



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

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XANGO MUSIC NEWSLETTER #10 – 2026

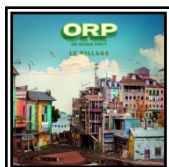


HK: Le Coeur Au Vent

EDPCD 6 / 3760063733136 / label: Irfan / format: CD / France – Popular

EDPLP 6 / 3760063733143 / label: Irfan / format: LP / France – Popular

HK has his heart on his sleeve! With this new album, our street performer, surrounded by his lifelong friends, reveals himself more than ever before. The drums pound, the bass rumbles, the violins soar, the accordion wanders, the brass has fun, the guitars rebel... And HK's voice resonates, again and again, stubbornly.



ORP (Oai Reggae Party): Le Village

ITSCD 13 / 3760063733006 / label: Irfan / format: CD / France – Reggae

ITSLP 13 / 3760063732993 / label: Irfan / format: LP / France – Reggae

Get ready to groove to the sound of reggae made in Marseille! ORP is here to recharge your batteries and get you dancing with an explosive mix of fiery beats and legendary flows. Imagine a dash of Oai Star, a splash of Massilia, an explosive dose of Toko Blaze, a cloud of Raspigaous, all sprinkled with fresh riddims.



Marty: Le Dernier Des Vivants

ECHCD 1 / 3760063733051 / label: Irfan / format: CD / France – Folk

EHCLP 1 / 3760063733069 / label: Irfan / format: LP / France – Folk

At the age of 50, MARTY has released a solo album marking a new beginning, guided by a desire for authenticity and acoustics where you can hear the wood resonate. The album is part of a French-language folk tradition that links the intimate with the landscape. [Listen.](#)



Picon Mon Amour: Qui S'y Frotte S'y Prine

PMA 60 / 3760063733167 / label: Irfan / format: 2CD / France – Popular

This double album brings together the first two albums by the famous duo Picon mon amour. Qui s'y frotte s'y prine and En route pour la joie, released in 2017 and 2019 respectively. It includes their famous cover of the song 3-0 by Les Ogres de Barback. [Listen.](#)



Maria Kalaniemi & Timo Alakotila: Morgondimma

AKEROCD 30 / 6430017003048 / label: Akero / format: CD / Finland – Popular

Legends of the Finnish music scene, accordion artist Maria Kalaniemi and pianist Timo Alakotila, are celebrating the 35th anniversary of their duo with a new album. The record does not hold back on sensitivity, brilliance, or emotional intensity. A composition by Lasse Martenson, Morgondimma, was chosen as the album's title track, serving as a reminder of light, beauty, and the meaning of life in uncertain times. [Listen.](#)



Alison Cotton: The Gods Laugh (street date June 19th, 2026)

GBCD 185 / 4030433618523 / label: tak:til / format: CD / England – Avantgarde

GBLP 185 / 4030433618516 / label: tak:til / format: LP / England – Avantgarde

Alison Cotton's fifth solo album is a mesmerizing weave of haunted atmospherics and avant-folk songcraft. Built around her viola, harmonium, and transportive vocals, the album moves between stark drone passages and more layered arrangements with piano, percussion, and synths. [Listen.](#)



Gaoussou 'Sobra' Kouyate: Sobra Dance

GKONE 2026 / 0820200521651 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Mali – Popular

The rhythm-driven album carries the listener through eight distinct compositions that draw on the deep kinship between Mande griot music and the blues, rock, and Latin styles that share its roots. Sobra Dance takes the listener on an amazing journey from the rivers to the desserts of Mali and crossing the ocean to the Americas, from South to North.



Mah Damba: Taabolo Koura

MAHONE 26 / 0199806943434 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Mali – Popular

This new record deepens the musical partnership with guitarist and arranger Thierry Fournel, who has worked alongside the Damba family for twenty years. Together they have built something intimate and unhurried - an acoustic architecture of guitar, djeli ngoni, accordion, calebasse, and guembri that serves the voice rather than decorating it. Mah Damba's voice remains the centre of gravity on every track.



Berima Amo: Rhythms Of Love**EUCD 2982 / 5019396298224 / label: ARC Music / format: CD / Ghana – Popular**

Amsterdam-based Ghanaian trumpeter, composer and bandleader Berima Amo blends highlife, Afrobeat, traditional West African rhythms, jazz and soul into a rich, contemporary sound. Rhythms of Love is a heartfelt tribute to the music and icons that shaped his journey-exploring love, unity and cultural pride through hypnotic grooves, expressive trumpet lines and soulful melodies.

