top ten 1997 critics' picks

Top-10 lists — David Letterman's got 'em every night. Ours come only once a year. And where Letterman looks for entertainment value over insight, JAZZIZ's version offers no jokes — just a straightforward account of the year's best jazz. Each critic tells it as they heard it.

Karen Bennett

1. **Wallace Roney** *Village* (Warner Bros.)
2. **Terell Stafford** *Centripetal Force* (Candid)
3. **Grand Central** *Tenor Conclave: A Tribute to Hank Mobley* (Evidence)
4. **Marc Cary** *Listen* (Arabesque Jazz)
5. **Tommy Flanagan Trio** *Sea Changes* (Evidence)
6. **Ron Carter** *The Bass and I* (Blue Note)
7. **Bob Berg** *Another Standard* (Stretch Records)
8. **Rodney Kendrick** *We Don't Die, We Multiply* (Verve)
9. **Various Artists** *Holding Up Half the Sky: Women in Reggae, Roots Daughters* (Shanachie)
10. **Miles Davis** *Kind of Blue* (Columbia/Legacy)

Karen Bennett is a contributing editor of Musician *magazine. She also writes for* Fi, Live!, The Wire, *and the* Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mike Bieber

1. **Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Frisell, Dave Holland** *Angel Song* (ECM)
2. **Courtney Pine** *Underground* (Antilles)
3. **Arto Lindsay** *Mundo Civilizado* (Bar None)
4. **Third Rail** *South Delta Space Age* (Antilles)
5. **Wayne Horvitz & Zony Mash** *Cold Spell* (Knitting Factory Works)
6. **William Hooker** *Mindfulness* (Knitting Factory Works)
7. **United Future Organization** *Third Perspective* (Antilles)
8. **Various Artists** *Great Jewish Music: The Music of Serge Gainsbourg* (Tzadik)
9. **DJ Shadow** *Endtroducing...* (MoWax/FFRR)
10. **Pat Martino** *All Sides Now* (Blue Note)

Mike Bieber is a writer and editor living in New York City. He plays in a God-awful garage rock band called Airport 77.

Larry Blumenfeld

1. **Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Frisell, Dave Holland** *Angel Song* (ECM)
2. **Matthew Shipp "String" Trio** *By the Law of Music* (Hat Art)
3. **Herbie Hancock & Wayne Shorter** *1+1* (Verve)
4. **Tim Berne's Bloodcount** *Bloodcount Unwound* (Screwgun)
5. **William Parker & The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra** *Sunrise in the Tone World* (AUM Fidelity)
6. **Horace Tapscott** *Thoughts of Dar Es Salaam* (Arabesque Jazz)
7. **Dave Douglas** *Sanctuary* (Avant)
8. **Greg Osby** *Further Ado* (Blue Note)
9. **Steve Coleman & The Mystic Rhythm Society** *The Sign & The Seal* (RCA Victor)
10. **Kirk Lightsey** *Goodbye, Mr. Evans* (Evidence)

Larry Blumenfeld is editor-in-chief of JAZZIZ.

Bob Blumenthal

1. **John Abercrombie** *Tactics* (ECM)
2. **Dave Douglas** *Stargazer* (Arabesque Jazz)
3. **Dominique Eade** *When the Wind Was Cool* (RCA Victor)
4. **Kenny Garrett** *Songbook* (Warner Bros.)
5. **Wynton Marsalis & The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra** *Blood on the Fields* (Columbia)
6. **T.S. Monk** *Monk on Monk* (N2K Encoded Music)
7. **Alfredo Rodríguez** *Cuba Linda* (Hannibal)
8. **Matthew Shipp Duo with Joe Morris** *Thesis* (Hatology/Hat Art)
9. **Gary Smulyan** *Gary Smulyan With Strings* (Criss Cross)
10. **Steve Turre** *Steve Turre* (Verve)

Bob Blumenthal is the jazz critic for The Boston Globe *and a regular contributor to* The Atlantic Monthly, Fi, *and other publications.*

Bruce Carnevale

1. **Cecil Taylor** *Nefertiti, The Beautiful One Has Come* (Revenant)
2. **Peter Kowald, Günter Sommer & Wadada Leo Smith** *Touch the Earth — Break the Shells* (FMP)
3. **Anthony Braxton Quartet** *(Santa Cruz) 1993* (Hat Art)
4. **Matthew Shipp "String" Trio** *By the Law of Music* (Hat Art)
5. **AMM** *Laminal* (Matchless)
6. **Parker, Guy & Lytton with Marilyn Crispell** *Natives and Aliens* (Leo Records)
7. **Steve Lacy & Mal Waldron** *Communiqué* (Soul Note)
8. **Borah Bergman, Anthony Braxton & Peter Brötzmann** *8 by 3* (Mixtery)
9. **Irène Schweizer** *Many and One Direction* (Intakt)
10. **William Parker & The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra** *Sunrise in the Tone World* (AUM Fidelity)

Bruce Carnevale lives and teaches in Germany, writes the monthly Euro-column for Epulse, *and contributes to the German magazines* Spex *and* Jazzthetik.

Brian DiGenti

1. **Wu-Tang Clan** *Wu-Tang Forever* (Loud/RCA)
2. **William Parker & The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra** *Sunrise in the Tone World* (AUM Fidelity)
3. **Common** *One Day It'll All Make Sense* (Relativity)
4. **Killarmy** *Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars* (Wu-Tang Records)
5. **Courtney Pine** *Underground* (Antilles)
6. **William Hooker** *Mindfulness* (Knitting Factory Works)
7. **DJ Shadow** *Endtroducing...* (MoWax/FFRR)
8. **David S. Ware Quartet** *Wisdom of Uncertainty* (AUM Fidelity)
9. **Kool Keith** *Sex Style* (Funky Ass Records)
10. **Various Artists** *CTI Records: Birth of the Groove* (CTI)

Brian DiGenti is a writer and DJ living in Brooklyn.