



**Xango Music**  
celebrating three decades distributing  
local music from all over the world

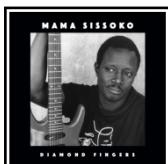
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## XANGO MUSIC NEWSLETTER #3 – 2026



**Mama Sissoko: Diamond Fingers**

**MSONE 26 / 0197190425208 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Mali – Popular**

The Malian guitar virtuoso, Mama Sissoko, was introduced to music by his uncle Djeli Baba Sissoko. His music history counts legendary bands like Orchestra A de Bamako, Orchestre National de Bamako and Super Biton de Ségou. Sissoko uses irony in texts critical to the absurdities faced by immigrants in the post colonial realities



**Aly Keita: Balafon Evolution (street date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**AKONE 26 / 0199806772201 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Ivory Coast – Popular**

**AKONEVI 26 / 0199806774434 / label: One World Records / format: LP / Ivory Coast – Popular**

On his new album he explores new horizons for his instrument in improvised music. Together with his Berlin-based trio, he conquers the peaks of balafon possibilities one by one, wandering between groovy African rhythms, spectacular polyphony and elements of jazz, and combining them into a fusion.



**Ablaye Cissoko & Constantinople: Estuaria**

**CONS 2502 / 3760288803980 / label: Absilone / format: CD / Various – Fusion**

With this ensemble that has traveled the world's stages for over a decade, strings and voices embody the beauty of Persian and Mandinka music. Master of the kora Ablaye Cissoko and setar player Kiya Tabassian immerse us in a gentle sonic reverie. A musical conversation at its finest, elevated by the rhythms and subtleties of percussionist Patrick Graham. [Listen](#).



**Etenesh Wassie Trio: Arada (street date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**844056 / 3760159750429 / label: Absilone / format: CD / Ethiopia – Popular**

By inviting other musicians to play on a few tracks, the trio becomes a quartet with Fabien Duscombs from Le Tigre des Platanes on drums and sometimes a quintet with Mathieu Werchowski on violin. The warmth of the double bass and the depth of the acoustic bass complement Etenesh's deep voice, while the bow also recalls the messenqo, the traditional Ethiopian single-stringed violin that accompanies all the traditional songs excels.



**Rahu The Fool: On The Dancefloor (street date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**CPLCD 81 / 4251329500818 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Latvia – Folk**

An energy loop from the stage to the dance floor - and back again. On the Dance Floor is a new live album by RAHU, a band that has been creating music together since 2016. Rooted in jug band traditions and known for their acoustic sound, playful spirit, and strong connection to dance, RAHU brings together traditional dance tunes, adventurous ballads, and original compositions from Latvia and beyond.



**Lena Jonsson & Johanna Juhola: The Power Of Polska (street date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**NNCD 199 / 4251329506384 / label: Nordic Notes / format: CD / Sweden-Finland – Folk**

Bringing together a Swedish fiddle icon and a Finnish accordion innovator, the duo explores the driving force, vitality and expressive depth of the polska through original compositions and traditional tunes. The album highlights the strong musical connection between two distinctive artistic voices and presents polska as a powerful meeting point between tradition, innovation and personal expression.



**Various: Nordic Notes #200 (street date: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**NN 200 / 4251329506421 / label: Nordic Notes / format: CD / Various – Folk**

Anniversary compilation is not intended as a classic retrospective, but as a snapshot of a musical universe that has grown organically over time. It brings together voices, moods and signatures that have shaped Nordic Notes for two decades - while also pointing clearly toward the future. Nordic Notes is not a closed chapter, but an ongoing dialogue between tradition and the present, between regional roots and international openness.

