Xango Music

celebrating three decades distributing local music from all over the world

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XANGO MUSIC NEWSLETTER #18 – 2026



Gordan: Gastarbeiter
GBCD 186 / 4030433618622 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: CD / Serbia – Popular
GBLP 186 / 4030433618615 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: Lp / Serbia – Popular
Gordan's compelling 3rd album explores the emotionally charged tradition of Gastarbeiter ("guest worker") songs. Reimagining these stories of migration and longing, the transnational trio blends Balkan vocal heritage with hypnotic repetition, noise textures, and stark minimalism. Listen.



Maaar: Ondas
CIECD 4028 / 3666946045078 / label: Compagnie 4000 / format: CD / France – Popular
Three voices, six hands, and a multitude of striking objects come together to form a tumult of soundscapes, occasionally enhanced by the breath of the accordion. In this maelstrom, MAAAR bridges ancient worlds and the one wed like to see come to pass. These pioneering minds have traveled as much through space as through time to draw upon traditional rhythms and various collected sounds.



Divanhana: Remix EP – Robert Soko & Sevdah Lovers (street date: December 4th, 2026)
CPLCD 86 / 4251329500863 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Bosnia-Herzegovina – Popular
Their latest release, bearing the simple and straightforward title Divanhana: Remix EP, delivers the perfect soundtrack for energetic dancing, gentle swaying with a cocktail in hand, and laid-back conversations. The EP also carries a subtitle "Robert Soko & Sevdah Lovers" offering a clearer insight into the concept and musical direction of the release.



Alice In Wonderband: The Courage To Be Afraid (street date: January 22nd, 2027)
CPLCD 87 / 4251329500870 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Serbia – Popular
The album is an international collaborative project bringing together artists from Finland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Turkey and Serbia. It offers fresh perspectives on the musical traditions of the Balkans and Slavic cultures, while also introducing original compositions.



'Ndiaz: Les Heures Blanches – Euriou Gwenn
PPR 47 / 3770039435049 / label: Paker Prod / format: CD / France-Brittany – Folk
Ndiaz engages in a Breton-language dialogue with sounds from around the world, crafting powerful, hypnotic music resolutely geared towards communal dancing. While the previous album ushered in the night, this new record brings it to a close, exploring the fragile moment between night and day-a suspended time where perceptions shift and the music becomes more luminous, fluid, and dynamic. Listen.



Andries Boone: Rhagium Inquisitor
TRAD 47 / 6096433671683 / label: Trad Records / format: CD / Belgium – Folk
TRADLP 47 / 6096440287297 / label: Trad Records / Belgium - Folk
Andries Boone explores once again the borders between tradition and innovation. This album confirms his place as one of the most inventive voices in contemporary folk. All of Boone's newcompositions are inspired by the local fauna and flora. Listen.



Mother Tongue: Ande Booloo Nu War
MRCD 48 / 7422223153180 / label: Makkum Records / format: CD / Various – World
MRLP 48 / 7422223153173 / label: Makkum Records/format: LP / Various – World
Senegalese griot singer Mola Sylla, amsterdam improviser oscar Jan Hoogland and a Puerto Rican jazz drummer Frank Rosaly decide their next playground would be an old bulb shed built into a studio called Katzwijm right in the middle of the Dutch flower fields.



Yaraka: Camare (street date LP: January 15th, 2027)
ZNNCD 10 / 0806812447312 / label: Zero Nove Nove / format: CD / Italy – Folk
ZNNLP 6 / 0806812557329 / label: Zero Nove Nove / format: LP / Italy – Folk
Their soundscape is a visceral weaving of Southern Italian roots, Mediterranean melodies, and African and Amazonian rhythms, blended into original arrangements capable of whispering, invoking, and igniting. This is a journey that goes beyond a mere fusion of styles.



Arbereshe: Narta (street date: January 15th, 2027)
ZNNCD 11 / 0806812447299 / label: Zero Nove Nove / format: CD / Kosovo – Traditional
ZNNLP 7 / 0806812447305 / label: Zero Nove Nove / format: LP / Kosovo – Traditional
With her debut album "Narta" she delivers a body of work that seamlessly dissolves the boundaries between ancient heritage and the present moment. Ten traditional Albanian folk songs from Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia serve as the foundation for this deeply personal exploration



Aram: Aram
MZP 21 / 5425015559254 / label: Muziekpublique / format: CD / Varoius – Persian
Aram is a trio on a quest for moments. They search for these moments through their shared love for mystical poetry, emotional melodies and subtle percussion. Connected by a deep musical friendship, they move between Persian Dastgâh and Turkish Makam, two melodic systems that share vocabulary and logic, as dialects of the same language. They improvise, compose new material and reinterpret classical compositions.



