

Xango Music celebrating 25 years distributing local music from all over the world

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NEW RELEASES NO. 1 – 2023

Mze Shina: Elesa

BUDA 860378 / 3341348603780 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / Greorgia - Traditional

'Elesa' is a "Chimera", a hybrid creature which alloys the timbre of percussion instruments with the vocal harmonies of the Republic of Georgia. Steeped in the musical roots of this ancient and continuing tradition, proclaimed a Masterpiece of Intangible Human Heritage by UNESCO at the dawning of the 21st century, Elesa is composed of multiple worlds, from Georgian culture, the influences of the members of Mze Shina, to their collective inspiration. Elesa invents a music both recognizable and novel. A music of voices, hands, goatskin, wood, which together invite one to fall into the sound, by cadences, to dance, by repetitive phrases, to abandon one's mind to trance. Listen to a track.

Try Paradise: Try Paradise (out on February 10th, 2023)

BUDA 860377 / 3341348603773 / label: Buda Musque / format: CD / India - Fusion

Try Paradise is a trip to an imaginary India, where the Kashmir santoor expresses itself with sweetness and power through universal melodies with oriental fragrances. A unique musical marriage, combining Indian and Caribbean sounds with the steeldrum. Fretless bass and dohola bring a particular color and energy. This set serves Tamil Nadu Umadevi Nageswara Rao's sumptuous voice. From Kashmir to Trinidad via South India and the Bosporus, Try Paradise is a poetic icebreaker. Teaser.

Asnake Gebreyes:Ethiopia Wedet Neshe

CIE 4005 / 3760347742878 / label: Compagnie 4000 / format: LP / Ethiopia - Popular

Asnake Gebreyes has mastered the traditional songs and percussion of his country as much as the codes of the ethiojazz born in the 1960s or of contemporary Ethiopian creation, nourished by fundamental external influences. It is the sum of these reasons, enhanced by the stage charisma of this formidable performer, that has earned him international recognition. He participated in the famous Ethiopiques series on the Buda Musique label, under the direction of Francis Falceto, as well as in a world tour with the group The Ex for their 25th anniversary... And in 2010 he became the vocal and spiritual incarnation of the ethiopian crunch of Ukandanz, a project led from France by Damien Cluzel. Listen to a track.

Luis Et Les Rumberos Catalans: Luis Et Les Rumberos Catalans

KARU 2 / 3760288802228 / label: Karu Productions / format: 10" / France-Catalunya – Rumba Luis is an emblematic figure of rumba in Perpignan. He was one of the first artists to transgress the

established order in the early 1970s. At that time, on the benches of public squares, Cassanyes or Puig, in cafes, the gypsy artists of Perpignan engaged in real jousting voice. Flamenco singing was the noblest and most prized of all. Meanwhile, in southern Catalonya, another music was moving a whole generation. Luis enjoyed partying with his friends from Barcelona, Chacho, Peret or Los Amaya. As soon as he could, he took his nephews Joseph and Bruno with him to participate in these memorable celebrations. They couldn't come back without the latest single released. This one then turned in loop on the turntable of the bar of the place of Puig until the microgrooves are not readable any more. The rumba had made its debut in Perpignan and a new generation of artists was born: Les Rumberos Catalans. Teaser.

Agota: Kur Giria Uzejo

DNG 84 / 4770319525841 / label: Dangus / format: CD / Lithuania - Folk

Motifs, texts and mythic incantations come from Eugenija Simkunaite's books "Girios medeliai, zali zaliuoneliai" (Trees of the Forest, the Green Ones), "Indraja - Saules dukte" ("Indraja, the Daughter of the Sun), and "Gyvaciu karalyste" (The Kingdom of Snakes). Agota have followed Eugenija Simkunaite's paths in the moss of forests with tender attention - she composed original compositions with her voice and beloved traditional Lituanian string instrument - kankles (zither). The album is published in a very original and artful form, each copy of the CD has a personal touch of Agota's hands, each is different and carries a blessing piece of Nature. Go forward to the forest for new magic discoveries!







LUTS



Sen Svaja: Eisim Seses

DNG 81 / 4770319525810 / label: Dangus / format: CD / Lithuania – Folk

This album is the third phase of Sen Svaja's life, which has taken them across horizons of endurance, worry, radiance and joy. In this song cycle, they weave together sutartines motifs with the poetry of Vladas Braziunas, and they combine folk songs with the recitation of folk tales. With this work, they grasp the very point of transition, when the previous state or the old phase is not yet complete and the new form is just being born. At this point of transformation they encounter fear as a guardian or threshold. To step into their new selves, they must also step over this threshold. Come on, sisters! Let's go!

