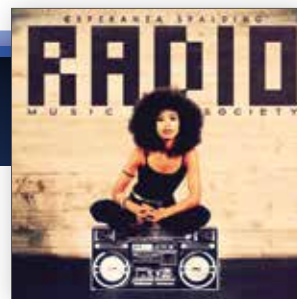


77TH ANNUAL READERS POLL

JAZZ ALBUM OF THE YEAR



1 **Esperanza Spalding, *Radio Music Society*** (HEADS UP/CONCORD)

1,104

With her hook-filled *Radio Music Society*, the bassist-singer-composer-producer-arranger has delivered a landmark album that illustrates the maturity and scope of her artistic vision.

2 **Ahmad Jamal, *Blue Moon*** (JAZZ VILLAGE) 708



With selections pulled from movies, the stage and early bebop, as well as Jamal's own compositions, the pianist moves through attractive scenic contrasts on roads paved with clear intentions and a sense of direction.

3 **Tony Bennett, *Duets II*** (COLUMBIA) 705



While the first *Duets* CD stayed mostly inside the Bennett songbook of hits, the sequel ventures into wider territory

with his partners hailing from far corners of the musical world. Lady Gaga and the late Amy Winehouse hold their own with the master.

4 **Vijay Iyer Trio, *Accelerando*** (ACT) 696



A terrific piano trio album that crosses multiple genres, *Accelerando* may help listeners understand Iyer's scholarly, theoretical work on temporality in improvised music. Five original compositions are the glue that holds this eclectic and rewarding program together.

5 **Keith Jarrett, *Rio*** (ECM) 663



Recorded in Rio de Janeiro in April 2011, this album's 15 succinct, improvised cuts document an extraordinary solo piano experience. DownBeat's Paul de Barros describes the proceedings on this double-disc set as "astonishingly beautiful."

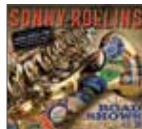
6 **Brad Mehldau Trio, *Ode*** (NONESUCH) 624



Bringing his trio into the studio for the first time in several years, Mehldau relies on the

power of his pen and his bandmates' collective articulation to break an existing formula and explore exciting new territory.

7 **Sonny Rollins, *Road Shows, Vol. 2*** (DOXY/EMARCY) 606



In these live recordings taken from a September 2010 80th birthday concert at New York's Beacon

Theatre, and two shows in Japan the following month, the tenor saxophone hero trades brilliant ideas with some very special guests, including the enigmatic Ornette Coleman.

8 **Arturo Sandoval, *Dear Diz (Every Day I Think Of You)*** (CONCORD) 513



Sandoval's grand gesture of remembrance for his mentor was planned with care and peppered with

cameos. A crack big band puts Gillespie's staples and rarities to the test in bright new charts, and the Morrison String Quartet brings a plaintive chamber vibe to two tracks.

9 **Corea, Clarke & White, *Forever*** (CONCORD) 507



Keyboardist Chick Corea, bassist Stanley Clarke and drummer Lenny White—the core of '70s

electric-jazz supergroup Return To Forever—deliver crystal-clear, hard-swinging jamming on this two-disc, Grammy-winning set.

10 **Trombone Shorty, *For True*** (VERVE FORECAST) 492



For True is a high-octane, kick-ass dance party of a record. From the opening groove of the

first track, Shorty and his band, Orleans Avenue, grab you by the collar and dare you not to dance.

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|----|--|-----|----|--|-----|
| 11 | Chick Corea/Eddie Gomez/Paul Motian, <i>Further Explorations</i> (CONCORD) | 420 | 22 | Wadada Leo Smith, <i>Ten Freedom Summers</i> (CUNEIFORM) | 237 |
| 12 | Bill Frisell, <i>All We Are Saying...</i> (SAVOY JAZZ) | 390 | 23 | Billy Hart, <i>All Our Reasons</i> (ECM) | 213 |
| 13 | Kenny Garrett, <i>Seeds From The Underground</i> (MACK AVENUE) | 363 | 24 | Jack DeJohnette, <i>Sound Travels</i> (EONE) | 210 |
| 14 | Branford Marsalis & Joey Calderazzo, <i>Songs Of Mirth And Melancholy</i> (MARSALIS MUSIC) | 360 | 25 | Alex Sipiagin, <i>Destinations Unknown</i> (CRISS CROSS JAZZ) | 210 |
| 15 | John Scofield, <i>A Moment's Peace</i> (EMARCY) | 285 | 26 | Paul McCartney, <i>Kisses On The Bottom</i> (HEAR MUSIC/CONCORD) | 207 |
| 16 | Toots Thielemans, <i>Yesterday & Today</i> (T2) | 273 | 27 | Charlie Haden/Hank Jones, <i>Come Sunday</i> (DECCA/EMARCY) | 204 |
| 17 | Miguel Zenón, <i>Alma Adentro: The Puerto Rican Songbook</i> (MARSALIS MUSIC) | 264 | 28 | Paul Motian, <i>The Windmills Of Your Mind</i> (WINTER & WINTER) | 189 |
| 18 | Christian McBride, <i>Conversations With Christian</i> (MACK AVENUE) | 261 | 29 | Brian Lynch, <i>Unsung Heroes: A Tribute To Some Underappreciated Trumpet Masters</i> (HOLISTIC) | 186 |
| 19 | Chick Corea, <i>The Continents</i> (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON) | 252 | 30 | The Claudia Quintet +1, <i>What Is The Beautiful?</i> (CUNEIFORM) | 183 |
| 20 | Terri Lyne Carrington, <i>The Mosaic Project</i> (CONCORD) | 246 | 31 | Charles Lloyd/Maria Farantouri, <i>Athens Concert</i> (ECM) | 180 |
| 21 | Tom Harrell, <i>The Time Of The Sun</i> (HIGHNOTE) | 246 | 32 | Rudresh Mahanthappa, <i>Samdhi</i> (ACT) | 171 |
| | | | 33 | Gilad Hekselman, <i>Hearts Wide Open</i> (CHANT DU MONDE) | 156 |
| | | | 34 | Chick Corea/Stefano Bollani, <i>Orvieto</i> (ECM) | 150 |