Michalis Kouloumis-Petros Kouloumis: The Music Of Cyprus 1. Dances
2GN 33 / 0745125354224 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Cyprus – Traditional
At a time when traditional dances (and folk culture more broadly) are threatened by folkloristic flattening, when a shared cultural good is turned into a consumer product, initiatives such as this heartfelt "offering" by the Kouloumis brothers are especially welcome. With knowledge and respect, they serve the dance as a living ritual, not merely as a staged re-enactment. Listen.



Mostafa Taleb & Milad Mohammadi: Mirrored (street date: December 11th, 2026)
2GN 52 / 0745125354415 / label: Seyir Muziek/ format: CD / Iran – Traditional
This project emerges as a space where music, poetry, and memory meet. Rooted in the Persian tradition, yet open to dialogue with other cultures, the music of these artists seeks to give voice to a poetic and spiritual heritage that has endured across centuries and continues to resonate in the present. Through improvisation, words, and silence, where different cultural worlds encounter one another through music. Listen.



Michalis Kouloumis & Tristan Driessens & Miriam Encinas & Christos Barbas & Serkan Mesud Halili: Music For Shephards & Sultans Vol. II (street date: December 18th, 2026)
2GN 37 / 0745125354262 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Various – Traditional
With Music for Shepherds & Sultans, Vol. II, we continue to explore the common spaces that bridge classical and traditional music from the Ottoman legacy. While our previous album mainly presented existing compositions, this one consists entirely of our own. Listen.



Nicola Nesta: Simurgh (street date: January 8th, 2027)
LBW 23 / 0885000756443 / label: Liburia Records / format: CD / Italy – Mediterranean
The oud, an emblematic instrument of Middle Eastern musical tradition. The quinterne, a medieval European string instrument with a clear, archaic timbre. Electronics, through granular synthesis, live looping, ambient drones and digital processing. The result is a musical landscape in which acoustic sounds and electronics



Timo Ylinen: Sateen Tuoksua
ECD 2026270 / 6429811798168 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Folk
ELP 202688 / 6429811798151 / label: Eclipse Music / format: LP / Finland – Folk
Sateen tuoksua is a wide-ranging album whose stylistic diversity reflects the diverse group of contributors. It is a collection of songs that is as honest and direct as it gets, presented exactly as intended. Its quite a long way from the groovy hints of prog rock to the folk-tinged sections and the more rough-and-tumble parts. Listen.



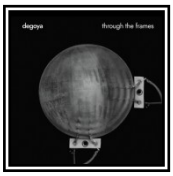
Chico Matada: Kuya Kaya
ECDB 2026265 / 6429811798069 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Mozambique – Popular
Chico Matada is a Mozambique-born drummer, composer, and bandleader whose music bridges African rhythmic traditions with modern jazz, cinematic textures, and improvisation. Now based in Finland, Matada draws deeply from the Ndokodo music of the Ndau people, shaping a distinctive compositional voice rooted in tradition yet open to contemporary expression.



Hypnoma: High And Just Proceedings
ECD 2026264 / 6429811798038 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Rock
ELP 202685 / 6429811798021 / label: Eclipse Music / format: LP / Finland – Rock
Operating at the intersection of progressive rock and alternative rock, Hypnoma draws inspiration from classic prog while forging a heavier and more contemporary sonic identity. Echoes of Pink Floyd's spacious atmospheres can be heard throughout the music. Listen.



Marco Ariano & Fabio Rambelli: Appeso A Niente (street date: January 8th, 2027)
LB 16 / 0885000922275 / label: Liburia Records / format: CD / Italy – Avantgarde
Instrumental timbres, metallic vibrations, electronic flows and vocal elements enter into a dynamic relationship shaped by attentive listening, sparse textures and sudden surges of density. Sound becomes a space to inhabit, traverse and continually redefine.



Degoya: Through The Frames (street date: January 8th, 2027)
LB 17 / 0885000994975 / label: Liburia Records / format: CD / Italy – Avangarde
At the heart of Through the Frames lies the tammorra, approached not merely as a musical instrument, but as a space for resonance and transformation. Through the use of contact microphones and transducers, its membrane becomes a sensitive surface, capable of receiving and transmitting a variety of sonic stimuli: the sound of the accordion, percussive impulses, analogue and digital feedback, and field recordings.