Various Artists: Dangus Postfolk Alternative

DNG 90 / 4770319525902 / label: Dangus / format: 2CD / Lithuania - Folk

Dangus, the longest running independent music label in Lithuania (started in 1993), promoting a modern living outlook of the ethnic heritage. The company publishes original native Baltic works, mostly post-folk, authentic folklore, rock, electronic, experimental and other subcultural Batilc music, with a strong focus on the quality and design of the product. This compilation presents some distinctive music created on the fringes of the Baltic scenes during the dark times of the pandemic and war. The tracks are selected from Dangus released CDs and LPs during 2021-2023 to reveal the variety and magic of alter-native vibes, hidden between West and East.

James Ray: I've Got My Mind Set On You

SHELL 23 / 8435307614513 / label: Shellac / format: LP / USA – Popular James Ray (born James Jay Raymond, 1941 – c. May 1963) was an American R&B singer of the early 1960s best known for the hit single "If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody", which went to number 10 on the US Billboard R&B chart and number 22 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1962. Using the name James Ray, his first recording was of Clark's song, "If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody", arranged by Hutch Davie. The record was a hit on both the pop and R&B charts. The single was issued in the UK in 1962 as well, and the song was performed by the Beatles before being discovered by Freddie and the Dreamers, who took it into the top 5 of the UK Singles Chart the year after. In the United States, Ray's single was followed in July 1962 by an eponymous album that contained the follow-up single "Itty Bitty Pieces", which reached No. 41 on the Billboard pop chart, as well as "Got My Mind Set on You", also written by Clark. An edited version was released later in the year as a single on the Dynamic Sound label. Listen.

Marisol: Internacional

SHELL 22 / 8435307614834 / label: Shellac / format: LP / Spain - Popular

Acting and singing prodigy child Marisol is one of the greatest stars in Spain ever. She was incredibly big in her country, and her popularity soon reached other lands, some as far away as Japan where she issued some records and even recorded one of her hits in Japanese. Germany was another country that saw a market for a German-sung 45, as was Italy with a couple of rare Italian-sung tunes released. Marisol also sang in English, and even Chinese-as you will hear on the songs compiled on this LP, which features some of her non-Spanish sung sides alonside with very rare performances from TV appearances on vinyl for the first time ever! The selection is completed by tunes based on rhythms from the world and a couple of other favourites from her more classic repertoire. Listen to a track.

Enric Montefusco: Viaje Al Centro De Un Idiota

SATKCD 371 / 8435307615022 / label: Satelite K / format: 2CD / Spain – Popular SATKLP 371 / 8435307615039 / label: Satelite K / format: 2LP / Spain – Popular

Viaje al centro de un idiota (Journey to the centre of an idiot) is a journey to the centre of identity. Or, rather, to the loss of this identity, of reason and morality. Enric Montefusco is a master at experimenting with the lines and details that separate the musical art from the scenic. For this occasion, accompanied by all kinds of symbolism and images by Xavi Bobés, an expert in evoking meaning from objects. A production that will let us fall into the abyss of the loss of identity with a poetic and intimate proposal. A path that will involve the exploration of new musical registers, epiphanies, catharsis, provocative texts and gestures. A staging by Montefusco in which he imbues his particular vision of the world and of life, this time, very much marked by the pandemic and the resulting social crisis. Listen.

Navet (The Pinker Tones): Tot El Que No Se De Nosaltres KM 22005 / 8435307614995 / label: Kasba / format: CD / Spain – Popular KMV 60904 / 8435307615008 / label: Kasba / format: LP / Spain – Popular

Navet arises from Pinkerland; the studio-laboratory where Christian Rey; Salva Rey and Alex Llovet (The Pinker Tones) have been working for years; doing research; playing and enjoying. But Alex Llovet has decided to disappear from the stage and for this reason this new project will be led on stage by Salva and Christian; although always counting on Alex's lyrical and visual support; which happens to be the hole card; the ace up the sleeve; taking care of the letters; photography and some rrangements. Musically speaking; the project drinks from classic and contemporary references, mixing the more acoustic side of artists such as Iron & Wine; Simon & Garfunkel or Sufjan Stevens; with analog synthesis textures like Air; Massive Attack or Pink Floyd; and a harmonious aroma reminiscent of some classics from the seventies such as Eagles or Supertramp. Listen to a track.











