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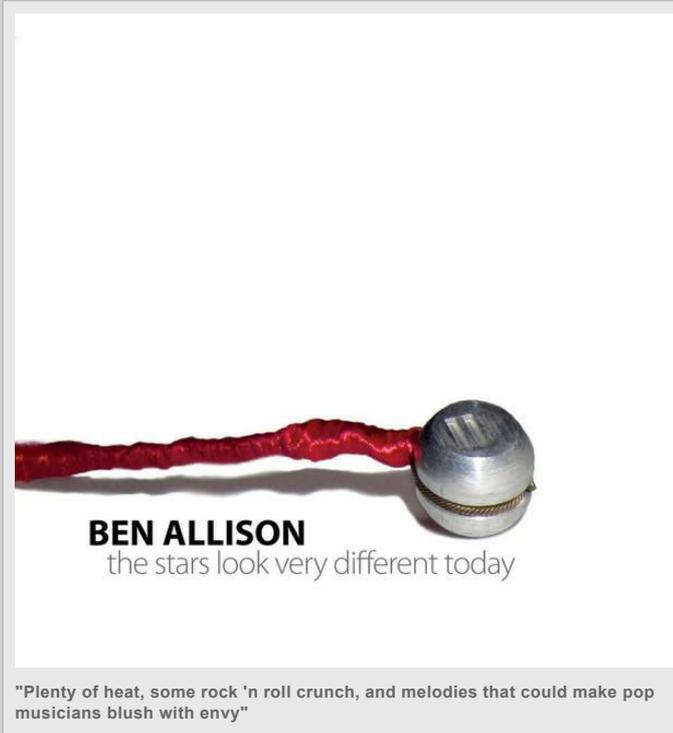

Dave Sumner
eMusic Contributor

Years of immersion in modern jazz music has left Dave Sumner incapable of interacting with normal society. Out of pity as much as anything else, he was asked to...[more](#)

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12.18.13

New Jazz This Week: Ben Allison, William Hooker Trio, Keller's 10 and More!



As the year winds down to a close, Freshly Ripped has a few nice releases this week to help finish things off on the right note. Let's begin...

Ben Allison, *The Stars Look Very Different Today*: The fact that Allison references a David Bowie lyric in the title of his newest recording takes on several meanings. The bassist has earned a reputation for pushing the borders of Jazz ever outward, typically expanding it further into post- and indie-rock territories. His newest has him even further from Jazz center. With a quartet that includes drummer Allison Miller, guitarist & banjoist Brandon Seabrook, and guitarist Steven Cardenas, Allison offers up a set of tunes that bring plenty of heat, some rock 'n roll crunch, and melodies that could make pop musicians blush with envy. A fiercer version of Allison's excellent *Little Things Run the World*, which shares the characteristic of endowing up-tempo music with a mesmerizing quality. **Pick of the Week.**

William Hooker Trio, *Heart of the Sun*: Terrifically expressive improv session featuring drummer Hooker, Dave Soldier on violin, banjo, and guitar, and Roy Campbell on trumpet, pocket trumpet, and flute. Sonic eruptions throughout, though a track like "For Leroy... 2" show that spontaneous conversation is just as evocative at peaceful levels. **Highly Recommended.**

Ken Peplowski, *Maybe September*: Sublime recording by Peplowski, who plays tenor sax on half the album tracks, but really shines on clarinet for the other half. Joined by pianist Ted Rosenthal, bassist Martin Wind, and drummer Matt Wilson, they hit on compositions by Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, John Lennon,

17 Dots

An eMusic Blog



12.13.13 POST

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Weekend Discussion: What Were Your Favorite Albums of 2013?

By J. Edward Keyes, Editor-in-Chief

As we enter the waning weeks of 2013, it's come time for our Weekend Discussions for the year to draw to a close. This week will be the final new Weekend Discussion of 2013 (next week, we'll do a wrap-up of all of our topics over the course of the year). We'll pick back up again -- same time, same place -- on January 10, 2014. We decided to end the year of discussions in seasonally-appropriate... [more](#) »

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Brian Wilson, and Harry Nilsson, though it's the quartet's take on Francois Poulenc's clarinet sonata that serves as this album shining moment... and a prime example of this album's sublime nature. Most tracks are straight-ahead fare, anchored by a chipper take on Ellington's "Main Stem." **Recommended.**

Trio Heinz Herbert and Francesco Diomaiuta Trio, *Rubin*: Intriguing modern fusion recording, which has a prog rock approach but a post-bop demeanor. Album consists of two guitar trios in action. Diomaiuta's trio sticks with the standard guitar, bass, drum line-up, whereas Heinz Herbert's trio subs Hammond organ and Moog in for the bass. Melodies are delivered from all angles but straight-ahead, and are often stamped in place by the rhythm section. Organ and Moog add a fuzzy quality to the affair, muddying the waters that otherwise remain sharp and clear. Not everyday music here, and probably requires some extra patience to find a connection.

