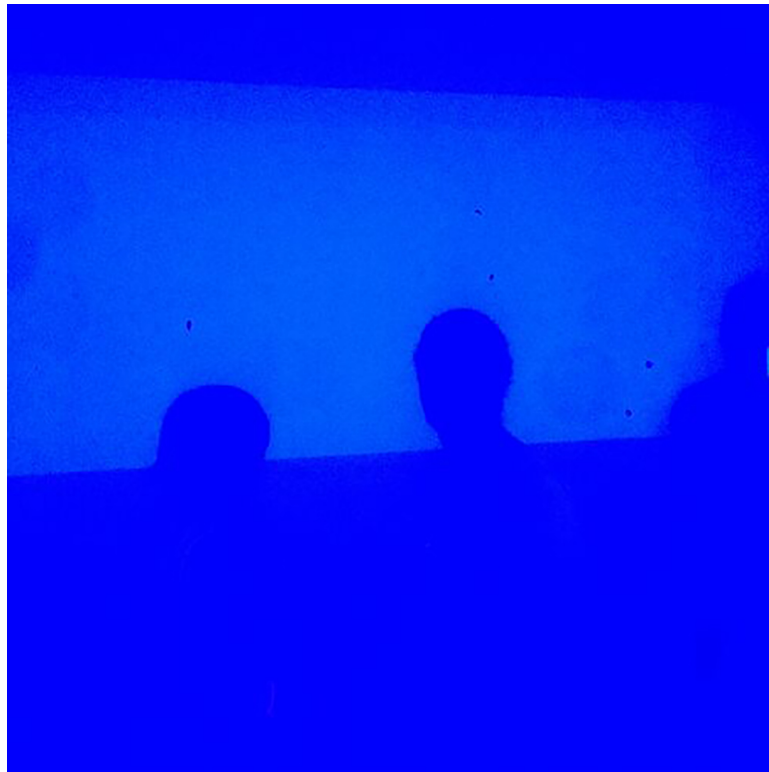
Here's an artist that I became aware of a few years ago with his previous albums "Harder" from 2021 and "Lessons In Life" from 2018. He's an English chap who has been obviously hanging out with the Soul & R&B crowd his whole life. All his material from all of his albums are great funk, soul, R&B groove tunes and this brand new album is no different. Very cool music and deep grooves for ya.



5. **red - the red album**

OK, this will seem a bit self serving - maybe a little egotistical - but it's not meant that way. AND, this is one that was on Dave's list too. (Thanks for that Dave - really appreciate your support) It's my own band red and our new album just released in August titled "the red album." I include this here because this is supposed to be a list of "The Most Influential Albums Of The Year" and with the amount of time that I spent working on this one and playing some of the material live it has certainly "influenced" my life this past year. I didn't write the songs (my partner Andy Schlee did) so I think I can say without sounding too self centered that this is a collection of some pretty cool shit. I played all the drums and some percussion and other sounds but it's mostly Andy and a few guest players here and there. I did co-produce the album with Andy and I think we made a pretty good sounding project. There's some rockin' stuff and some ethereal, sweet sounding tunes - it's a mixed bag. Andy likes to layer tracks pretty deep and so there's a LOT to grasp here and for anyone interested enough to check it out I would highly suggest listening with a good set of headphones especially if your stereo system and speakers aren't audiophile quality - there's some cool stuff

mixed in there that you'll want to hear clearly. This is our 3rd album and I think maybe our best yet.



6. Noah Yorke - Cerebral Key & Return Again (If I Want)

This is not an album. These are two singles released by Noah Yorke who happens to be the son of Tom Yorke from the band Radiohead and yes, these songs do have a bit of a Radiohead quality about them. I think Noah will be someone to watch going forward. Cool songs and great production.

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Chico Huff:

As usual my listening is all over the place and my top choices tend to change from week to week so I will say here is “a” top ten list delivered in my usual minimal style. :-) Hopefully someone will discover something in this list that they dig!!

Jacob Mann - “106”

I discovered Mann through his playing with Louis Cole and I look forward to listening to more of his music. “106” is collection of short pieces, retro synth sounds and clever ideas. Cool stuff!!

The Half of It - “Drop”

A band Josh Orlando hippped me to that he also played in from a few years back. Absolute bad assery!

Corto.alto - “Bad With Names”

Keyboard based grooves and vibes with occasional strings added in, I’m loving this one.

