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

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XANGO MUSIC NEWSLETTER #16 – 2026



Mahsa & Marjan Vahdat: Heart's Endless Garden – Woven Verses
FXCD 523 / 7041889655021 / label: Kirkelig Kulturverksted / format: CD / Ran – Popular
In "Hearts Endless Garden", Iranian singers Mahsa and Marjan Vahdat have gathered an exceptional ensemble of musicians to create a unique album of entirely new songs, weaving together poetic texts - both ancient and modern - from Irans literary canon into a cohesive whole: a dialogue spanning centuries. The theme is timeless, exploring passion, love, grief, and ecstasy within the hearts endless garden. Listen.



Shovel Dance Collective: Everything In Readiness
GBCD 190 / 4030433619025 / label: tak:til-Glitterbeat Records / format: CD / UK – Folk
GBLP 190 / 4030433619018 / label: tak:til-Glitterbeat Records / format: LP / UK – Folk
The nine-piece ensemble Shovel Dance Collective have been at the forefront of the resurgence of interest in traditional music since they came together in late 2019 and have been celebrated within, and far beyond, the confines of the folk scene in the UK and internationally. Listen.



Ana Lua Caiano: Devagar Que A Vida E Curta (street date November 6th, 2026)
GBCD 187 / 4030433618721 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: CD / Portugal – Popular
GBLP 187 / 4939433618714 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: LP / Portugal – Popular
Entering a new phase in her acclaimed artistic journey, the Portuguese singer, musician, producer, and composer Ana Lua Caiano returns with an exhilarating second album that expands and deepens the singular musical language she has been shaping in recent. Listen.



Gordan: Gastarbeiter (street date : November 20th, 2026)
GBCD 186 / 4030433618622 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: CD / Serbia – Popular
GBLP 186 / 4030433618615 / label: Glitterbeat Records / format: Lp / Serbia – Popular
Gordan's compelling 3rd album explores the emotionally charged tradition of Gastarbeiter ("guest worker") songs. Reimagining these stories of migration and longing, the transnational trio blends Balkan vocal heritage with hypnotic repetition, noise textures, and stark minimalism. Listen.



KAL: Cinema Caravan (street date: October 30th, 2026)
CPLCD 88 / 4251329500887 / label: CPL-Music / format: CD / Serbia – Popular
Now, after more than a decade without a studio album, KAL returns with Cinema Caravan. The title says it all: a cinema on the move, a caravan carrying faces, melodies, languages, memories and stories across borders and generations. The screen is not fixed to a wall. It travels with the musicians. Where earlier KAL albums were driven by discovery, energy and rebellion, Cinema Caravan adds something else: experience.



Mehrnavaa: The Song Of The Phoenix
ZEPLP 81 / 6153112510586 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: LP / Belgium – World
The Song of the Phoenix is the first album of a project by four musicians: Shahab Azinmehr (setar, vocals), Nathan Daems (saxophone, vocals), Farnoosh Khodadadeh (daf, vocals), and Seraphine Stragier (cello, yayli tambur, harp, vocals). Together, they bring The Song of the Phoenix to life, exploring the beauty of life, death, and resurrection through the story of this inspiring mythical bird and our music. Listen.



The Heptatonics: The Sun On Your Skin (street date: October 30th, 2026)
ZEPCD 79 / 6153115618609 / label: Zephyrus Records / format: CD / Belgium – World Music
Ghent-based The Heptatonics present their first album The Sun On Your Skin. Led by guitarist and composer Wouter "Wowie" Rosseel, the band combines influences from rocksteady, early reggae, soul, and jazz with a fresh and contemporary sound. Listen.



Erwan Keravec: There Will Be No Miracles Here
BUDA 860417 / 3341348604176 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / France – Avantgarde
Seven bagpipe players in an arc seated on stools, the instrument wedged between the thigh and the abdomen, three basin players, close to the ground, cauldrons on their tripods produce a continuum of sound. Drones, rush, there is nothing miraculous or spectacular, rather a stripping down for which each movement of the players is of great importance.



Denis Cuniot & Yannick Thepault: Universal Klezmer (street date: November 6th, 2026)
BUDA 860418 / 3341348604183 / label: Buda Musique / format: CD / France – Klezmer
'Jewish folk music, an expression of a long-standing tradition, transcends all boundaries, starting with those that separate the religious from the festive and classical composition from folk music. The title of this album, Universel Klezmer means universal Jewish music. The word 'Klezmer' does not refer to a genre or a particular tradition; in Yiddish, it simply means 'musician.'