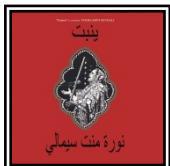


**Souad Massi: Zagate (street date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**BTCD 2 / 0199584143514 / label: Backing Track Production / format: CD / Algeria – Popular**

**BTLP 2 / 0199584143712 / label: Backing Track Production / format: LP / Algeria – Popular**

At the helm once again is guitarist and producer Justin Adams. Congolese rapper Youssoupha and Rwandan French rapper Gael Faye make guest appearances alongside a stellar band, which includes John Baggott on keyboard (Massive Attack, Robert Plant), Billy Fuller (Robert Plant) on bass and Howey Gill on drums. [Listen](#).

**Noura Mint Seymali: Yenbenn – Crystal Clear Vinyl (Limited edition)****GBLPC 177 / 4030433617731 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: LP / Mauretania – Popular**

Now available as a limited edition crystal clear vinyl. Noura Mint Seymali's 3rd album Yenbenn (her first since 2016) is a stunning explosion of contemporary Mauritanian griot music, and once again confirms her status as one of the world's most potent voices. The new album's approach is both raw and experimental; capturing the band's powerful in situ performances with taught clarity and adventuresome sonics. [Listen.](#)

**Marco Mezquida: Tactil (street date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)****MMM 2501 / 8495707112521 / label: Galileo Music / format: CD / Spain-Catalunya – Jazz**

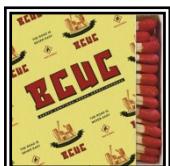
After ten years of a musical adventure of rare intensity, pianist and composer Marco Mezquida presents his new self-produced album. The fourth installment in a collaboration that has become almost fraternal, this album continues the journey begun with Ravel's Dreams, a tribute to composer Maurice Ravel, followed by Talisman and Letter to Milos.

**Catrin Finch: Notes to self (street date: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026)****BENDI 13 / 5065002172310 / label: Bendigedig / format: CD / Wales – Folk**

Catrin Finch releases 'Notes to Self', her first solo album in a decade, featuring personal tracks dedicated to her 13-year-old self - Accompanied by letters, the album reflects on her 40-year career, exploring vulnerability, transformation, and life in the public eye - As a gay woman, cancer survivor, and mother, Finch channels her struggles and triumphs into music, marking a bold, introspective evolution in her artistry. [Listen.](#)

**Canzoniere Greco Salentino: Il Mito (street date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)****PONCD 175 / 8030482004380 / label: Ponderosa / format: CD / Italy – Folk**

Canzoniere Greco Salentino (CGS) presents Il Mito. Eleven tracks recounting fifty years of history of the oldest and most influential folk music group in southern Italy. Led by Mauro Durante (vocals, violin and tamburello) with the current line-up, responsible for the group's latest international successes, revisits some of the songs that have marked its artistic and human journey. [Listen.](#)

**BCUC: The Road Is Never Easy (street date April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026)****OHCD 42 / 0880918278551 / label: Out Here Records / format: CD / South Africa – Popular****OHLP 42 / 0880918278568 / label: Out here Records / format: LP / South Africa – Popular**

The Road Is Never Easy is BCUC's fifth album and their debut on Outhere Records. On this new offering, BCUC take listeners on another Afro-psychadelic journey into the soul of Soweto. It feels like a gospel sermon colliding with a punk concert, "guaranteed to touch untapped corners of your soul" (OkayAfrica).

**Stelios Petrakis: Lyric****BUDA 860413 / 3341348604138 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / Greece-Crete – Traditional**

With the help of guest musicians, old and new friends whom Stelios Petrakis admires and with whom he is happy and grateful to be reunited, his aim is to interpret on the lyre pieces that are seemingly unrelated, pieces from near and far, pieces that are familiar but also "foreign" to knowledgeable listeners, yet which seem to be united by a common and profound bond. [Listen.](#)

**Murat Aydemir & Christos Barbas: Book Of Birds****2GN 29 / 0745125354187 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Turkey-Greece – Traditional**

On the album Book of Birds they create a collection of contemporary compositions inspired by and based on the modal traditions of the wider middle eastern and mediterranean traditions. Their unique mastership on their instruments serves as a prism, a meeting point, for different pieces from different composers to take new shape.