Oruma: I (Rzepka, Ruminski, Barski)
GRAMCD 2608 / 5050580881778 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Poland – Avantgarde
GRMLP 2609 / 5050580881785 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Poland – Avantgarde
Free improvisation, noise, experimental postrock and post-kraut repetition. Avoiding the conventional division between soloist and accompaniment. Instead, two electric guitars and drums gradually abandon their individual roles to form a single, constantly shifting sound organism.



Tony Miceli: In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida
SCCD 34012 / 0716043401222 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Joined by guitarist Elijah Cole, bassist Madison Rast and drummer Dan Monaghan - all fixtures of the Philly scene - Miceli leads the quartet featuring vibraphone-guitar pairing that gives luminous airy quality to the session. The title track, stripped to its harmonic essence, channels a vivid energy that reminds us of Miceli's earlier work reinventing rock for jazz audiences. Miceli offers a warm and deeply personal musical statement.



Yves Brouqui: Together
SCCD 34013 / 0716043401321 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / France – Jazz
Born in Marseille, raised in Grenoble, Yves Brouqui built his chops between Paris clubs and New York's Small's alongside Grant Stewart, Peter Bernstein, and Joe Magnarelli. His second SteepleChase date reunites him with Spike Wilner (p) and Paul Gill (b), now with Joe Strasser (ds). Standards and three Brouqui originals move with unhurried assurance. Warmth, clarity, and unforced swing..



Ron McClure: Some Kind Of Sing-Songy Stuff
SCCD 34014 / 0716043401420 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Some Kind Of Sing-Songy Stuff is something new. A dual-tenor summit a rare setting for McClure to lead here is pairing Rich Perry with the younger Anthony Ferrara. With Mike Eckroth (piano), Steve Johns (drums), and McClure's bass anchoring the session, the album features seven reimagined earlier compositions and three new pieces, including the title track inspired by Joe Zawinul and Weather Report.



Paul Bley & Niels Henning Orsted Pedersen: Remastered
G 1005 / 0716043100514 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / Denmark – Jazz
A document of two musicians meeting as equals. Bley had played with Art Blakey, Mingus, and Parker; led a quintet whose other members would form Ornette Coleman's first band, and spent pivotal years in the Jimmy Giuffre Trio. NHOP, the Danish bass phenomenon with his deep tone and rhythmic flexibility sought by visiting Americans from Bud Powell to Baker to Gordon.



Jukka Haavisto Loyly Syndicate: Juniper Path
ECD 2026268 / 6429811798144 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Jazz
Loyly Syndicate is an international ensemble led by bassist Jukka Haavisto that combines Finno-Ugric melodies, Nordic jazz atmospheres, and the energy of contemporary fusion. Haavisto's distinctive fretless electric bass, where melody and rhythm merge, forms the core of the group's sound. The band builds a rich, dynamic, and cinematic sonic landscape around it. Listen.



Jazz Preacher: Sacred Movements
ECD 2026269 / 6429811798120 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Jazz
ELP 202687 / 6429811798137 / label: Eclipse Music / format: LP / Finland – Jazz
Sacred Movements - Poems Spiritual & Political is a collaborative album by Finnish writer/journalist and "jazz preacher" Markku Salo (known as JazzPreacher) and prominent Finnish jazz musicians, including saxophonist Juhani Aaltonen and feat. Tapio Ylinen, Pepa Paivinen & Mikko Pettinen).



Aleksis Liukka Trio: Wicket Valley
ECD 2026271 / 6429811798175 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Jazz
An ensemble led by pianist Aleksis Liukko. Among Finlands leading contemporary musicians are bassist Mikael Saastamoinen and drummer Okko Saastamoinen, who bring a strong sense of ensemble playing and natural musical communication to the trio. The African-American musical tradition is evident, and their skilful approach to improvisation also creates energetic, Nordic and vividly colourful atmospheres. Listen.



The Blue Prospective: Prospective
C 1224 / 0633157380062 / label: Da Vinci Jazz / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Prospettive arises from the meeting of alto saxophone, vibraphone and marimba, an unusual scoring that redraws the coordinates of the jazz trio. The project interweaves works by Paolo Recchia, Jordan Corda and Andrea Mellace with pieces by Seamus Blake, Bobby Hutcherson, Mulgrew Miller, Joshua Redman and Horace Silver, moving between mainstream and contemporary jazz.