'Ndiaz: Les Heures Blanches – Euriou Gwenn (street date: November 13th, 2026)
PPR 47 / 3770039435049 / label: Paker Prod / format: CD / France-Brittany – Folk
Ndiaz engages in a Breton-language dialogue with sounds from around the world, crafting powerful, hypnotic music resolutely geared towards communal dancing. While the previous album ushered in the night, this new record brings it to a close, exploring the fragile moment between night and day-a suspended time where perceptions shift and the music becomes more luminous, fluid, and dynamic. Listen.



Bamako Express: L'Ombre Du Croco (street date: October 30th, 2026)
TRAD 46 / 6096432491411 / label: Trad Records / format: CD / Belgium – World Music
With L'Ombre du Croco, their debut album, Bamako Express builds a musical bridge between worlds. Sung in Bambara-a language widely spoken across Mali and Burkina Faso. Warm vocals, hypnotic balafon melodies, virtuosic violin, and infectious rhythms come together to create a rich and colorful sound that is both deeply rooted and refreshingly contemporary. Listen.



Andries Boone: Rhagium Inquisitor (street date: November 13th, 2026)
TRAD 47 / 6096433671683 / label: Trad Records / format: CD / Belgium – Folk
Andries Boone explores once again the borders between tradition and innovation. This album confirms his place as one of the most inventive voices in contemporary folk. All of Boone's newcompositions are inspired by the local fauna and flora. The tracks were given the Latin name of a plant or animal,such as Viscum Album (the mistletoe), Accipiter Gentilis (the goshawk) or Lamprohiza Splendidula (the glow-worm). Listen.



Pentakte: Songs From Distant Shores
LBW 22 / 0885000321030 / label: Liburia Records / format: CD / Italy – World
The album moves across materials of different origins, from traditional music to Original compositions, from reinterpretations of historical repertoire to collective improvisational exploration. The result is a recording in which tradition and contemporaneity, composition and improvisation, the Mediterranean and Asia meet within an open and deeply dialogical musical environment.



FLO: Corsara
LBWD 1 / 0765708173981 / label: Liburia Records - Soundfly / format: CD / Italy – Popular
Titled "Corsara", this is the sixth album by Neapolitan singer songwriter Flo and her first to be sung entirely in Neapolitan. Its ten tracks paint a portrait of an unconventional Naples exploring aspects often unseen or unknown while also reflecting an artist who continues to chart her own course, steering clear of established routes.



Osso Sacro: Cave Nove (street date: October 30th, 2026)
IPE 2601 / 0806891860057 / label: Ipe Ipe Music / format: CD / Italy - Folk
Once again, the Samnite trio engages with tradition, but with a renewed guiding principle: when tradition is not rewritten, it is destined to be lost. The core lies in the motto betray tradition to keep it alive. Their highly localised, dialect-based yet unclassifiable musical exploration confirms that one can be radically rooted in a specific place without becoming provincial.



Aram: Aram (street date: November 27th, 2026)
MZP 21 / 5425015559254 / label: Muziekpublique / format: CD / Varoius – Persian
Aram is a trio on a quest for moments. They search for these moments through their shared love for mystical poetry, emotional melodies and subtle percussion. Connected by a deep musical friendship, they move between Persian Dastgâh and Turkish Makam, two melodic systems that share vocabulary and logic, as dialects of the same language. They improvise, compose new material and reinterpret classical compositions.



Baro Drom: Rasna Beat
MASOCD 90212 / 8012957021221 / label: Materilai Sonori / format: CD / Italy – Folk
Born out of a passion for the fiery rhythms of Eastern Europe and the melodies of the Mediterranean, the band has developed its own original musical language over the years. This, their third album, features a host of guest artists: Goran Kovacevic, a virtuoso Serbian accordionist; the voices of Emad Shuman (Kabila, OMA) from Lebanon and Marlene Fuochi; as well as the launeddas played by Emanuele Tegas. Listen.



De'Soda Sisters: Si Va Avanti
MASOCD 99176 / 8012957991760 / label: Materiali Sonori / format: CD / Italy – World
Originating in Rosignano Solvay ("bicarbonate and wicked white beaches..."), the album plays on the irony and the mannerisms and idioms of the provinces of Livorno and Florence. Once again, they offer up delightful compositions and old anarchic and folk songs, rooted in the Tuscan tradition. Love serenades and social commitment. With a captivating use of vocals and rebellious rhythms. Listen.



