

## New releases April-May 2026, A-B

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Records offered for review to Jazz Journal in March–April 2026, including Louise Alexandra, Callum Au, Kenny Barron, Chuck Bergeron and Bobby Sanabria // **Editor's pick:** Luke Bainbridge

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Luke Bainbridge. Photo by Ted Smith

### Aerts, Vivienne: *Current*

*They say:* In the summer of 2025, vocalist and composer Vivienne Aerts set sail across the Dutch waterways aboard her 1951 mahogany sailboat De Vouw. Over two weeks she transformed the tiny boat into a floating studio, recording new songs and soundscapes that blur the lines between jazz, improvisation, and environmental art. (Independent)

### Alexandra, Louise: *Crazy World of Love*

*They say:* Dutch–American jazz vocalist, songwriter and scientist Louise Alexandra releases her third album *Crazy World of Love* (March 27). A disciple of the late Rebecca Parris, recording with an ensemble of Dutch jazz masters Rob van Bavel (piano/arrangements), Frans van Geest (bass), Vincent Koning (guitar), Marcel Serierse (drums), Jan Menu (tenor/baritone sax), and special guest Benny Benack III (flugelhorn/vocals). 13 tracks blending originals, reimagined standards and vocaleses to solos by Rebecca Parris, Stan Getz, John Proulx. A lyrical, fresh jazz voice with an original take on the tradition. (Louise Alexandra Music) [Hear Louise Alexandra](#).

### Alexis Martin Ensemble: *Les pôles Volume 1*

*They say:* Montreal drummer, composer, and producer Alexis Martin—widely known in Quebec for his film and television scoring—steps forward as a bandleader with *Les pôles Volume 1*. Blending contemporary jazz with cinematic sensibility, the album features an all-star Quebec ensemble and explores themes of transformation, memory, and emotional connection. With richly textured compositions and immersive sonic landscapes, *Les pôles Volume 1* offers a deeply personal and evocative listening experience. (Les Productions Alexis Martin Inc.)

### Amsterdam Klezmer Band: *Diaspora*

*They say:* For nearly three decades, the Amsterdam Klezmer Band has been reinventing klezmer music from its very core, blending tradition with fresh, playful energy. With their latest album, *Diaspora*, the band returns to its acoustic roots while subtly reshaping them, capturing the music in its most immediate and joyous form, with a newly prominent role for drummer Mischa Porte. (Asphalt Tango Records)

### Andrew, Chris: *Awakening*

*They say:* Award-winning Western Canadian pianist and composer Chris Andrew is a leading voice in Canadian jazz. He is recognized for his inimitable expressive artistry and versatility across the jazz spectrum and has performed with artists including Donny McCaslin, Ralph Bowen, Sonny Fortune, Joshua Redman and Paquito D'Rivera. With a deep ensemble catalogue

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down, Billy Eckstine, John Coltrane and Duke Ellington. With a deep creative catalogue, his first solo album, "Awakening," reveals a lyrical, deeply expressive style, blending jazz traditions with spiritual clarity in a powerful, intimate statement of artistic evolution. (Chronograph Records – CR-121) [Hear Chris Andrew.](#)

### **Arbenz, Florian feat. Bill Frisell, Greg Osby: Quiet Lights**

*They say:* Swiss drummer and percussionist Florian Arbenz returns with one of the most significant collaborations of his career – a new trio recording featuring jazz legends Greg Osby and Bill Frisell. Tracked entirely live in just four hours, the album captures three master improvisers meeting in a spirit of openness, trust, and instant creative chemistry. For Arbenz, who has long admired both musicians, the project represents "a dream coming true." (Hammer Recordings)

### **Ashby, Dorothy: Plays For Beautiful People**

*They say:* Considered the most accomplished modern jazz harpist, Dorothy Ashby (1932-1986) established the harp as an improvising jazz instrument, beyond earlier use as a novelty or background orchestral instrument. She proved the harp could play bebop as adeptly as the instruments commonly associated with jazz. Presented here is one of her best albums, 'Dorothy Ashby Plays for Beautiful People' (Prestige PR7639 – also issued as 'In a Minor Groove'), a quartet session featuring venerable players Frank Wess, Herman Wright, and Roy Haynes. (Waxtime 772382 – LP)

### **Au, Callum: Sing Seven Seas**

*They say:* Sing Seven Seas marks a new chapter for trombonist and composer Callum Au, the internationally acclaimed arranger behind artists including Michael Bublé, RAYE and Josh Groban. Featuring original compositions for an expanded ensemble, the album mixes swing, contemporary jazz and orchestral colour. Performed by a leading cast of British musicians, its wide-ranging programme moves from social commentary to vivid imagery and jazz heritage, with personal touches throughout, establishing Au as a distinctive compositional voice. (Chairman Music – CABBLP001/CABBCD002/CABBDIG003)