**Derya Turkan & Murat Aydemir: Ahenk / 3 (street date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)****2GN 36 / 0745125354255 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Turkey – Traditional**

Ahenk's musical foundation is rooted in the tradition of instrumental compositions (saz eserleri) within classical Turkish music. By following the masters, the two musicians have striven to bring the century-old harmony of the kemence and tanbur into the present day. This journey, which has continued since the 1990s, has forged not only a shared musical language but a lifelong friendship, and "Ahenk" has become the name for this bond.

**Soolmaan: Kashgul (available again)****ZEPCD 71 / 5414165091219 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: 2CD / Various – Fusion****ZEPLP 71 / 5414165091226 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: 2LP / Various – Fusion**

Bringing sound tableaus that float freely between the Bosphorus and India, Soolmaan weaves flute, sax, ney, cello, piano, and tamburello into an imaginary folklore infected by jazz. Spanning influences from Ottoman makam to Indian raga, Kashgul is a vibrant, boundary-crossing soundscape rich with improvisation. [Listen.](#)

**Kaito Winse: Reele Bumbou (available again)****ZEPCD 72 / 5414165091356 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Burkina Faso – Popular****ZEPLP 72 / 5414165091349 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: LP / Burkina Faso – Popular**

With a voice as commanding and enchanting as an opera performance, Kaito's masterful scansion and storytelling draw the listener into timeless truths. He plays an array of instruments—calabash, mouth bow, Peul flute, toutlé flute, and the tama, a drum known for mimicking human speech. [Listen.](#)



### Sonetos del Amor Oscuro: Vol. 1: El Sueño Se Deshizo Para Siempre (available again)

ZEPCD 75 / 5414165091400 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Belgium – Fusion

ZEPLP 75 / 5414165091417 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: LP / Belgium – Fusion

Sonetos del Amor Oscuro is an ode performed by four wondrous souls who have woven and conjured their hearts with harmonies and rhythms that wander endlessly among the enchanting words of the Granada poet Federico Garcia Lorca. [Listen.](#)



### Echo's Van De Bergen: Echo's Van De Bergen (available again)

ZEPCD 76 / 5414165091424 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Belgium – Fusion

Echo's van de Bergen is a multidisciplinary music project by singer and musician Farnoosh Khodadadeh, originally created as a stage production for young audiences. Conceived as a 'visual symphony for all', it brings together live music, poetry and illustration in a poetic reflection on identity, memory, and resilience. [Listen.](#)



### It Dockumer Lokaeltsje: Loop Of Sloop

MRLPCD 45 / 7422223153135 / label: Makkum Records / format: LP+CD / Netherlands – Punk

On LOOP OF SLOOP, It Dockumer Lokaeltsje is bursting with life and simultaneously on the verge of collapse. Since in 2026 the band has more past than future, they've decided to go through life as of now in a posthumous state. Where TRUMP YN MAKKUM was their last album in 2023, LOOP OF SLOOP is their first posthumous one. [Listen.](#)



### Hugo Race + Fatalists: I made It All Up For You (street date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

GRAMCD 2601 / 5050580866706 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Australia – Popular

GRAMLP 2602 / 5050580866713 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Australia – Popular

GRAMILM 2602 / 5050580868342 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP+10" / Australia–Popular

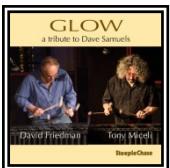
I Made It All Up For You is an epic album with his Italian band Fatalists - existential songwriting framed by the band's signature fusion of roots music, electronica, Italian soundtracks and desert rock.