**Neha!: Svetu****CPLCD 84 / 4251329500849 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Slovakia – A Cappella**

Neha! is more than a vocal ensemble - it is a living portrait of friendship, courage, and artistic freedom. Six women, each unique, profound, and complex, blend their voices into a polyphonic tapestry that transcends boundaries and touches hearts. The album features ten traditional songs from six countries, reflecting the groups artistic journey.

**Slavyk: 11 Songs Of Love & Suffering (street date: June 12th, 2026)****CPLCD 85 / 4251329500856 / label: One World Records / format: CD / Poland-Serbia – Popular**

Slavyk is the sonic offspring of an ever-evolving international music theatre project. The Polish-Serbian quartet brings together Silesian and Serbian musical traditions alongside English lyrics, blending jazz, pop, and white voice singing with a progressive psychedelic edge and trance-like ritual elements. Their music is driven by intelligent lyrics filled with dramatic twists, exploring themes of love, suffering, nature, and human connection.

**3'Ain: Unland****CHOU 2603 / 5425003680878 / label: Choux de Bruxelles / format: CD / Belgium – Fusion**

3'Ain is a trio in which trumpet player Yamen Martini (Ashtabiez), upright bass player Otto Kint (Otto Kintet, RVB Quartet,...) and accordion player Piet Maris (Jaune Toujours, Mec Yek, Choux de Bruxelles Artist Collective,...) join forces: they bring a unique blend of worldwide jazz with influences from the Swana region (South West Asia and North Africa).

**Kudsi Erguner, Tristan Driessens & Yiorgos Bereris: Remembrance Of A Forgotten Path (street date: June 26th, 2026)****2GN 34 / 0745125354231 / label: Seyir Muzik / format: CD / Turkey – Traditional**

This album is deeply rooted in the music Gurdjieff encountered during his travels, particularly in Constantinople around 1920-1921. These pieces were created during a pivotal time in Gurdjieff's life as he established his teaching in Western Europe, often reflecting spiritual, dervish, and folk melodies of the East. [Listen.](#)

**Nana Osei Twum Barima: Journey To The Unknown****ZEPCD 78 / 6153108698663 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Ghana – Popular****ZEPLP 78 / 6153109031056 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: LP / Ghana – Popular**

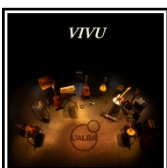
Ghanaian singer, multi-instrumentalist and seperewa player Nana Osei Twum Barima introduces his debut album Journey to the Unknown, a deeply personal body of work shaped by his emigration from Ghana to Belgium, his family's role in upholding ancient musical traditions and his personal coming of age. [Listen.](#)

**Sonetos del Amor Oscuro: Vol. 2 – Secretos de Melancolia (street date: June 12th, 2026)****ZEPCD 80 / 6153105080058 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Various – Popular****ZEPLP 80 / 6153106533522 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: LP / Various – Popular**

Brings Federico Garca Lorca's most intimate poetry into sound, where the celebrated flamenco guitarist Myrddin De Cauter joins Belgian-Brazilian singer Helena Casella, cellist Stijn Kuppens and flautist Stefan Bracaval. Chamber-like music that blends flamenco tradition, jazz freedom with a classical refinement.

**Nubras Ensemble: Nubras****LBW 19 / 0674005751375 / label: Liburia Records / format: CD / Various – Balkan**

The project was born from the encounter of musicians from diverse countries, traditions, and artistic paths, united by a shared vision: to explore the musical heritage of the Balkans and transform it into a contemporary, open, and ever-evolving language. Classical music, jazz, and Southern Italian folk traditions, creating a vibrant sonic universe capable of crossing geographical and cultural borders with strong identity. [Listen.](#)

**L'Alba: Vivu (street date: June 12th, 2026)****BUDA 860416 / 3341348604169 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / France-Corse – Traditional**

Their remarkable live performances fully justify this release. It features titles taken from their studio albums, and we can appreciate the nuances these versions bring to each one of them: with presence, respiration, emotion, and even a touching fragility, the term 'live music' takes on its full meaning. 'Vivu' invites us to experience a captivating intimacy with the talented musicians of Alba.

**Franco Baggiani & Arlo Bigazzi & Marzio del Testa: Togetherness****MASOCD 90207 / 8012957020729 / label: Materiali Sonori / format: CD / Italy – Avantgarde**

Togetherness implies something that goes beyond music. The album is not merely about unity or the pleasant surprise of finding oneself united and in harmony whilst playing with others, it also expresses the essence of being together within a context of community, solidarity, friendship and camaraderie. Three souls, both musical and human, hailing from quite different musical and artistic backgrounds, come together. [Listen](#)



Esera: Levia Gravia**MASOCD 90209 / 8012957020927 / label: Materiali Sonori / format: CD / Italy – Pop-Rock**

“Levia Gravia” stems from the constant oscillation between two great opposites – lightness and gravity – and transforms this into sounds that are by turns gentle and distorted, becoming, with each listen, almost a ritual. An album that rejects simplicity and embraces tension, moving between electronica and folk, art rock and trip-hop, classical influences and Middle Eastern motifs, without ever seeking a stable centre. [Listen](#).

