



Xango Music
celebrating three decades distributing
local music from all over the world

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XANGO MUSIC NEWSLETTER #2 – 2026



Tuuletar: Maammo

NNCD 198 / 4251329506346 / label: Nordic Notes / format: CD / Finland – Folk
NNLP 198 / 4251329506353 / label: Nordic Notes / format: LP / Finland – Folk

The multi-award-winning Finnish folk vocal group Tuuletar releases their third studio album Maammo (Mother Earth). The album marks a powerful new chapter for the internationally acclaimed ensemble and a return to collaboration with the American a cappella production company Liquid 5th.



Rahu The Fool: On The Dancefloor (street date: February 20th, 2026)

CPLCD 81 / 4251329500818 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Latvia – Folk

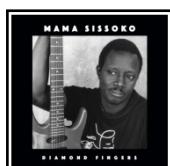
An energy loop from the stage to the dance floor - and back again. On the Dance Floor is a new live album by RAHU, a band that has been creating music together since 2016. Rooted in jug band traditions and known for their acoustic sound, playful spirit, and strong connection to dance, RAHU brings together traditional dance tunes, adventurous ballads, and original compositions from Latvia and beyond.



Lena Jonsson & Johanna Juhola: The Power Of Polska (street date: March 6th, 2026)

NNCD 199 / 4251329506384 / label: Nordic Notes / format: CD / Sweden-Finland – Folk

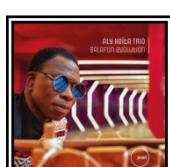
Bringing together a Swedish fiddle icon and a Finnish accordion innovator, the duo explores the driving force, vitality and expressive depth of the polska through original compositions and traditional tunes. The album highlights the strong musical connection between two distinctive artistic voices and presents polska as a powerful meeting point between tradition, innovation and personal expression.



Mama Sissoko: Diamond Fingers (street date: February 13th, 2026)

MSONE 26 / 0197190425208 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Mali – Popular

The Malian guitar virtuoso, Mama Sissoko, was introduced to music by his uncle Djeli Baba Sissoko. His music history counts legendary bands like Orchestra A de Bamako, Orchestre National de Bamako and Super Biton de Ségou. Sissoko uses irony in texts critical to the absurdities faced by immigrants in the post colonial realities



Aly Keita: Balafon Evolution (street date: March 6th, 2026)

AKONE 26 / 0199806772201 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Ivory Coast – Popular

AKONEVI 26 / 0199806774434 / label: One World Records / format: LP / Ivory Coast – Popular

On his new album he explores new horizons for his instrument in improvised music. Together with his Berlin-based trio, he conquers the peaks of balafon possibilities one by one, wandering between groovy African rhythms, spectacular polyphony and elements of jazz, and combining them into a fusion.



Souad Massi: Zagate (street date: March 6th, 2026)

BTCD 2 / 0199584143514 / label: Backing Track Production / format: CD / Algeria – Popular

BTLP 2 / 0199584143712 / label: Backing Track Production / format: LP / Algeria – Popular

At the helm once again is guitarist and producer Justin Adams. Congolese rapper Youssoupha and Rwandan French rapper Gael Faye make guest appearances alongside a stellar band, which includes John Baggott on keyboard (Massive Attack, Robert Plant), Billy Fuller (Robert Plant) on bass and Howey Gill on drums. [Listen](#).



Maria Kalaniemi & Pekko Kappi: Tareportens Parla – Kyynelportin Helmi – Tears To Pearls

AKEROCD 29 / 6430017003000 / label: Akero / format: CD / Finland – Folk

Maria Kalaniemi's meditative tunes on accordion and singing, and of Pekko Kappi on jouhikko, a Finnish bowed lyre, and singing. Maria Kalaniemi is an accordion artist. She is one of the pioneers of contemporary folk music. Pekko Kappi is a jouhikko artist. He is an ethnomusicologist specializing in folk song traditions by training.



Raul Refree & Maria Mazzotta: San Paolo Di Galatina

GMCCD 120 / 4250095801204 / label: Galileo Music / format: CD / Spain-Italy – Fusion

GMCLP 120 / 4250095811203 / label: Galileo Music / format: LP / Spain-Italy – Fusion

This is a project that was forged little by little, pushed by proposals from festivals and without the rush of a recording obligation. Raul fell in love with Maria's voice, and on a trip to Puglia in April 2022 they took the opportunity to meet and play together. [Listen](#).

