

# NI KANTU

CREATIVE MUSIC CRITICISM, REVIEWS, DISCOURSE AND HISTORY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010

## Things We Like - The Best of 2010

We critics are usually asked to pick a number of recordings, artists, labels and so forth to best exemplify both our preferences and our predictions for the year past/to come. In as much as a “best of” is kind of like the Nobel Peace Prize, one hopes it spurs on those who are doing well to continue doing their best at what THEY want to do (not what we critics might “like”), organize and share ideas ancient to the future. This year has also been heavy with losses - Bill Dixon, Marion Brown, Noah Howard and many others. Dixon’s loss was, for me personally, the most profound, though strangely his passing in July seems like eons ago because so much has happened since that time. That is a good thing - action is the best way to honor the passing of those whom we love and respect.



So, in short, here are the new releases and reissues that have interested me the most (in **alphabetical** order because I don’t play favorites). That’s not to say that there aren’t other awesome records that have been released or reissued since Thanksgiving 2009, but ten seems like a nice, round number. In fact, I’m still catching up on 2010 releases on Another Timbre, Clean Feed, Intakt, Kadima, No Business and Not Two, so stay tuned for more semi-belated reviews.

### NEW RELEASES

1. Joshua Abrams - *Natural Information* (Eremita)
2. Circulazione Totale Orchestra - *Bandwidth* (Rune Grammofon)
3. Bill Dixon/Aaron Siegel/Ben Hall - *Weight/Counterweight* (Broken Research)
4. Grex - *Live at Home* (SUA)
5. Mary Halvorson Quintet - *Saturn Sings* (Firehouse12)
6. Stephen Haynes - *Parrhesia* (Engine Studios)
7. No Mor Musik - *No Mor Musik* (ugExplode)
8. Cecil Taylor/Tony Oxley - *Ailanthus/Altissima (bilateral dimensions of two root songs)* (Triple Point)
9. David S. Ware - *Saturnian* (Aum Fidelity)
10. Katherine Young - *Further Secret Origins* (Porter)

### REISSUES/UNEARTHED GEMS

1. Amalgam - *Prayer for Peace* (No Business)
2. John Carter/Bobby Bradford - *Mosaic Select* (Mosaic)
3. Alvin Curran - *Solo Works: The '70s* (New World)
4. Michael Gregory Jackson - *Clarity* (ESP-Disk)
5. Elodie Lauten - *Piano Works Revisited* (Unseen Worlds)
6. Jemeel Moondoc - *The Muntu Recordings* (No Business)
7. Paul Rutherford - *Tetralogy* (Emanem)
8. Wadada Leo Smith - *Spirit Catcher* (Nessa)
9. Soft Machine - *Live at Henie Onstad Arts Centre 1971* (Reel Recordings)

WHODAT?

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An information professional and longtime follower of creative music, I write for the following journals (online and in-print): Paris Transatlantic, The New York City Jazz Record, Tiny Mix Tapes and the Austinist. I have also written for Signal To Noise, Burning Ambulance, Bagatellen, One Final Note, All About Jazz and All About Jazz New York, City Pages (Twin Cities), and Line Magazine. I have written liner notes for ESP-Disk, Free Music Production, Clean Feed Records, Porter Records, Unseen Worlds Records, 612 Sides and Speetones Music. In addition, I am one of the two hosts of KOOP’s The Cutting Edge, weekly improvised music radio in Austin, Texas. Feel free to contact me: ericleofdolphi [at] gmail [dot] com.

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TO READ & TO HEAR

All About Jazz  
Bagatellen  
Burning Ambulance  
Dark Forces Swing Blind Punches  
Destination Out  
Do The Math  
End of an Ear Records  
Grex Blog  
Master of a Small House  
NYC Jazz Record  
One Final Note  
Organissimo!  
Paris Transatlantic Magazine  
Stephen Haynes  
Stomp Off  
The Austinist  
The Cutting Edge - KOOP 91.7 FM  
The Dixon Society  
The Jazz Collector  
The Paradigm for Beauty  
Tiny Mix Tapes  
Tri-Centric Foundation  
Unseen Worlds  
Who Walk In Brooklyn

[BLOG ARCHIVE](#)

10. Henry Threadgill - *The Complete Novus and Columbia Recordings* (Mosaic)





NOTHING IS MOST HONORABLE THAN...

1. Chicago Underground Duo - *Boca Negra* (Thrill Jockey)
2. Decoy - *Spirit/The Deep* (Bo'Veavil)
3. Harris Eisenstadt - *Woodblock Prints* (No Business)
4. Nick Hennies - *Lineal* (SRA)
5. Joe Morris & Nate Wooley - *Tooth and Nail* (Clean Feed)
6. Phill Musra - *The Creator is So Far Out* (Sagittarius A-Star)
7. Tatsuya Nakatani & Forbes Graham - *Essences* (Blaq Lghtn)
8. Jesse Stacken & Kirk Knuffke - *Mockingbird* (Steeplechase)
9. Jozef Van Wissem - *Ex Patris* (Important)
10. Nate Wooley - *Trumpet/Amplifier* (Smeraldina-Rima)

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Andrea and Ingebrigt

- CA, 12/10

POSTED BY CLIFFORD ALLEN AT 12:11 PM    

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▶ 2011 (34)

▼ 2010 (35)

▼ December (3)

Some Other Stuff - Recent  
Reissues Reviewed

Things We Like - The Best of  
2010

Music Briefly Reviewed:

November/December 2010

▶ November (4)

▶ October (5)

▶ September (3)

▶ August (2)

▶ July (2)

▶ June (4)

▶ May (3)

▶ April (1)

▶ March (1)

▶ February (4)

▶ January (3)

▶ 2009 (38)

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