### Thommy Andersson: Shimmering Blue

SCCD 31996 / 0716043199624 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / Sweden – Jazz

Swedish bassist and composer Thommy Andersson makes his long-awaited SteepleChase leader debut with Shimmering Blue, a striking trio recording featuring Kirk Knuffke and Jose Davila. Known for his work with Pierre Dorges New Jungle Orchestra, Andersson now steps forward with a highly personal sound world-drumless, low-brass rich, and full of lyrical nuance.



### David Friedman & Tony Miceli: Glow – A Tribute To Dave Samuels

SCCD 31997 / 0716043199723 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz

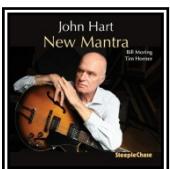
Vibraphone Dialogue Like No Other. Glow, which is dedicated to the late vibraphone master Dave Samuels, is a landmark recording that redefines what's possible in jazz vibraphone performance. Featuring two of the world's most accomplished mallet percussionists—David Friedman and Tony Miceli. It's the first jazz album composed entirely of vibraphone duets, and it succeeds where others have hesitated.



### Larry Willis: Just In Time (street date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

G 1251 / 0716043125111 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz

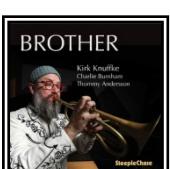
Just in Time, is a long-overdue spotlight on one of jazz's most quietly influential pianists. Recorded in 1989 with Bob Cranshaw on bass and Kenny Washington on drums, this trio session captures Willis' lyrical touch, harmonic depth, and rhythmic sophistication in full bloom. Willis' career began with a voice solo in Aaron Copland's The Second Hurricane under Leonard Bernstein, but jazz soon claimed him. [Listen.](#)



### John Hart: New Mantra (street date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

SCCD 31998 / 0716043199822 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz

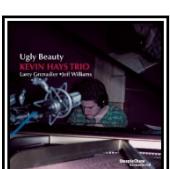
Guitarist John Hart returns to the classic guitar-bass-drums trio format. After several adventurous outings, New Mantra marks a melodic homecoming, reuniting Hart with longtime collaborators Bill Moring and Tim Horner. Known for his lyrical phrasing and harmonic depth, Hart emphasizes melody and clarity, crafting originals like "Think" and "Abyss" alongside fresh takes on standards such as "Stella by Starlight" and "Some Other Time."



### Kirk Knuffke: Brother (street date: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

SCCD 31999 / 0716043199921 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz

Kirk Knuffke's warm, distinctive cornet tone—played on the rare double shepherds-crook horn-anchors a program balancing tradition and innovation. Standards, early jazz gems, and soulful classics are transformed through collective improvisation, while Knuffke's originals sparkle with wit and lyricism. This new release confirms his stature and offers another dazzling chapter in his ongoing story.



### Kevin Hays: Ugly Beauty (street date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

G 1297 / 0716043129713 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz

Recorded with bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jeff Williams, the album marked Hayss' first trio outing—an ensemble format that would become central to his artistic identity. The program blends jazz standards with Hayss' original "The Well," showcasing his lyrical touch, harmonic depth, and rhythmic drive. The session captures Hayss' youthful brilliance while foreshadowing the maturity and originality that define his later work.

**Vincent Sauve Trio: La Memoire Du Son – Principes Aleatoires****ONZ 60 / 3760288803959 / label Onze Heures Onze / format: CD / France – Jazz**

At its heart is a powerful idea: we only know this song because someone once sang it to us. Without that connection, the sound would not be ours. This repertoire celebrates the essence of sound as shared experience. In jazz, as in memory, nothing happens alone. The music exists only through exchange-through the presence of the other. [Listen](#).

**Chloe Pfeiffer & Ensemble Dixit: Inopine****CTP 3 / 3760288804024 / label: Absilone / format: CD / France – Jazz**

Classical music reimagined with brilliance and sensitivity, blending jazz, tango, improvised music and other contemporary influences; a world where Ravel resonates with Klezmer accents, Bach vibrates with Eastern influences, Brahms grooves with jazz, the Danse Macabre is more macabre than ever and Schubert dances the tango... [Listen](#).