Aiala & El Tornado: Demons KM 22007 / 8435307615169 / label: Kasba / format: CD / Spain – Popular KMV 140983 / 8435307615176 / label: kasba / format: LP / Spain – Popular

Just over two years ago; in full confinement; the singer Aiala joined Elfornado (MC Marco Fonktana's alter ego when he is dedicated to production work) and they published a couple of singles with the aim of flirting with styles that were close to both of them but in which there were none, yet, deepened. On the one hand, she was approaching more urban and current terrain, moving away from the concept of "group" and on the other hand, he was focused on the production of bases that would not be sung by himself. At the beginning of 2022, the duo announced the continuity of their professional relationship while making public their aim of shaping a first joint album. Listen.

Henriette Flach: Skyklokke

GO 1622 / 5705934004821 / label: Go'Danish / format: CD / Denmark - Folk

The multi-instrumentalist and composer Henriette Flach release her first album under her own name. Henriette Flach is a highly recognized musician on the Nordic folk music scene. As a violinist, nyckelharpist and harding fiddle player, she performs around the Nordics with projects such as Tailcoat, Penny Pascal and Mynsterland. In 2016 and 2019 she won the Danish Music Award Folk prize Talent of the Year (as Mynsterland and Henriette Flach). Here the jury complimented i.a. Flach's musical inventiveness, clear vision and her compositions.

Ensemble Gamut!: Re

NÅMEN

ECD 2022178 / 1969256580270 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Early Music

Ensemble Gamut! is a fresh, experimental collective of early music and folk music specialists, who are constantly searching for new ways to perform early music. Extensive experience of medieval, renaissance and baroque music, Finnish folk music and improvisation as well as strong curiosity for new soundscapes create a unique combination of colors. Aino Peltomaa is a Finnish singer and musician, performing widely with medieval, renaissance, and contemporary music. Ilkka Heinonen is a Helsinki based musician and a composer playing jouhikko (finnish bowed lyre), double bass and G-violone. Juho Myllyla is a recorder player, guitarist, singer and songwriter. Harpsichordist Marianna Henriksson graduated from Sibelius Academy, Helsinki and Universitat der Kunste, Berlin. Listen.

Namen: Namen ECD 2021156 / 1971870591952 / label: Eclipse Music / format: CD / Finland – Jazz-Folk

Accordion – Olli Kari; Bass – Esko Grundstrom; Drums – Jesse Ojajarvi; Violin, Piano, Composed By – Teemu Eerola; Woodwind [Wind Instruments] – Pekka Seppanen

Antonio Rosado: Goyescas – E. Granados

NEXT 32022 / 0729208107204 / label: Next / format: CD / Portugal - Classical

Pianist Antonio Rosado's new album, "Goyescas", is entirely dedicated to Spanish composer Enrico Granados (1867-1916). The album includes the suite "Goyesca", which Granados composed in 1911 after viewing the canvases of the same name by Francisco Goya (1746-1828). Two of the pieces Rosado plays derive their titles from one of Goya's canvases, "El Amor y la Murete", from his "Caprichos" series, and another, "El Pelele", from a map by Goya for tapestry. Pianist António Rosado made his concert debut in 1980 with the National Orchestra of Toulouse (France). His piano repertoire includes works by composers as diverse as George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, the also Spanish Albéniz, Liszt, as well as Mozart and Beethoven, two composers whose sonatas he has performed all of.

PoiL Ueda: PoiL Ueda (out on March 3rd, 2023)

DDCD 54 / 3521383469972 / label: Dur et Doux / format: CD / France-Japan – Fusion DDLP 54 / 3521381569988 / label: Dur et Doux / format: LP / France-Japan – Fusion

PoiL Ueda is the result of a collaboration between Junko Ueda, a vocalist and satsuma-biwa player from Japana, and PoiL, a French rock/contemporary music band. The creation is based on the 13th-century Japanese epic tale "Heike-Monogatari". The composition is based on traditional epic singing accompanied by the satsuma-biwa and Buddhist Shomyo chant. Fusing an ancient Japanese traditional music with a state-of-the-art European musical formation, this project offers the opportunity to discover a unique musical universe. An innovative album where PoiL's uninhibited experimental rock blends with the soft and undulating voice, compelling storytelling and remarkable charisma of Junko Ueda. PoiL Ueda crosses the boundaries of rock and world music. Through the magic and respect of the "Ma" the two universes merge in perfect osmosis. Listen.