**Marco Mezquida: Táctil (street date: February 20th, 2026)****MMM 2501 / 8495707112521 / label: Galileo Music / format: CD / Spain-Catalunya – Jazz**

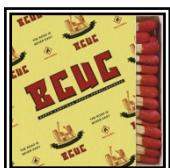
After ten years of a musical adventure of rare intensity, pianist and composer Marco Mezquida presents his new self-produced album. The fourth installment in a collaboration that has become almost fraternal, this album continues the journey begun with Ravel's Dreams, a tribute to composer Maurice Ravel, followed by Talisman and Letter to Milos.

**Catrin Finch: Notes to self (street date: February 27th, 2026)****BENDI 13 / 5065002172310 / label: Bendigedig / format: CD / Wales – Folk**

Catrin Finch releases 'Notes to Self', her first solo album in a decade, featuring personal tracks dedicated to her 13-year-old self - Accompanied by letters, the album reflects on her 40-year career, exploring vulnerability, transformation, and life in the public eye - As a gay woman, cancer survivor, and mother, Finch channels her struggles and triumphs into music, marking a bold, introspective evolution in her artistry. [Listen](#).

**Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino: Il Mito (street date: March 6th, 2026)****PONCD 175 / 8030482004380 / label: Ponderosa / format: CD / Italy – Folk**

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino (CGS) presents Il Mito. Eleven tracks recounting fifty years of history of the oldest and most influential folk music group in southern Italy. Led by Mauro Durante (vocals, violin and tamburello) with the current line-up, responsible for the group's latest international successes, revisits some of the songs that have marked its artistic and human journey. [Listen](#).

**BCUC: The Road Is Never Easy (street date April 3rd, 2026)****OHCD 42 / 0880918278551 / label: Out Here Records / format: CD / South Africa – Popular****OHLP 42 / 0880918278568 / label: Out here Records / format: LP / South Africa – Popular**

The Road Is Never Easy is BCUC's fifth album and their debut on Outhere Records. On this new offering, BCUC take listeners on another Afro-psychadelic journey into the soul of Soweto. It feels like a gospel sermon colliding with a punk concert, "guaranteed to touch untapped corners of your soul" (OkayAfrica).

**Stelios Petrakis: Lyric (street date: February 13th, 2026)****BUDA 860413 / 3341348604138 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / Greece-Crete – Traditional**

With the help of guest musicians, old and new friends whom Stelios Petrakis admires and with whom he is happy and grateful to be reunited, his aim is to interpret on the lyre pieces that are seemingly unrelated, pieces from near and far, pieces that are familiar but also "foreign" to knowledgeable listeners, yet which seem to be united by a common and profound bond. [Listen](#).

**Murat Aydemir & Christos Barbas: Book Of Birds (street date February 6th, 2026)****2GN 29 / 0745125354187 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Turkey-Greece – Traditional**

On the album Book of Birds they create a collection of contemporary compositions inspired by and based on the modal traditions of the wider middle eastern and mediterranean traditions. Their unique mastership on their instruments serves as a prism, a meeting point, for different pieces from different composers to take new shape.

**Derya Turkan & Murat Aydemir: Ahenk / 3 (street date: February 20th, 2026)****2GN 36 / 0745125354255 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Turkey – Traditional**

Ahenk's musical foundation is rooted in the tradition of instrumental compositions (saz eserleri) within classical Turkish music. By following the masters, the two musicians have striven to bring the century-old harmony of the kemence and tanbur into the present day. This journey, which has continued since the 1990s, has forged not only a shared musical language but a lifelong friendship, and "Ahenk" has become the name for this bond.

**Luisa Briguglio: Truvatura****LBW 14 / 0682683296880 / label Liburia Records / format: CD / Italy-Sicily – Popular**

With a voice both powerful and intimate, Luisa she sings and narrates-in the language of her emotions: Sicilian, weaving together original lyrics, translations, ancient poetry, and autobiographical fragments. Truvatura is a collection of emotional artifacts: treasure-songs that Luisa Briguglio entrusts to anyone willing to listen. Because sometimes the real prize is not what we find, but what we become in seeking it. [Listen](#).

**Hersi Matmuja & Jacopo Conoci: LUM****MLD 4 / 0761742098501 / label: Maladisco Music / format: CD / Albania-Italy – Folk**

Lum is the title of the first album by Hersi Matmuja and Jacopo Conoci; Hersi is an Albanian singer who has lived in Italy for many years and who has been a leading member of the Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio. It is an album of reworked traditional songs from northern Albania, which until now have not been recorded, and songs from the Arbëreshë culture. There is also a traditional song from Salento. [Listen](#).

**Treetops: Aphonia****MLD 5 / 0761742098518 / label: Maladisco Music / format: CD / Italy – Jazz-Rock**

Aphonia is the second album by Treetops, a jazz-rock (instrumental) band of musicians under 30 based in Rome. All the tracks are original compositions written and arranged by the band. The band has a powerful, electric and monolithic sound (without traditional bop influences) and it is also contaminated by ethnic influences.