**ZOJ: May The Devil's Ear Be Deaf (release delayed)****PREC 22 / 0724133188236 / label: Parentheses Records / format: CD / Australia-Iran – Avantgarde**

Music made in a single breath. Recorded live, without overdubs, each piece holds the fragile moment where a sound might disappear, or stay with you. Voice, kamancheh, and drums move through silence and resonance, leaving space for the air between notes and the emotion inside them. Nothing is polished or repeated.

**Mark Cain: Threads (release delayed)****PREC 23 / 0726529864762 / label: Parentheses Records / format: CD / Australia – Avantgarde**

The record features fifteen solo pieces for soprano saxophone that venture to the outer edges of the instruments range, resonance and expressive vocabulary. Entirely improvised and each track recorded in a single continuous process, Threads captures music in its most immediate state. Each piece unfolds in the moment - without second takes, editing or overdubs.

**Tuleje: Nagle Przejasnienia (street date: June 12th, 2026)****GRAMCD 2605 / 5050580875647 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Poland – Folk**

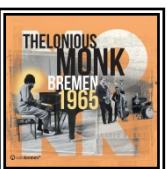
A bold look, full of references to jazz, blues, early music and free improvisation. But Tuleje's third album marks a distinct shift towards urban rawness and a new sonic identity. The greatest change to the musical foundation is the foregrounding of the bass guitar, which almost entirely replaces the double bass from previous albums (appearing here only as subtle, nostalgic accents).

**Mikolaj Trzaska & John Edwards & Mark Sanders: Not So Late / Because It Happens****(street date: June 12th, 2026)****GRAMCD 2603 / 5050580870376 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Various – Jazz**

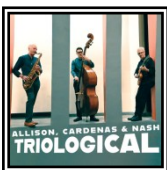
Three masters of improvisation: Mikolaj Trzaska on saxophone, John Edwards on double bass and Mark Sanders on drums. They don't use the term "improvisation," preferring instead to speak of "live composition" and the audience, who are an essential component of the concert ritual.

**Mikolaj Trzaska & John Edwards & Mark Sanders: Because It Happens****(street date: June 12th, 2026)****GRAMLP 2604 / 5050580875708 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Various – Jazz**

Three masters of improvisation: Mikolaj Trzaska on saxophone, John Edwards on double bass and Mark Sanders on drums. They don't use the term "improvisation," preferring instead to speak of "live composition" and the audience, who are an essential component of the concert ritual.

**Thelonious Monk: Bremen 1965****SSC 1635 / 0016728163514 / label: Sunnyside Records / format: 2LP / USA – Jazz**

The recording catches Monk just after some notable transitions. The pianist left his former label, Riverside Records, for Columbia Records, where his most recent release, Its Monks Time, was fresh off the presses when the quartet arrived in Europe in 1965. There had also been a change in the rhythm section, as bassist John Ore and drummer Frankie Dunlop had been replaced by Larry Gales and Ben Riley. [Listen](#).

**Ben Allison & Steve Cardenas & Ted Nash: Triological****SSC 1811 / 0016728181129 / label: Sunnyside Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

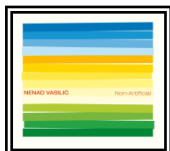
For a decade, the trio of Ben Allison, Steve Cardenas, and Ted Nash has coalesced into a singular ensemble highlighting impressive group interplay and creative interpretations of the music of their favorite composers. After years of focusing on the music of others, the drummer-less trio found it the right time to take on the compositions of its members on the new recording, Triological.

**Gary Versace Trio: Three Track Mind****SSC 1803 / 0016728180320 / label: Sunnyside Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

It is often the case that the creation successful art comes down to basic factors. For jazz music, talent and creativity are obvious essentials. But what usually drives music further is trust between performers and a sense of spontaneity in performance. Keyboard master Gary Versace aimed to harness all these elements on his new recording, Three Track Mind, a vibrant collection of fresh arrangements of standards and favourites.

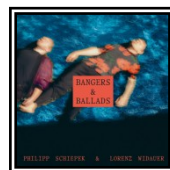
**Stephan-Max Wirth Quintet: Water To Water****BOSREC 24425 / 4041806040353 / label: Bos.Rec / format: CD / Germany – Jazz****BOSREC 24525 / 4041806040445 / label: Bos.Rec / format: LP / Germany – Jazz**

With his new quintet project Stephan-Max Wirth is opening another fascinating chapter in his artistic career, he now presents Water to Water, an acoustic counterpart to the Electric Band. The quintet unfolds as a band with a sense of space and warmth, creating room for freedom and collective melodic improvisation. [Listen](#).