Refree: El Espacio Entre (out on January 20th, 2023) GBCD 132 / 4030433613221/ label: tak:til / format: CD / Spain – Avantgarde GBLP 132 / 4030433613214 / label: tak:til / format: LP / Spain – Avantgarde

Acclaimed producer (Rosalia, Lina_Raul Refree) and in-demand collaborator (Lee Ranaldo, Richard Youngs) Raul Refree returns with his second solo album for tak:til/Glitterbeat. A kaleidoscopic but seamless mashup of soundtrack music, post-classical meditations, Iberian traditional elements and experimental strategies. Deeply immersive. It seems to lead a liminal existence. It belongs as much to the realms of post-classical meditations and soundtracks as to ancient Iberian traditions and experimental music. The title, Spanish for The Space Between, alludes to its spatial, temporal and conceptual inbetweenness. It is a kaleidoscopic music that oozes through crevices between here and there. Listen to a track.











King Ayisoba: Work Hard (out on February 17th, 2023) GBCD 134 / 4030433613429 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: CD / Ghana – Popular GBLP 134 / 4030433613412 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: LP / Ghana – Popular

"Work Hard" solidifies King Ayisoba's reputation as both a shamanic performer and a restless sonic experimenter. The album is a wild mashup of Ayisoba's frenetic kologo sound and musical deep dives from an exciting roster of Ghanaian producers and contributors. Curated and partially mixed by Zea, from post-punk legends The Ex. This album has a different focus than Ayisoba's previous releases. This was partly due to the disruptions and adjustments that Covid brought in its wake, which in turn necessitated a more homegrown strategy. The bulk of the recording and mixing was done at Top Link, Francis Ayamga's hilltop studio in Bongo, a town in the Upper East Region of Ghana bordering Burkina Faso. Francis has become an in-demand producer, due mainly to his previous work with Ayisoba, a relationship that also packed in a European tour as part of the King's band, playing the djembe and bembe drums. Listen.

Solomane Doumbia: Segou To Lagos (out on February 17th, 2023) MRBML 1018 / 3760347744568 / label: Mieruba / format: CD / Mali – Popular

Solo is one of those great artists who made the golden age of Malian music and every time Solo picks up an instrument, sings or dances, a singular light shines on him. Life has not always been easy for Solo, but his brilliant musical intuition has never failed him. For a long time, he was Salif Keita's percussionist and arranger on some of his albums. He has accompanied him on all his tours, from his beginnings in Abidjan where they met in 2013. This opus 'Segou to Lagos' is above all a tribute to another great artist, Tidiani Kone. Like Solo, the work and life of the great Tidiani Kone are little known to the general public, but it was he who first built a bridge between the music of Mali and Nigeria and who inspired and arranged the rhythms that made up Fela Kuti's Afrobeat. Solomane Doumbia owes part of his inspiration to Tidiani Kone and this album, this tribute, brings afrobeat back to his other homeland, Segou, Mali.

Remont Pomp & Mikolaj Trzaska & Adam Zuchowski: Sam Jestes Pompa Vol. 1 (out on January 27th, 2023) GRAMCD 2303 / 5050580798519 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Poland – Avantgarde

Remont Pomp (repair of pumps) is a band playing ethnic, avant-garde and improvised music. Remont Pomp also discovers the space of experimental music by playing unusual instruments and objects not usually associated with music. The band uses a variety of instruments, starting from ethnic percussion instruments, i.e. djembe, balafon, kalimbas, log drum, through melodic instruments: metallophone, chromatic bells, tang drum, and ending with objects such as glasses, bottles, bowls, jugs or barrels. At the end of 2022, the band recorded the album "Sam Jest Pompa Vol.1" with Mikolaj Trzaska (saxophone, clarinet) and Adam Zuchowski (double bass) and as the title says, at least one more part from this recording session will be released later. Thanks to these meetings, the band's music on the album gained a more free jazz, improvised character. Teaser.

REVIEWS

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For live music in the BeNeLux check out concerts!





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