

# 100 BEST RECORDS OF THE YEAR

## jazz

**1 AHMAD JAMAL**  
*Saturday Morning (Jazz Village)*  
The octogenarian American pianist has made some terrific recordings lately, but the funkiness of the ensemble playing lifts this one to another level.

**2 RADIO STRING QUARTET**  
*VIENNA Posting Joe — Celebrating Weather Report (ACT)*  
Joe Zawinul would surely have adored these hugely imaginative settings of Birdland et al.

**3 GREGORY PORTER**  
*Liquid Spirit (Blue Note)*  
You can hear echoes of jazz and R&B greats in his voice, yet the American singer remains very much his own man.

**4 MULATU ASTATKE**  
*Sketches of Ethiopia (Jazz Village)*  
The genial pioneer of "Ethio jazz" teams up with a first-rate line-up.

**5 MARK LOCKHEART**  
*Ellington in Anticipation (Subtone)*  
It may have started out as a project for conservatory students, but the British saxophonist's angular celebration of all things Duke-ish is no academic exercise.

**6 TESSA SOUTER**  
*Beyond the Blue (Motema)*  
The Anglo-Trinidadian singer's thoughtful adaptation of classical themes pays off.

**7 CHINA MOSES & RAPHAEL LEMONNIER**  
*Crazy Blues (Decca)*  
This Paris-based combo can even make Hot Stuff swing.

**8 SUE RICHARDSON**  
*Too Cool (Splashpoint)*  
The trumpeter and singer Sue Richardson's homage to Chet Baker brings the boy wonder back to life.

**9 VARIOUS** *Africa in America — Rock, Jazz & Calypso 1920-1962 (Fremeaux)*  
An imaginative and quirky compilation illustrates how the idea of an ancestral homeland became more than a gimmick.

**10 STACEY KENT**  
*The Changing Lights (Parlophone)*  
With the novelist turned lyricist Kazuo Ishiguro, the singer goes on a journey to her beloved Brazil.

Clive Davis

## world

**1 ANA MOURA** *Desfado (Decca)*  
Some purists didn't care for the fado star's attempt to broaden her palette by mixing tradition with Joni Mitchell, but her singing is intoxicating.

**2 LEYLA MCCALLA**  
*Vari-Colored Songs (Dixiefrog)*  
Poems by Langston Hughes sit alongside Haitian folk songs as the cellist and banjo player with Carolina Chocolate Drops goes it alone.

**3 KOBO TOWN**  
*Jumbie in the Jukebox (Cumbancha)*  
Calypso ain't dead yet. The Toronto expat Drew Gonsalves brings a fresh, politically conscious spin to it.

**4 BASSEKOU KOUYATE & NGONI BA** *Jama Ko (Out Here)*  
Even as his country descended into Islamist-inspired violence, the Malian virtuoso kept hope alive.

**5 CARTHY, HARDY, FARRELL, YOUNG** *Laylam (Hem Hem)*  
A relaxed collaboration between four of our finest folk singer-fiddlers packs in everything from the humble shanty to a Patsy Cline evergreen.

**6 VARIOUS**  
*Peru Maravilloso (Tiger's Milk)*  
Susana Baca isn't the only great musician to come out of Peru, as this vibrant compilation shows.

**7 CARLA BRUNI**  
*Little French Songs (Decca)*  
Sarko-haters will never forgive her for becoming a politico's wife. Still, her pared-down set oozes class.

**8 THE CREOLE CHOIR OF CUBA** *Santiman (Real World)*  
Soaring spirituality and raw soul, with subtle shifts between the Caribbean and Africa.

**9 RY COODER & CORRIDOS FAMOSOS**  
*Live in San Francisco (Nonesuch)*  
The guitarist heads south of the border.

Wall Street bankers get their comeuppance, too.

**10 MOUSSU T E LEI JOVENTS**  
*Artemis (Chant du Monde)*  
Blending chanson, blues and Brazilianna, the tuneful boys from Marseilles roam the waterfront.

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## classical

**1 WAGNER**  
*Opera scenes, Wesendonck-Lieder*  
Jonas Kaufmann, Orchester der Deutschen Oper, Berlin, cond Donald Runnicles (Decca)  
As Siegmund, Siegfried, Lohengrin or Stolzing in Die Meistersinger, and in the Wesendonck-Songs, the German supertenor reveals himself as the nonpareil Wagnerian of the day.

**2 DEBUSSY** *La Mer, Première Suite d'Orchestre Les Siècles, cond François-Xavier Roth (Musicales Actes Sud/Harmonia Mundi)*  
Debussy's greatest orchestral masterpiece revealed in pristine, vibrant colours by Roth's pioneering period-instrument band.

**3 BRITTEN** *War Requiem*  
Soloists, Coro e Orchestra dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia, cond Antonio Pappano (Warner)  
With Anna Netrebko, Ian Bostridge and Thomas Hampson, Pappano has ideal soloists, and his Roman chorus and orchestra are thrilling.

**4 MOZART** *Clarinet Concerto, Trio et al Martin Fröst (clarinet/cond), Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie (BIS)*  
Arguably the world's greatest clarinetist in his second account of the greatest concerto for his instrument, revelling in the virtuosity, wit and pathos of Mozart's last orchestral work.

**5 HANDEL** *Serse (Xerxes)*  
Cast, Early Opera Company, cond Christian Curnyn (Chandos)  
Anna Stéphany (Xerxes) and Rosemary Joshua (Romilda) lead a cast

A kind of blues:  
the fado star  
Ana Moura

without a weak link in the most stylishly sung and conducted account yet.

**6 BRITTEN** *String Quartets Nos 1-3; Three Divertimenti*  
Endellion String Quartet (Warner)  
Half a lifetime of playing this music informs these accounts of Britten's three mature quartets and the early Divertimenti.

**7 VERDI** *Otello*  
Cast, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, cond Riccardo Muti (Chicago SO Live)  
Complete opera recordings have been few in the bicentenary year, but this one preserves a live concert performance conducted by the living Verdian maestro, with Al Antonenko an outstanding Ote

**8 SHOSTAKOVICH** *Symphony No 4*  
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic cond Vasily Petrenko (Naxos)  
The problematic Fourth gets a coruscating performance from Petrenko's Royal Liverpoolians a highlight in an excellent series

**9 DONIZETTI** *Belisario*  
Cast, BBC Symphony Orchestras BBC Singers, cond Mark Elde (Opera Rara)  
The rising North American star El-Khoury and Russell Thomas in the soprano and tenor leads Donizetti rarity about a Roman brought low by intrigue.

**10 STRAVINSKY** *Music for and Orchestra*  
Steven Osborne BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra cond Ilan Volkov (Hyperion)  
Osborne and Volkov are well in this brilliantly played album collects Stravinsky's complete for piano and orchestra on a series

**11 MAHLER** *Das Lied von der Erde*  
Sarah Connolly (mezzo), Toby Spence (tenor), London Philharmonic Orchestra, cond Yannick Nézet-Séguin (LPO)  
Connolly and Spence prove equal some of the finest exponents of in Nezet-Séguin's youthful acc