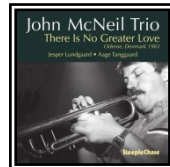
Nenad Vasilic: Non-Artificial**GMV 146 / 4250095889189 / label: Galileo Music / format: CD / Serbia – Jazz**

This marks Vasilic's 16th album as a bandleader and composer, further solidifying his position as one of Europe's leading jazz double bassists with a career spanning more than 25 years. All compositions on the album are written by Vasilic, blending jazz with Balkan rhythms and classical influences in a distinctive and recognizable style. [Listen.](#)



Philipp Schiepek & Lorens Widauer: Bangers & Ballads**WWR 2 / 4270004171921 / label: Wooden Waggon Records / format: CD / Germany – Jazz****WWR 22 / 4270004171938 / label: Wooden Waggon Records / format: LP / Germany – Jazz**

With "Bangers & Ballads", Lorenz Widauer and Philipp Schiepek present an exciting programme brimming with musical joy. The result is an album that naturally blends strong, immediate and direct melodies with compositions of deep and narrative sensitivity. [Listen.](#)



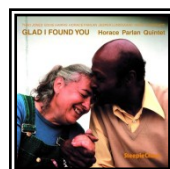
John McNeil: There Is No Greater Love (street date: June, 19th, 2026)**SCCD 34007 / 0716043400720 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

John McNeils There Is No Greater Love unveils a previously unheard 1983 Odense, Denmark session, capturing the trumpeter at a creative peak during his extensive Scandinavian tour. Joined by Danish masters Jesper Lundgaard (bass) and Aage Tanggaard (drums), McNeil delivers a warm, incisive set blending standards, bebop classics, and his own "Out".



Tomas Martinez: In Good Company (street date: June 19th, 2026)**SCCD 34006 / 0716043400621 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz**

At just 26 Martinez brings a rich tone, agile bebop phrasing, and a deep command of jazz tradition. The album features two standout groups: a New York quartet with Michael Weiss, David Wong, and Kenny Washington, recorded at the legendary Van Gelder Studio, and a vibrant trio session from Buenos Aires with Paul Sikivie and Teo Perez.



Horace Parlan: Glad I Found You (street date: June 19th, 2026)**G 1194 / 0716043119412 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz**

Captures a rare meeting of inspired musicians at a peak moment, recorded in Copenhagen with Thad Jones - making a vibrant late-career comeback - and the always inventive Eddie Harris. Parlan leads the quintet full of warmth, swing and spontaneous interplay. The album blends Parlans own tunes, soulful obscurities, and modern jazz classics, all delivered with the rhythmic looseness and deep blues feeling that defined his style.

Transglobal World Music Chart May 2026

- # Souad Massi: Zagate (Backing Track Production) BTCD 2 / BTLP 2
- # BCUC: The Road Is Never Easy (Outhere Records) OHCD 42 / OHLP 42
- # Stelios Petrakis: Lyric (Buda Musique) BUDA 860413
- # Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino: Il Mito (Ponderosa Music) PONCD 175
- # Ablaye Cissoko & Contantinople: Estuaire (Ma Case Prod) CONS 2502
- # Raul Refree & Maria Mazzotta: San Paolo Di Galatina (Galileo Music) GMCCD 120 / GMCLP 120
- # Kuljit Bhamra: Desi - The Soul Of Punjab (ARC Music) EUCD 2989
- # Catrin Finch: Notes To Self (Bedigedig) BENDI 13
- # Mama Sissoko: Diamond Fingers (One World Records) MSONE 26
- # Tuuletar: Maammo (Nordic Notes) NNCD 198 / NNLP 198

World Music Charts Europe May 2026

- # Souad Massi: Zagate (Backing Track Production) BTCD 2 / BTLP 2
- # BCUC: The Road Is Never Easy (Outhere Records) OHCD 42 / OHLP 42
- # Mariana Sadovska & Vesna: You Should Live! (CPL-Music) CPLCD 83
- # Raul Refree & Maria Mazzotta: San Paolo Di Galatina (Galileo Music) GMCCD 120 / GMCLP 120
- # Fauna: Taiga Trans (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 183 / GBLP 183
- # Stelios Petrakis: Lyric (Buda Musique) BUDA 860413
- # Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino: Il Mito (Ponderosa Music) PONCD 175
- # Ablaye Cissoko & Contantinople: Estuaire (Ma Case Prod) CONS 2502

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