Keller's 10, *Two*: A dectet consisting of seven wind instruments, piano, bass, and drums. Compositions that strike a middle ground between classical structuralism and big band wild euphoria. Charming rendition of Monk's "Friday the 13th," letting melody ride the crest of some beautiful harmonization. A sense of spontaneity is a good way to encapsulate the character of this album.

Luis Gonzalez Trio, *Live at Sunset*: Piano trio session with a strong melodic approach. Rhythms are typically chipper, and accentuate the melodic development. Recorded live, and plenty of that performance electricity translates to the recorded medium. A few moodier tracks, like "Remembering Satie," but no matter what the tempo is like, the melodies are well crafted and placed right out front.

Taylor Ho Bynum Sextet and 7-tette, *The Complete Firehouse 12 Recordings*: Collects the entirety of cornetist Bynum's Navigation composition recorded on the Firehouse 12 label, including two live performances and two studio recordings. Bynum is joined by Mary Halvorson on electric guitar, Jim Hobbs on alto sax, Bill Lowe on bass trombone and tuba, Ken Filiano on acoustic bass, Tomas Fujiwara and Chad Taylor both on drums and vibes. Bynum's avant-garde approach tends to employ odd angles and warped curvatures... never really sounding pretty, but strangely engaging the longer one interacts with it.

Sigurdur Flosason, *The Eleventh Hour*: Straight-ahead session led by saxophonist Flosason, and rounding out a strong quartet with Nikolaj Hess on piano, Morten Lund on drums, and Lennart Ginman on bass. Tracks are light on their feet, find plenty time to swing. Ballad "When I Think Back" is all kinds of pretty. Can't go wrong with this one.

Brian Settles, *Folk*: Saxophone trio recording with a heavy presence, yet still across as quite tuneful. Settles on tenor sax, Jeremy Carlstedt on drums, and Corcoran Holt on bass. Opening track "Rivers" illustrates their aptitude with rhythmic fireworks. Subsequent track "Sipho" illustrates the trio's ability to craft a pretty melody and handle it with care.

Susanne Paul's Move Quartet, *El Camino*: A string quartet of cello, violin, viola, and double bass. Their intent is to mesh classical and jazz conventions into something unique. As far as influences go, the result is far more the former than the latter, but the music itself is quite singular. About as beautiful as it gets. Harmonies as warm as sunlight, melodies that melt the heart. Fans of Basquiat Strings should hit the download button on this one. Clean Feed Records fans will be interested to note that the bass player on this recording is none other than Carlos Bica, a musician who has earned a couple mentions in this column previously.

Gregor Loeffe Trio, *Dinner With Janus*: Enjoyable piano trio recording. Keeps things simple... well-crafted melodies punctuated by sharp rhythms. Just one of those pleasant piano trio sessions that's nice to have around.

TAGS: Dave Sumner's Jazz Picks, jazz

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NEXT

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 **12.23.13** The best holiday presents are free new songs - and this one from Royksopp fits the bill. Listen: <http://t.co/lfHKwMxV4V>

 **12.23.13** Pussy Riot is out of prison, but would have stayed in if they could - they say their release was strictly a PR move: <http://t.co/cq6espZ8nr>

 **12.23.13** Some Christmas albums are straightforward, but Bright Eyes runs all over the classics to make them his own. Review: <http://t.co/ORVojkjATW>

 **12.23.13** Singer-songwriter-guitarist @JasonIsbell is keeping it raw & intimate. Download "Cover Me Up" FREE today: <http://t.co/hgJ37fOQWS> #Bestof2013

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mjb

on December 20, 2013 at 4:18 pm said:

Probably a typo or Freudian slip on Taylor Ho Bynum - cornet yes, piano, not so much.



davesummer

on December 21, 2013 at 9:54 am said:

Thanks for that catch. Regretfully, I can't say it was a one time slip. I routinely refer to Bynum as a pianist. I have no idea how that got so ingrained in my head, but it's to the point where it's happened often enough that I should know better than to submit an article that includes Bynum's name without checking first what instrument I've attributed to him. That edit should be up next week. Cheers.

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