It Dockumer Lokaeltsje: Loop Of Sloop (street date: February 6th, 2026)**MRLPCD 45 / 7422223153135 / label: Makkum Records / format: LP+CD / Netherlands – Punk**

On LOOP OF SLOOP, It Dockumer Lokaeltsje is bursting with life and simultaneously on the verge of collapse. Since in 2026 the band has more past than future, they've decided to go through life as of now in a posthumous state. Where TRUMP YN MAKKUM was their last album in 2023, LOOP OF SLOOP is their first posthumous one. [Listen.](#)



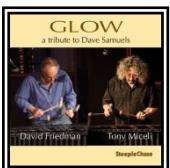
Hugo Race + Fatalists: I made It All Up For You (street date: March 20th, 2026)**GRAMCD 2601 / 5050580866706 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Australia – Popular****GRALMP 2602 / 5050580866713 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Australia – Popular****GRALIM 2602 / 5050580868342 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP+10" / Australia–Popular**

I Made It All Up For You is an epic album with his Italian band Fatalists - existential songwriting framed by the band's signature fusion of roots music, electronica, Italian soundtracks and desert rock.



Thommy Andersson: Shimmering Blue (street date: February 6th, 2026)**SCCD 31996 / 0716043199624 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / Sweden – Jazz**

Swedish bassist and composer Thommy Andersson makes his long-awaited SteepleChase leader debut with Shimmering Blue, a striking trio recording featuring Kirk Knuffke and Jose Davila. Known for his work with Pierre Dorges New Jungle Orchestra, Andersson now steps forward with a highly personal sound world-drumless, low-brass rich, and full of lyrical nuance.



David Friedman & Tony Miceli: Glow – A Tribute To Dave Samuels (street date: February 13th, 2026)**SCCD 31997 / 0716043199723 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

Vibraphone Dialogue Like No Other. Glow, which is dedicated to the late vibraphone master Dave Samuels, is a landmark recording that redefines what's possible in jazz vibraphone performance. Featuring two of the world's most accomplished mallet percussionists—David Friedman and Tony Miceli. It's the first jazz album composed entirely of vibraphone duets, and it succeeds where others have hesitated.



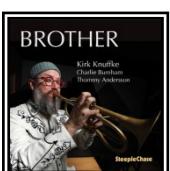
Larry Willis: Just In Time (street date: February 20th, 2026)**G 1251 / 0716043125111 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz**

Just in Time, is a long-overdue spotlight on one of jazz's most quietly influential pianists. Recorded in 1989 with Bob Cranshaw on bass and Kenny Washington on drums, this trio session captures Willis' lyrical touch, harmonic depth, and rhythmic sophistication in full bloom. Willis' career began with a voice solo in Aaron Copland's The Second Hurricane under Leonard Bernstein, but jazz soon claimed him. [Listen.](#)



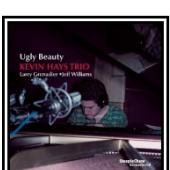
John Hart: New Mantra (street date: March 6th, 2026)**SCCD 31998 / 0716043199822 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

Guitarist John Hart returns to the classic guitar-bass-drums trio format. After several adventurous outings, New Mantra marks a melodic homecoming, reuniting Hart with longtime collaborators Bill Moring and Tim Horner. Known for his lyrical phrasing and harmonic depth, Hart emphasizes melody and clarity, crafting originals like "Think" and "Abyss" alongside fresh takes on standards such as "Stella by Starlight" and "Some Other Time."



Kirk Knuffke: Brother (street date: March 13th, 2026)**SCCD 31999 / 0716043199921 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

Kirk Knuffke's warm, distinctive cornet tone—played on the rare double shepherds-crook horn—anchors a program balancing tradition and innovation. Standards, early jazz gems, and soulful classics are transformed through collective improvisation, while Knuffke's originals sparkle with wit and lyricism. This new release confirms his stature and offers another dazzling chapter in his ongoing story.



Kevin Hays: Ugly Beauty (street date: March 20th, 2026)**G 1297 / 0716043129713 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz**

Recorded with bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jeff Williams, the album marked Hays' first trio outing—an ensemble format that would become central to his artistic identity. The program blends jazz standards with Hays' original "The Well," showcasing his lyrical touch, harmonic depth, and rhythmic drive. The session captures Hays' youthful brilliance while foreshadowing the maturity and originality that define his later work.