### **Bacelar, Ricardo: Maracanós**

*They say:* The album 'Maracanós' arrives on platforms on April 24, 2026, and features a special appearance by singer Flora Purim. Excitement has been building for this original project that unites legendary composer and percussionist Aíto Moreira with the vibrant pianist, composer, and producer Ricardo Bacelar. Largely instrumental, this inspired work will make its global debut the same day in Brazil, the United States, Portugal, France, Germany, China, and Japan, via the Jasmin Music label. (Jasmin Music) [Hear Ricardo Bacelar.](#)

### **Bainbridge, Luke: Petstep**

*They say:* Luke Bainbridge's second album Petstep weaves avant chamber jazz and improvisation into a palindromic, emotionally charged cycle shaped by grief and growth. Featuring Kieran McLeod, Ralph Wyld, Huw V Williams and Bainbridge, it blends experimental composition, hip-hop energy and contemporary interplay. Sparked by personal loss and transition into adulthood, the record moves from manic intensity to reflective lyricism, marking a bold, inventive coming of age for all involved musicians. (Crossing Styx Records CSX001 )

### **Baker, Chet: Sings (10" Blue Vinyl)**

*They say:* The original 10" Chet Baker Sings is pure West Coast cool, intimate and effortlessly lyrical. Chet's fragile, melancholic voice blends beautifully with his trumpet, creating a deeply personal mood. A jazz vocal classic that defined a generation of cool jazz romance. The original 10-inch Chet Baker Sings captures Chet Baker's lyrical voice with pure intimacy and cool elegance. An essential collector's piece where West Coast jazz meets timeless romance. Includes two bonus tracks. (Waxtime 10" 213013 – LP)

### **Barcelona Art Orchestra with Miguel Zenón: Expressions**

*They say:* The Barcelona Art Orchestra joins forces with acclaimed alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón for Expressions – Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra, a large-scale work exploring the many dimensions of human expression through the dialogue between soloist and ensemble. The work is structured in four movements, each composed by one of the orchestra's artistic directors, forming a collective work that embodies the ensemble's collaborative identity. (Miel Music)

### **Barron, Kenny, Ray Drummond and Ben Riley: So Many Lovely Things, Live in Brecon**

*They say:* An interactive, inexorably swinging document of "real jazz" by Kenny Barron's superb go-to 1990s trio with bass titan Ray Drummond and drummer Ben Riley. Captured live at the Brecon Jazz Festival in Wales in 1995, the never-before-released double album will appear as a limited-edition 2-LP set. The package includes extensive liner notes and detailed tune annotations by noted jazz journalist/historian Ted Panken. (Elemental)

### **Reasley, John: Invisible Piano**

## Beasley, John: Invisible Piano

*They say:* Two-time Grammy Award-winning arranger John Beasley releases a new album recorded on the innovative Steinway Spirio piano. Invisible Piano is a bold, behind-the-scenes journey into the creative mind of Beasley. Commissioned by the SWR Big Band, Beasley was given a rare invitation: begin at the piano, improvise without boundaries, and transform those raw sparks into sweeping, orchestrated works. (o-tone music OT 079-2) [Hear John Beasley.](#)

## Bennett, Daniel: The Deconstructed Songbook

*They say:* New York saxophonist Daniel Bennett has been hailed as one of the most original and unpredictable musical voices of his generation. Daniel Bennett was voted 'Best New Jazz' in the NYC Hot House Awards. The Daniel Bennett Group celebrates the release of their 11th album, 'The Deconstructed Songbook' (Manhattan Daylight Media). The album features songs by Joni Mitchell, Harold Arlen, Lennon and McCartney, Horace Silver, Daniel Bennett, Wes Montgomery, and Sam Rivers. (Manhattan Daylight Media) [Hear Daniel Bennett.](#)

## Berg, Espen: Entropies

*They say:* Espen Berg Trio continue to challenge and renew the piano trio format through their distinctive combination of complex rhythmic language. Entropies revolves around the tension between order and dissolution – the planned and the immediate. Berg has written a set of explosive, highly memorable melodies, but also pushes further with spontaneously composed pieces and polymetric structures that place both the trio and the listener right on the edge of their seats. (Svale SVALECD5001)

## Bergeron, Chuck: Bass and Face

*They say:* Bassist Chuck Bergeron presents a joyful album of intimate bass and voice duets with ten world-class vocalists: Janis Siegel, Sheila Jordan, Kevin Mahogany, Pete McGuinness, Roseanna Vitro, George Rabbai, Deborah Silver, Lisanne Lyons, Kate Reid and Nicole Yarling. (Summit Records)

## Bernstein, Steven: ResoNation Trio & Ultra Resonance

*They say:* On this double album, trumpeter Steven Bernstein pairs the debut of his new acoustic trio ResoNation Trio featuring him on valve trumpet and flugelhorn and master improvisers Scott Colley (bass) and Nasheet Waits (drums), with Ultra Resonance which sees producer Scotty Hard reimagining that material into something entirely new. (Royal Potato Family)