Flame Parade: Holywood Stray
MASOCD 90210 / 8012957021023 / label: Materiali Sonori / Italy – Popular
Recorded live at Playpen Studio in Bristol and produced by Ali Chant (a sound engineer and producer known for his previous collaborations with Yard Act, King Hannah, The Murder Capital and Dry Cleaning), the album marks a quiet yet profound turning point in the Tuscan bands musical journey. It opens a crack in the ethereal, suspended space that has characterised the bands previous work. Listen.



Gaetano Liguori Idea Trio: Underground
MASOCD 90211 / 8012957021122 / label: Materiali Sonori / format: CD / Italy – Jazz
Gaetano Liguori - Idea Trio is a piano-led double bass and drums trio delivering national-popular jazz with strong political references. The music is described as deliberately simple, evocative, and aimed at communicating a message about social unrest (references include Genova G8 and years of lead).



Mark Mulholland & Joe Armstrong & Stephane Doucerain: Down Silverstreet
POCMCD 2602 / 0826863260227 / label: Ports Of Call Music / format: CD / Various – Pop-Rock
POCMLP 2602 / 0826863260210 / label: Ports Of Call Music / format: CD / Various – Pop-Rock
The seminal post-punk band Swell Maps was founded in the late '70s by brothers Nikki Sudden and Epic Soundtracks, championed by John Peel. Down Silver Streets is a collection of songs by Nikki, Dave and Epic recorded by three musicians who played extensively with Nikki and Dave in the 90s and 2000s. Listen.



Catherine Graindorge & Hugo Race: Long Distance Operators
GRAM LP 2607 / 5050580880740 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Various – Avamtgarde
GRAMLIM 2607 / 5050580880764 / label:Gusstaff Records / format:LP+7" / Various–Avantgarde
A collaboration between Hugo Race and Catherine Graindorge. The music of is an intensely atmospheric dreamweave of violins, electronics and Hugo's darkly evocative voice. The duo explores metaphysical lyrics, experimental sounds and retro-baroque orchestrations in a romantic, song-based context. Listen.



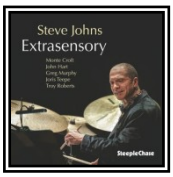
Oruma: I (Rzepka, Ruminski, Barski) (street date: November 13th, 2026)
GRAMCD 2608 / 5050580881778 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: CD / Poland – Avantgarde
GRMLP 2609 / 5050580881785 / label: Gusstaff Records / format: LP / Poland – Avantgarde
Free improvisation, noise, experimental postrock and post-kraut repetition. Avoiding the conventional division between soloist and accompaniment. Instead, two electric guitars and drums gradually abandon their individual roles to form a single, constantly shifting sound organism.



Caroline Davis & Qasim Naqvi & Grey McMurray: Trapping Of Sleep (street date: October 30th, 2026)
RHCD 1011 / 5391538080745 / label: Red Hook Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
RHLP 1011 / 5391538080752 / label: Red Hook Records / format: LP /USA – Jazz
Trappings of Sleep brings Caroline Davis, Grey Mcmurray, and Qasim Naqvi together in a deeply immersive meeting of alto saxophone, guitar, electronics, and drums. Moving between intimacy and intensity, the trio explores connection and the spaces between sound and silence.



Matt Garcia: Three's Up
SCCD 34026 / 0716043402625 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Tenor saxophonist Matt Garcia makes a compelling debut with Threes Up, revealing a mature voice shaped by deep study, hard work, and a fast-rising presence on the New York scene. A Texas native now at Juilliard, Garcia brings a blend of tradition with modern clarity that reflects his years in NYO Jazz (Carnegie Halls National Youth Orchestra)..



Steve Johns: Extrasensory
SCCD 34011 / 0716043401123 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Drummer-composer Steve Johns returns to with Extrasensory, his most fully realize). Reuniting the same core ensemble - guitarist John Hart, vibraphonist/harmonica player Monte Croft, pianist Greg Murphy, and bassist Joris Teepe - Johns builds on the bands deepening chemistry, now sharpened by the fiery presence of saxophonist Troy Roberts on select tracks.



