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C. Michael Bailey's Top 10 Best Releases of 2009

Published: January 6, 2010

By C. Michael Bailey

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Ten of them. Here they are:



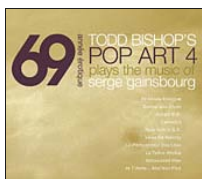
Martial Solal
*Live at the Village Vanguard: I Can't Give You
Anything But Love*
Cam Jazz

Martial Solal is a nuclear physicist of the piano. He tinkers with the subatomic structure of compositions, moving elements around, pulling them apart, and smashing them together in ways that both surprise and delight...continue.



Enrico Pieranunzi
Enrico Pieranunzi Plays Domenico Scarlatti
Cam Jazz

Italian jazz pianist Enrico Pieranunzi uses a very liberal interpretation of the allegro notation when interpreting the tempi of several of the sonatas on *Enrico Pieranunzi Plays Domenico Scarlatti*....continue.



Todd Bishop's Pop Art 4
69 Annee Erotique
Origin Records

Context can be everything or nothing. Listening to *69 Annee Erotique* with no background will spark recognition of well-preserved lounge music of the 1960s/'70s, performed with modern sonics imitating those of the period...continue.



Theo Bleckmann
Charles Ives: Twelve Songs
Winter & Winter

There is no yellowing snapshot of old music on Theo Bleckmann's *Twelve Songs by Charles Ives*. Performed with the West Coast ensemble Kneebody, Bleckmann capably rearranges Ives in such a way to provide a proper introduction to this American composing hero...continue.



Andras Schiff
Johann Sebastian Bach: Six Partitas
ECM Records

Hungarian pianist Andras Schiff recently completed his live survey of Beethoven Piano Sonatas to a great critical reception. But before Schiff addressed Beethoven there was Bach, and Schiff surveyed Baroque music's reformer for Decca in the 1980s....continue.

Steve Kuhn Trio with Joe Lovano
Mostly Coltrane
ECM Records

Although he's spent most of his career focusing on interpreting the music of others, pianist Steve Kuhn's albums for the ECM label have largely been about his small but significant repertoire of original music.continue.

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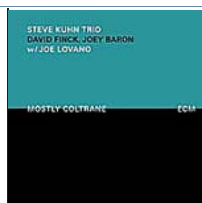
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Carla Bley 
Carla's Christmas Carols
Watt / ECM Records

Carla's Christmas Carols? For many, the idea of their favorite jazz artist releasing an album of seasonal songs usually smells of crass commercialism or pure pandering, but leave it to pianist/composer/arranger Carla Bley to ...continue.



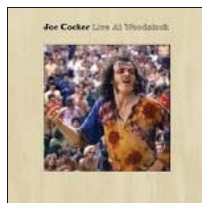
Theo Bleckmann
Schumann's Favored Bar Songs
Winter & Winter

Schumann's Bar am Hofgarten is located at Odeonsplatz 6+7 80539 Munich, Germany. It derives its name from founder and bartender, Charles Schumann, who originally ran a similar bar in New York City.....continue.



Polkastra
Apokalypse Now
Ancalagon

The 2010 Grammy ceremonies will have one less award to give out with the decision to drop the Polka category from the official Best Album listing, the stated reason being that the awards need to remain "pertinent within the current musical landscape" ...continue.



Joe Cocker
Live At Woodstock
A&M Records

Great Britain taught America to be proud of her musical heritage by importing it, transforming it, and sending it back to her...continue.

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