Lucia Filaci & Vittorio Cuculo: A Due Voci**AFMCD 333 / 8032050025346 / label: Alfa Music / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

This album is born from the desire to share writing, research, and the stage, guided by the belief that music is, above all, a space for encounter and growth. Technique and listening, form and improvisation intertwine in a vibrant, pulsating balance: the jazz language opens to pop echoes and the breadth of the great Italian singer-songwriter tradition. [Listen.](#)



Matteo Fioretti: Le Cinque Stagioni**AFPCD 244 / 8032050025339 / label: Alfa Music / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

"The Five Seasons," a concert for dancers that unfolds between sounds that become images and gestures that become sounds. Music sculpts space, action organizes the overall meaning of an audiotactile experience. Voices, melodies, harmonies, noises, movement, and silence operate through complex relationships to evoke images, subservient to them.

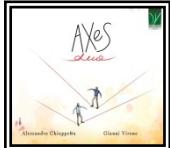


Christianne Neves feat. Amilton Godoy & Daniela Spalletta: Europeo**AFPCD 334 / 8032050025377 / label: Alfa Music / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

"Europeo" is the name of this album. The title came naturally with the letter "o" at the end. After researching the word, I was surprised by its origin: European Spanish (from the Latin *europaeus*, from the Portuguese *europeu*). Naturally, there must have been a Hispanic influence in the fortuitous appearance of the word "europeo"! This is entirely justified by my passion for Spanish classical music.

**Kolne Trio: Elsewhere****C 1114 / 0746160919560 / label: Da Vinci Jazz / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

Contemporary jazz converges with European art music, forging the nine original pieces into a coherent cycle, almost a speculative suite on musical time. Suspended rhythmic textures, metric displacements and finely chiselled harmonies open onto a rarefied sonic space in which the classical trio of piano, double bass and drums is conceived less as an idiomatic apparatus than as a laboratory of form and colour. [Listen](#).

**Gianni Virone & Alessandro Chiappetta: Axes Duo****C 1116 / 0746160919584 / label: Da Vinci Jazz / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

The album Axes Duo condenses more than two decades of shared practice between Gianni Virone and Alessandro Chiappetta into an ascetic chamber configuration, a resonant crucible in which the jazz standard is subjected to subtle structural scrutiny. [Listen](#).

**Nino Buonocore: M.I.S.L.A.****INC 342 / 8052141492314 / label: Incipit Records / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

The popular and refined Neapolitan singer-songwriter has devoted himself almost exclusively to live performances since the 2013 release of his latest album of original material, "Segnali di umana presenza," and has explored new directions increasingly influenced by jazz, culminating in the 2021 release of the acclaimed "In Jazz." This stylistic shift continues in the new "M.I.S.L.A." a classy album born from several studio. [Listen](#).

**Sergio Cammariere: La Pioggia Che Non Cade Mai****MPRCD 198 / 8052141492338 / label: Parco della Musica / format: CD / Italy – Jazz**

This album represents another authentic immersion into the evocative and refined world of the Crotone-born artist, who once again confirms his uniqueness in the Italian music scene. A journey comprised of thirteen songs that explore love, memory, distance, rebirth, and awareness, constructed like chapters of a single emotional story: interrupted loves, long waits, reflections on time. [Listen](#).

Transglobal World Music Chart January 2026

Noura Mint Seymali: Yenbett (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 177 / GBLP 177

Radio Tarifa: La Noche (Buda Musique) BUDA 860406

Muluken Mèlèssè: Éthiopiques 31 - Muluken Mèlèssè (Buda Musique) BUDA 860411

Nancy Vieira & Fred Martins: Esperanza (Galileo Music) GMCCD 118

Divanhana: Radio Sevdah (CPL-Music) CPLCD 78 / CPLLP 78

Bijan Chemirani & Redi Hasa & Rami Khalife: L'Antidote (Ponderosa) PONCD 146 / PONLP 42

Veronika Varga: True Picture (CPL-Music) CPLCD 79

Either/Orchestra & Ethiopian Guests: Éthiopiques 32 - Nalbandian l'Éthiopien (Buda Musique) BUDA 860412

Wör x Kongero: Songbooks Live (Nordic Notes) NNCD 195

World Music Charts Europe January 2026

Julia Kozakova: Manusa II (CPL-Music)

Noura Mint Seymali: Yenbett (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 177 / GBLP 177

Senduki: Strania (AlfaMusic) AFMCD 325

Veronika Varga: True Picture (CPL-Music) CPLCD 79

Saodaj: Loder La Vi (Buda Musique) BUDA 860407

Lina & Marco Mezquida: O Fado (Galileo Music) GMCCD 115 / GMCLP 115

Divanhana: Radio Sevdah (CPL-Music) CPLCD 78 / CPLLP 78

For live music in the BeNeLux check out [concerts!](#)