Gary Smulyan & Frank Basile: You Are The One
SCCD 34010 / 0716043401024 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Baritone saxophonists Gary Smulyan and Frank Basile reunite their powerhouse quintet for You Are The One, that again showcases the rare chemistry between two masters of the instrument. Drawing on a mix of classic repertoire and newly minted originals by both leaders, the album highlights the duos deep command of bebop language, contrapuntal writing, and the propulsive blend only two baritones can create.



Jimmy Raney & Doug Raney: Duets
G 1134 / 0716043113415 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / USA – Jazz
Of this unique recording of a father-and-son team, Chicago Tribune of June 8, 1980 summed up quite eloquently, "Duets is an unassuming title for one of the loveliest recordings of this or any other year - a SteepleChase album on which guitarist Jimmy Raney joins his guitarist-son, Doug Raney, in a musical dialog so closely knit that often it is hard to tell which Raney is taking the lead.



Tony Miceli: In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida (street date: November 20th, 2026)
SCCD 34012 / 0716043401222 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Joined by guitarist Elijah Cole, bassist Madison Rast and drummer Dan Monaghan - all fixtures of the Philly scene - Miceli leads the quartet featuring vibraphone-guitar pairing that gives luminous airy quality to the session. The title track, stripped to its harmonic essence, channels a vivid energy that reminds us of Miceli's earlier work reinventing rock for jazz audiences. Miceli offers a warm and deeply personal musical statement.



Yves Brouqui: Together (street date: November 20th, 2026)
SCCD 34013 / 0716043401321 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / France – Jazz
Born in Marseille, raised in Grenoble, Yves Brouqui built his chops between Paris clubs and New York's Small's alongside Grant Stewart, Peter Bernstein, and Joe Magnarelli. His second SteepleChase date reunites him with Spike Wilner (p) and Paul Gill (b), now with Joe Strasser (ds). Standards and three Brouqui originals move with unhurried assurance. Warmth, clarity, and unforced swing..



Ron McClure: Some Kind Of Sing-Songy Stuff (street date: November 20th, 2026)
SCCD 34014 / 0716043401420 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: CD / USA – Jazz
Some Kind Of Sing-Songy Stuff is something new. A dual-tenor summit a rare setting for McClure to lead here is pairing Rich Perry with the younger Anthony Ferrara. With Mike Eckroth (piano), Steve Johns (drums), and McClure's bass anchoring the session, the album features seven reimagined earlier compositions and three new pieces, including the title track inspired by Joe Zawinul and Weather Report.



Paul Bley & Niels Henning Orsted Pedersen: Remastered (street date November 13th, 2026)
G 1005 / 0716043100514 / label: SteepleChase Records / format: LP / Denmark – Jazz
A document of two musicians meeting as equals. Bley had played with Art Blakey, Mingus, and Parker; led a quintet whose other members would form Ornette Coleman's first band, and spent pivotal years in the Jimmy Giuffre Trio. NHOP, the Danish bass phenomenon with his deep tone and rhythmic flexibility sought by visiting Americans from Bud Powell to Baker to Gordon.

Transglobal World Music Chart October 2026
Baba Zula: XXX (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 188 / GBLP 188
Hilal Kaya: Sumbul (CPL-Music) CPLCD 82 / CPLLP 82
Lamia Yared: Zalzalian Crossings (Seyir Muzik) 2GN 43
Meryem Koufi & Mehdi Haddab: Nuba Nova 2 (Buda Musique) BUDA 860409
Tengerton: Ilch (Buda Musique) BUDA 860415
Elkhan Mansurov: Bayati-Isfahan Dastgah (Felmay) FY 8298
Various: Slovakia: Folk to Global (CPL-Music) CPLCD 89
L'Antidote: Sound Sketches (Ponderosa Music Records) PONCD 184 / PONLP 47

World Music Charts Europe October 2026
Baba Zula: XXX (Glitterbeat Records) GBCD 188 / GBLP 188
Tuleje: Nagle Przejsnienia (Gusstaff Records) GRAMCD 2605
Marcos Coll: Ronsel (Galileo Music) GMC 122
Hilal Kaya: Sumbul (CPL-Music) CPLCD 82 / CPLLP 82
Melkutus Party: Mahti (Nordic Notes) NNCD 201 / NNLP 201
L'Alba: Vivu (Buda Musique) BUDA 860416
Gaoussou 'Sobra' Kouyate: Django Blues (One World Records) GSKONE 26
Riccardo Tesi & Paolo Zampini: Camerock (Visage Music) VM 3065

For live music in the BeNeLux check out concerts!