Dan May - “Legacy”

Dan is just a great songwriter, great lyricist etc and a heck of a nice guy. I guess singer/songwriter works for this (I’m having trouble with clarifying genres today). Very satisfying batch of tunes.

Ben Schachter - “Quardaphilya: Songs+ Walzes +Waltzes + Songs”

Not a new one, it’s from 2018, but new to me this year. Sax player Ben Schachter is just an astonishing musician, If you haven’t heard him, this may be a good place to start. Ben has spent a good number of years in the Philly area over the years.

Immanuel Wilkins - “Omega”

Effortless mastery, whew! Great playing, great compositions from a group that seems to think with one mind. Navigating tricky compositions with seeming ease. This one is from 2020, I'll be watching for newer and future albums!

Pedro Martins - “Rádio Mistério”

This is one album I regularly return to. One of my faves, no doubt. Martins is a brilliant guitarist and his playing is featured here but it's a collection of vocal tunes. To me his writing is reminiscent of Milton Nascimento in his “Clube De Esquina 2” period though maybe a bit more dense. Definitely give this one a listen!

Knower - “Knower Forever”

If you know about Knower then you know what's up. :-) The new album delivers in a big way, featuring another fave of mine, bassist “MonoNeon” on at least one tune.

Genevieve Artadi - “Forever Forever”

Artadi, essentially the other half of Knower, has a great album out of her own that I recently discovered. Well worth a listen!

And for my 10th, an album I just now discovered as I'm writing this

“Live For the Highest Bidder”-featuring Nick Campbell Destroys, Jacob Mann and Christian Euman.

Very entertaining stuff!

Mike Dotterer:

Always dig your end of year list and happy to share where my ears have been this year. Two artists from your list last year that you brought to my attention that I love are Rick Zayas and Minas. I definitely will be checking out the new Divine Hand Ensemble.

The albums I found myself really listening to this year:

The Band - "The Last Waltz 40th Anniversary Deluxe Version"

I was part of a tribute concert for this in November and really had my head in it for arranging the horn parts. I thoroughly enjoyed this project and found myself still listening to it after the project was over.

Cory Wong - "Live at Montreux"

Ear porn.

Marshall Gilkes - "Brassology"

I don't think there's anybody displaying a better command of the trombone at the moment. Absolutely jaw dropping. The writing on this is equally amazing.

Darcey James Argue's Secret Society - "Dynamic Maximum Tension"

It's a double album of incredibly good playing & writing for a modern big band.

Jennifer Wharton's Bonegasm - "Grit & Grace"

Another fantastic album from her band of a modern trombone quartet and rhythm section.

Racheal & Vilray - "I Love a Love Song!"

I dug them as a guitar & vocals duo. This album they added a band. They sound like a well restored black and white movie.

Michael Dease - "Swing Low"

Professor of Trombone at MSU. On every album, he has pushed the boundary of straight ahead jazz trombone playing. On this one, he leads on bari sax!

Albert Mangelsdorff, Jaco & Alphonse Mouzon - "Trilogue Live!"

I wore out the cassette copy that I had and was happy to find it digitally last year. The wall of sound these three could produce was astounding.

The Rolling Stones - "Hackney Diamonds"

I don't know why, but I really dig this record.

Brian Groder:

Here they are in no particular order (I'm sure I missed a couple here and there), but these definitely popped into my mind when composing this list (I don't believe in ranking music).

Danny Zeitlin - "Crazy Rhythm: Exploring George Gershwin"

Listen to it on his Bandcamp page. Solo piano explorations/reinterpretations of well-worn classics from a live concert.

Cecile McLorin Salvant - "Mélusine"

Beautiful multicultural signing

Ryuichi Sakamoto - "12"

Synthesizer and piano ambient etudes which was also his final studio album

Chris Potter (with Craig Taborn) - "Got the Keys to the Kingdom: Live at the Village Vanguard"

Higher levels of artistry of improvisation and saxophone

Brad Mehldau - "Your Mother Should Know"

Solo piano interpretations of Beatles songs that break through the originals. Nonesuch Records. I believe there are some YouTube videos of his trio and solo versions

Tyshawn Sorey (with Aaron Diehl & Matt Brewer) - "Continuing"

Jazz trio with Aaron Diehl leading the proceedings in a very sparse landscape that remains gripping.

Dhafer Youssef (with Herbie Hancock & Dave Holland). "Street of Minarets"

Collaboration with jazz giants who really understand playing in odd time signatures and a Tunisian Oud player...