**Anthony Jambon Group: Relativity (street date: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026)****GR 2630 / 3683080197913 / label: Absilone / format: CD / France – Jazz**

The Anthony Jambon Group, it's a momentum, a pulse, a smile in music. Formed in 2015, this quintet unites five accomplices who know each other by heart and still surprise each other at every concert. On guitar and singing, Anthony Jambon leads the dance. This new opus Relativity extends the universe of the two previous albums, but pushes even further the sound singularity of the group.

**Maluca Beleza: Des Rivages****MB 22026 / 3760096150634 / label: Absilone / format: CD / France – Jazz**

Caroline Tolla vocals, percussion / Pierre Fenichel double bass / Wim Welker guitars / Olivier Boyer percussion Maluca Beleza is a unique contemporary jazz group offering a subtle blend of Brazilian music and French chanson with poetic accents. The musicians explore the rhythms and musical colours of Brazil. The clear and nuanced voice of Caroline Tolla, who initiated the project, envelops us and whispers in our ears. [Listen](#).

**Pablo Murgier: Sirocco****CPQN 10 / 3760288804079 / label: Absilone / format: CD / France – Jazz****CPQNV 10 / 3760288804086 / label: Absilone / format: LP / France – Jazz**

My hope is that this album encourages us to pay attention to what does not shout: what rustles, what disappears, what resists quietly at the edges. To find again in art a space that speaks to us and allows us to exist more fully. [Listen](#).

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**Transglobal World Music Chart February 2026**

# Canzoniere Greco-Nicolo Salentino: Il Mito (Ponderosa Music) PONCD 175

# Noura Mint Seymali: Yenbett (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 177 / GBLP 177

# Tuuletar: Maammo (Nordic Notes) NNCD 198 / NNLP 198

# Stelios Petrakis: Lyric (Buda Musique) BUDA 860413

# Muluken Mèlèssè: Éthiopiques 31 - Muluken Mèlèssè (Buda Musique) BUDA 860411

# Either/Orchestra & Ethiopian Guests: Éthiopiques 32 - Nalbandian l'Éthiopien (Buda Musique) BUDA 860412

# Lamia Yared & Efrén López: From Minho to Euphrates (Worlds Within Worlds Records) WWWCD 31

# Catrin Finch: Notes To Self (Bedigedig) BENDI 13

# Radio Tarifa: La Noche (Buda Musique) BUDA 860406

# Mama Sissoko: Diamond Fingers (One World Records) MSONE 26

# Nancy Vieira & Fred Martins: Esperanza (Galileo Music) GMCCD 118

# Bijan Chemirani & Redi Hasa & Rami Khalife: L'Antidote (Ponderosa) PONCD 146 / PONLP 42

# Veronika Varga: True Picture (CPL-Music) CPLCD 79

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**World Music Charts Europe February 2026**

# Nancy Vieira & Fred Martins: Esperanza (Galileo Music) GMCCD 118

# Muluken Mèlèssè: Éthiopiques 31 - Muluken Mèlèssè (Buda Musique) BUDA 860411

# Either/Orchestra & Ethiopian Guests: Éthiopiques 32 - Nalbandian l'Éthiopien (Buda Musique) BUDA 860412

# Julia Kozakova: Manusa II (CPL-Music)

# Lina & Marco Mezquida: O Fado (Galileo Music) GMCCD 115 / GMCLP 115

# Senduki: Strania (AlfaMusic) AFMCD 325

# Wör x Kongero: Songbooks Live (Nordic Notes) NNCD 195

# Gao Hong: Symphony Of Self (ARC Music) NXM 76179

# Noura Mint Seymali: Yenbett (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 177 / GBLP 177

# Saodaj: Loder La Vi (Buda Musique) BUDA 860407

**For live music in the BeNeLux check out [concerts](#)!**