

80TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTOR'S EDITION

DOWNBEAT[®]

Jazz, Blues & Beyond

THE **80** COOLEST THINGS IN JAZZ TODAY

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SPECIAL SECTION GUITAR SCHOOL

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THE GENRE BENDERS



66. THE BAD PLUS

The Bad Plus has long been recognized for successfully integrating its brainy jazz compositions with more accessible rock grooves. Now the New York-based trio has broken new ground with its daring interpretation of composer Igor Stravinsky's score for *The Rite Of Spring* (Sony Masterworks). —Davis Inman



67. PEDRITO MARTINEZ

Percussionist-vocalist Pedrito Martinez is taking Afro-Cuban music to new heights, mixing jazz, funk, rumba, gospel, flamenco and other styles into an undeniably infectious sonic brew. His quartet's new album, *The Pedrito Martinez Group* (Motéma), features guest spots from a couple of players you might have heard of: Wynton Marsalis and John Scofield. —Davis Inman



68. MEHLIANA

Throughout his career, pianist-keyboardist Brad Mehldau has pulled from the rock and pop songbooks of such diverse artists as The Beatles, Radiohead, Nick Drake, Paul Simon, Oasis and Soundgarden. His new Mehliana project with drummer Mark Guiliana—documented on *Taming The Dragon* (Nonesuch)—is a head-on collision with woozy electronica, spoken-word segments, dreamscapes and ambient music. —Davis Inman



69. TROMBONE SHORTY

Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews has quickly risen to the top of the New Orleans brass-band hierarchy, bringing his soulful, funky chops to mainstream audiences around the world. A major draw on the festival circuit, the trombonist-trumpeter-vocalist's new album, *Say That To Say This* (Verve), was co-produced by r&b star Raphael Saadiq and pushes even further into jazz-meets-arena-rock territory. —Davis Inman

71. MEGHAN STABILE

If you've kept up with the New York jazz scene during the past few years, you've noticed the work of concert producer Meghan Stabile and her Revive Music Group. Though known for combining jazz with hip-hop, Revive is in search of just one thing from its artists, according to Stabile: "Really great music."

Stabile has put together shows for Roy Ayers, Pete Rock, Mos Def and the Robert Glasper Experiment, as well as Iqmar Thomas' Revive Big Band—a group that embodies the merging of genres.

"Our focus is to just be that place where people can go to... see the most ridiculous live concert," says Stabile. "They know they're going to be exposed to music they've never seen before. Or artists that they never knew existed."

In the future, Stabile intends to expand beyond the Big Apple.

"New York is our home, and New York will always be present [in Revive], but I know that part of what this is [involves] giving it to the world," says Stabile. "So that's gonna be the next step."

With her finger on the pulse of jazz and hip-hop, as well as her role as an executive producer for Blue Note Records, Stabile is an industry star on the rise. —Brad Farberman

70. SNARKY PUPPY

The members of Snarky Puppy originally came together as college students in Denton, Tex., but now the Brooklyn-based group wows audiences all over Europe and recently won a Grammy in the category of Best R&B Performance for the song "Something" featuring vocalist Lalah Hathaway. Expect to sweat at a Snarky Puppy show because you won't be sitting still for long. —Davis Inman