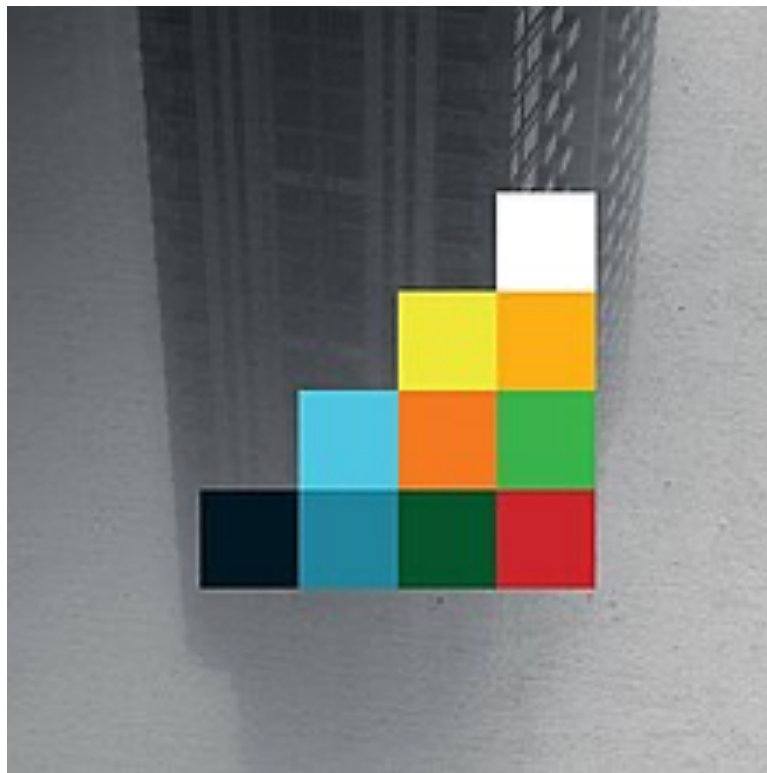
Tashkezar "Ew'aa"

Egyptian folk music by way of Bristol UK. This music and earlier album is on Bandcamp

Jack Loughhead:

Hi Dave, and Happy New Year! Late to the party as usual, but here's my most listened to list for 2023.

Steven Wilson - The Harmony Codex



Pretty much my favorite artist, and the album took me completely by surprise as I hadn't seen any hype for it. Certainly a nice surprise! I agree with Wilson's description of it as being "genre spanning," but I guess that's nothing new for him. Some great contributions from guest

artists, and in particular I just love the voice of Ninet Tayeb, especially on the track "Rock Bottom." In a related vein, Porcupine Tree's "Closure/Continuation.Live.Amsterdam 7/11/22" is a great way to experience that band live if you can't get there in person.

Peter Gabriel - I/O



Well, maybe this guy is my favorite - hard to say, but Gabriel has had that status for me for much longer than Wilson. In contrast to the surprise of the prior recording, I was one of the faithful waiting for the release each full moon during the year of one additional track. To be honest, although I liked them all, I was somewhat underwhelmed. It really wasn't until I saw the show at the Wells Fargo that it all came together. Partly that was due to the amazing performance he and the band put on, but it was even more a result of the flow of the complete

recording. I think Gabriel has always been a master at putting the pieces together to make complete works of art.

Nickle Creek - Celebrants



We went to see Nickle Creek at the Appell Center in York in the spring (after the original date got cancelled), and they put on a great show. I would never have guessed that the trio hadn't played together for almost a decade, It certainly sounded to me like they are all still at the top of their respective games. The album has its bluegrass roots, but goes way beyond that genre, and even if you aren't a big bluegrass fan, I'd recommend a listen. I also have to mention that I may have been more impressed with the opening act at the concert - a quartet called "Hawktail" that Chris Thile introduced as "his favorite band." Like Nickle Creek, their music grows out of

bluegrass, but it goes in a lot of different directions. I'd recommend their latest recording, "Place of Growth."

Bailake Sissoko - Les Egares



I have been a fan of Sissoko's kora playing for a number of years. On this album, he teams up once again with Vincent Segal on cello. The two are joined by Vincent Pierani on accordion and Emile Parisien on sax. I couldn't really characterize the music - jazz at times, traditional, classical and avant-garde at others, but it sure is beautiful stuff. We'll be seeing Sissoko at the Savannah Music Festival in April.