Enzo Lanzo & Louis Sclavis & Livio Bartolo: Perdu Dans Un Reve
C 1233 / 0633157380154 / label: Da Vinci Jazz / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Born of seven years of research, Perdu dans un rêve conceives the trio of drums and cymbals, bass clarinet and electric guitar as a sonic field released from habitual forms and temporal constraints. Its horizon is an informal, non-representational music nourished by interiority and attention to silence/ Schoenberg and Kandinsky inspire musical gesture freed from predetermined idiom. Listen.



Daniele Labelli & Alessandro Turchet: Joy Of A Petal
C 1239 / 0633157380222 / label: Da Vinci Jazz / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Ten compositions by Daniele Labelli, arranged with Alessandro Turchet, entrust the piano-double bass duo with a meditation on presence and time.The albums horizon extends from the mystery of Old Castle to the dawn of First Light, from the collective memory of Protins polyphony to tributes to Thelonious Monk, John Abercrombie, John Taylor and Chick Corea. Listen.



Weave4: La Gomma Di Dante
MPRCD 205 / 8052141492529 / label: Parco della Musica / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
"La Gomma di Dante" is weave4s second album, released on Parco Della Musica Records. Their music takes shape through the organic fusion of a multitude of sounds - acoustic, electronic and sampled/ on this second album, the bands identity emerges even more strongly through their passion for sonic detail and the pursuit of simplicity.



Rosario Giuliani: Brassing
MPRCD 206 / 8052141492574 / label: Parco della Musica / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Brassing is Rosario Giulianis new and captivating musical project, an original sonic experience that brings together exceptionally talented musicians in an intense, dynamic and energetic artistic dialogue.The repertoire consists of Giulianis original compositions, reinterpreted and enhanced by Mario Corvinis refined arrangements. Listen.



Paolo Damiani: Ostinato
MPRCD 207 / 8052141402581 / label: Parco della Musica / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
The ostinato is a recurring motif. A persistent motif, a trace that cannot be erased. In music, it is a short rhythmic or melodic phrase that repeats itself, often played by the bass, and which, through its constant reappearance, generates movement, deviations and possibilities.From this idea, a sonic edifice to be traversed, a landscape of fullness and emptiness, of open rooms and secret passages. Listen.



Four Winds: Big Butterfly Stories
AFMCD 341 / 8032050026152 / label: Alfa Music / format: CD / Various – Jazz
Four Winds, an international group with roots spanning China, South America, Italy and Germany. The name reflects this diversity: each of them brings in stories, traditions and musical influences that blend together to create a unique sound. The selected five tracks, guided purely by instinct and the emotions they evoked. No pretentiousness, no chasing trends: just honest music, shaped by the atmosphere of the moment. Listen.



Matteo Muntoni: Grounding Music
SARDCD 48 / 8052141492604 / label: Sard Music / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Grounding Music arises from the intersection of composition, improvided music and the psychotherapeutic practice of grounding. A sonic act that recalls attention to the present moment, re-establishing a steadfast connection with the body, the breath and the earth. Within this trio framework, music does not negate distress, but rather traveses it offering a sanctuary of listening, containment and stability. Listen.

Transglobal World Music Chart November 2026
Baba Zula: XXX (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 188 / GBLP 188
Mahsa & Markjan Vahdat: Heart's Endless Garden (Kirkelig Kulturverksted) FXCD 523
Meryem Koufi & Mehdi Haddab: Nuba Nova 2 (Buda Musique) BUDA 860409
Lamia Yared: Zalzalian Crossings (Seyir Muzik) 2GN 43
Constantinople & Kiya Tabassian & A Filetta: Clair-Obscure (Absilone) CONS 262
Hilal Kaya: Sumbul (CPL-Music) CPLCD 82 / CPLLP 82
Mehrnavaa: The Song Of The Phoenix (Zephyrus Records) ZEPLP 81

World Music Charts Europe November 2026
Mahsa & Markjan Vahdat: Heart's Endless Garden (Kirkelig Kulturverksted) FXCD 523
Tengerton: Ilch (Buda Musique) BUDA 860415
Kal: Cinema Caravan (CPL-Music) CPLCD 88
Gaoussou 'Sobra' Kouyate: Django Blues (One World Records) GSKONE 26
Various: Slovakia: Folk to Global (CPL-Music) CPLCD 89
Naamu feat. Aziz Ozouss: Tamazgha (One World Records) NAONE 26
Baba Zula: XXX (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 188 / GBLP 188
#Bamako Express: L'Ombre Du Croco (Trad Records) TRAD 46

For live music in the BeNeLux check out concerts!