## Big Space: The Pendulum Effect

*They say:* Canadian instrumental trio Big Space return with The Pendulum Effect, a second album expanding the jazz/rock hybrid sound of their debut. Moving between progressive jazz fusion, lyrical ballads and immersive soundscapes, the music bridges modern jazz and instrumental rock. Recorded live without overdubs, it captures the interplay of guitarist Grant King, bassist Ian Murphy and drummer Ashley Chalmers, balancing intricate compositions with collective improvisation. Mixed by Brett Bullion (The Bad Plus) and mastered by Nate Wood (Kneebody). (Independent) [Hear Big Space.](#)

## Blankrooms: Look At Something Closely

*They say:* Blankrooms is a collective project that develops the compositions of Ivan Valentini and Andrea Cappi, whose writing is deeply rooted in the landscape of modern and contemporary jazz. Non-functional harmonies blend with modal influences, while structural asymmetries coexist with melodic flow on one side and driving grooves on the other. (jazz/halo TS036) [Hear Blankrooms.](#)

## Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band: Arsenio and Beyond Live At The Bronx Music Hall

*They say:* Bobby Sanabria's musical lineage reaches back to every major figure in the history of Latin Jazz. (Jazzheads, JH1272)

## Bowden, David: Unsong Songs

*They say:* Best known as the bassist with pianist Fergus McCreadie's trio, David Bowden is an award-winner in his own right (Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year 2017) and having led his own world-jazz band, Mezcla, has now recorded a solo bass album that, as the title suggests, is song-based and combines melodic phrasing, chordal accompaniment and groove playing – all through the one instrument. (David Bowden Music, DBM001US)

## Braun, Rick: Plays Chuck Mangione

*They say:* On Rick Braun Plays Chuck Mangione, the collection offers a fresh, joyous revisit of iconic melodies, featuring an extraordinary roster of collaborators including original Mangione guitarist Grant Geissman, saxophonists Richard Elliot and Tom Scott, keyboardist Philippe Saisse, and flutist Steve Kujala. From the soaring orchestration of 'Land of Make Believe' to an amped-up 'Feels So Good', Braun balances technical mastery with reverence. (A-Train BRN10052 – CD) [Hear Rick Braun.](#)

### Brubeck, Dave: Dave Digs Disney

*They say:* The original album Brubeck Digs Disney features the classic Dave Brubeck Quartet with Paul Desmond, Norman Bates, and Joe Morello performing a set of songs from Walt Disney movies. This special edition includes two songs from the same sessions not included on the original LP. This was Norman Bates' last album as the bassist with the quartet before his replacement Eugene Wright took on the role. (20th Century Masterworks 350300 – LP)

### Brunello, Rosa: We Are Surging Waters

*They say:* Bassist and composer Rosa Brunello announces her new album We Are Surging Waters. Channeling the force of collective movements into nine improvised tracks – featuring Yazz Ahmed, Tamar Osborn & Maurice Louca (Domanda Music)

### Bruzzese, Michael: Another Space

*They say:* Guitarist Mike Bruzzese returns with Another Space, a deeply collaborative and expressive new album out April 17, 2026 on Bent River Records. Featuring tenor saxophonist Ben Solomon, bassist Mike De Masi, drummer Adam Arruda, and vocalist Laura Anglade, the album explores imagination, connection, and collective improvisation. Blending lyrical compositions with adventurous interplay, Another Space captures a dynamic ensemble sound, offering an intimate yet expansive listening experience rooted in trust, creativity, and shared musical vision. (Bent River Records)

### Buchanan, Jakob: Mols – The Mols booklet of Melodies

*They say:* Mols inspired Tolkien to The Lord of the Rings and also the Danish award-winning composer Jakob Buchanan to a new masterpiece. On his new double vinyl album, Jakob Buchanan masterfully blends the ultra-local folk music and the unique character of the landscape, with some of the world's leading names in modern jazz, and one of Denmark's many great string quartets, Artos Quartet. (Our Recordings 9.70859) [Hear Jakob Buchanan.](#)

### Buena Vista All Stars: Una Noche En La Habana

*They say:* Buena Vista All Stars, led by former Tropicana Havana musical director Demetrio Muñiz and featuring original Buena Vista Social Club member Barbarito Torres (laúd) and trumpeter Manuel Machado (Irakere), present a repertoire rooted in Cuban son, bolero and Afro-Cuban traditions. The album blends studio recordings with live performances from international tours, highlighting ensemble interplay and dynamic arrangements. Instrumentation includes vocals, trumpet, piano, bass, percussion and traditional Cuban strings, balancing rhythmic precision with expressive solo passages. (Gianni Music Group: 192305)

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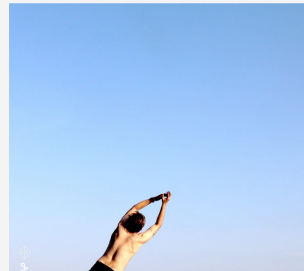


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