

Archive releases of the Year

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- 1 **Ursula K Le Guin & Todd Barton**
Music And Poetry Of The Kesh (Freedom To Spend)

A utopian ethnographical forgery of the music of a post-tech tribe based on a far future US Pacific coast, merging Le Guin's poetry with Barton's Buchla compositions, drones, chants and field recordings. Ken Hollings said: "The living communicate not just with the discreet ghosts of the recently departed, who require nothing now from us but a change of manners, but the feral ghosts of those who have not yet existed." (April/410)



- 2 **Haruomi Hosono**
The Haruomi Hosono Archival Series (Light In The Attic)

Dating from 1973–89, Light In The Attic's range of reissues from Yellow Magic Orchestra's founding member were a gleeful pick and mix of global styles, from banghra beats and boogie-woogie bass breakdowns to hybridised, back at you orientalist exotica and sparkling synth pop. Clive Bell said: "Hosono's angle was that he was writing modern music, informed by contemporary developments elsewhere but without the stiffness of the formal academic scene. It's all pop as far as he's concerned." (September/415)



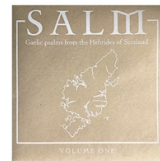
- 3 **Carl Stone**
Electronic Music From The Eighties And Nineties (Unseen Worlds)

Following on from 2016's reissue of 1970s and 80s compositions, the four works compiled here saw Stone embracing new recording capabilities to generate dense tracks extrapolated from simple sound sources. Louise Gray said: "Taken together, they describe a journey through the recent history of technology, from composing with and recording on magnetic tape, to the digital delay units and the pomp of Synclavier, to the advent of more affordable digital equipment in the form of Macs, samplers and a Yamaha synth." (August/414)



- 4 **John Coltrane**
Both Directions At Once: The Lost Album (Impulse!)

A miraculous discovery of pristine reel-to-reel tapes given to Coltrane for reference purposes and then passed down through the generations, *Both Directions At Once* was probably more of a practice session than the album that the title implies. But a new original from his quartet at the height of their powers sounded as if they never went away. Daniel Spicer said: "For Coltrane scholars, the main attraction is the inclusion of two untitled, previously unheard originals – both of which use a brief, simple head as a springboard to deep swinging hard bop." (August/414)



- 5 **Various**
Salm: Gaelic Psalms From The Hebrides Of Scotland Vol 1 (Arc Light Editions)

The old and extraordinary tradition of Gaelic psalm singing received a rare moment in the limelight with this reissue of a local recording made on the Isle of Lewis in 2003. The spontaneous waves of call and response between congregation and leader of the service makes it unlike any other song form in the world. Stewart Smith said: "It's a stunning example of individual expression working towards a collective voice." (May/411)



- 6 **Catherine Christer Hennix**
Selected Early Keyboard Works (Empty Editions/Blank Forms)

For a musician renowned for breaking ground with drone and just intonation composition, *Selected Early Keyboard Works* had surprising moments of volatility, and a dense swirl of keyboard flurries that recalled Joe Zawinul getting it on with Miles Davis. Louise Gray said: "The hallucinatory effect of sustained listening is one of music and matter that creates its own time." (December/418)



- 7 **Alice Coltrane**
Spiritual Eternal: The Complete Warner Bros Studio Recordings (Real Gone)

One of several recent archive releases of Alice Coltrane works, *Spiritual Eternal* re-presented *Eternity*, *Radha-Krsna Nama Sankirtana* and *Transcendence* from her Warner Bros era, and among other deep delights found the innovator grappling with the pitch-bending capabilities of the Wurlitzer 805 Centura organ. Emily Pothast said: "Once taken, the plunge into Alice Coltrane fandom can feel like the letting loose of one's heart into a vast ocean of cosmic possibility. Each time you think the bottom has been reached, the ground is revealed to contain new, unfathomable depths." (September/415)



- 8 **Michele Mercure**
Beside Herself (RVNG Intl)

Following the Freedom To Spend label's reissue of *Eye Chant*, this overview of the work of the electronic explorer and multimedia musician Mercure on sister label RVNG Intl filled out the picture of her work, whose reputation for many years was restricted to tape swapping magazines. Claire Sawers said: "Black and white archive photos of Mercure working in her synth lab, with popped collars, slouch socks and finger in the socket hair, show an original innovator." (January/419)