John Scofield - Uncle John's Band

John Scofield
Uncle John's Band

SCM



Along with Bill Stewart on drums and Vicente Archer on bass, Scofield tears it up on a bunch of reimagined covers, as well as some new originals. I think it's some of his best playing, which sets a pretty high mark. It also feels like these guys are really having a blast playing together.

Lionel Loueke/Gretchen Parlato - Lean In



Here's another guitarist I have liked for a long time. I hadn't been aware that he has been performing for years with Parlato, but they can sure create a wonderful groove together. It's a great combination of African rhythms with bossa nova vocals, and much more.

Data Lords – Maria Schneider Orchestra



I heard the song, "Look Up", somewhere this summer, and decided to track down the full recording. It is simply stunning, and the 2 CD set has one of the classiest packaging jobs I have ever seen. The Orchestra boasts an amazing group of musicians, including Donny McCaslin and Ben Monder. Definitely merited being a finalist for the Pulitzer prize.

Meshell Ndegeocello - The Omnichord Real Book



I saw Meshell on the PBS show "Next at Kennedy Center" a few months back performing with Robert Glasper, and was again impressed with her vocal abilities. (BTW, that show is well worth a look if you haven't seen it." Shortly thereafter, this recording came out, and I wasn't disappointed. I can't say I was ever aware of the actual Omnichord instrument, but she seems to have mastered it. A cool blend of jazz, funk, soul, dub and whatever.

Oz Noy - Triple Play



I just found this collaboration to be a ton of fun - Noy with Dennis Chambers and one of my favorite bass players, Jimmy Haslip. It also is an unvarnished live recording of a true power trio. Hoping there's a chance to see this group live!

Naïssam Jalal - Healing Rituals



This album apparently was written from Jalal's hospital bed, and represents rituals that brought her back to good health. It is a haunting mix of Arabic, African, classical and jazz influences driven by Jalal's flute, along with cello, bass and drums. "Trance" sendant.

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Don Knabb:

Yo Dog - here's my list for 2023!

Tom Caufield - The Ever-Present Origin

Tom Caufield is an amazing guitar player and this album has nylon string and steel string guitars with additional strings and some soft synth. A very nice mostly acoustic album. His album Tales from

the Wine Dark Sea is also excellent, as is Deep Cuts from the Moral Wilderness - in fact, Deep Cuts is my favorite.

Gretchen Yanover - Bridge Across Sound

Gretchen Yanover plays her electric cello and adds looping to most tracks. This is a warm and soothing album, good for cold winter days.

Altus - Winter Embrace 1, 2 and 3

Mike Carss of Ottawa records electronic music under the name Altus. The first of these three albums dates back nearly 20 years. They are a nice backdrop to a winter day as a 3 hour playlist.

Jeff Pearce - The Road Ahead

Ambient guitar and Chapman Stick player Jeff Pearce uses loops and electronics to make beautiful music.

Eric Wollo - Cloud of Strings and The Shape of Time

Scandinavian guitar player Eric Wollo continues to put out great electronic guitar music.

Ed Herbers - Migration

Working out of a minimal home studio in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ed's music has many different styles. This album is my favorite, sort of

ambient/acoustic/modern classical perhaps. His Voyager album, a tribute to the Voyage spacecraft, is also excellent.

Zarr - With Eyes that Have Witnessed

A medical professional in the U.K. Zarr is most known for the ambient albums Cloudform and Sojourn. Zarr's albums are, zarr lush and enveloping soundscapes which afford the listener a space to drift.

Vin Downes - Good Light to Go By

Vin Downes is another mostly acoustic guitar player in the vein of Tom Caulfield. The Good Light album is a delight from start to finish.

All India Radio - Beyond Tomorrow

Australian Martin Kennedy has stopped putting out new music but this album has a real Sci-Fi flavor, as does much of Kennedy's albums. Space music with progressive rock overtones, a joy turned up loud.

Steve Roach - Rest of Life

Steve Roach is one of the foremost space music artists and he continues to put out excellent albums. Rest of Life is just one of many great releases from 2023.

Bonus album - Gypsy Witch and Friends - Tales from the Oak

Diana Smethurst records as Gypsy Witch, and this album is by her and her friends, all ambient musicians on Bandcamp. This album has been created to raise money for futuretrees.org. There are various styles as in any compilation album, one track is from Altus recording under his other name, Loneward that he uses for more melodic ambient music.