

YEAR IN REVIEW: THE TOP 50 RELEASES OF 2018

AMERICA'S JAZZ MAGAZINE

JazzTimes

year in review '18 **CRITICS' PICKS**

We calculated our top 40 new releases and top 10 historical/reissue recordings of 2018 based on year-end lists by our writers. They were asked to choose the 10 best new releases and five best historical titles—i.e., albums and box sets consisting primarily of music recorded 10 or more years ago. To see each voter's ballot, visit JazzTimes.com. Albums and box sets released between Nov. 7, 2017 and Nov. 10, 2018 were eligible. Some discs may have slipped through the cracks, however, as official release dates shifted or weren't available.

Blurbs by David R. Adler, Philip Booth, Shaun Brady, Thomas Conrad, J.D. Considine, Andrew Gilbert, Geoffrey Himes, Matthew Kassel, Ken Micallef, Mac Randall, Jeff Tamarkin, and Michael J. West

1. WAYNE SHORTER *EMANON* (BLUE NOTE)



Like Himalayan peaks, these performances stretch out before the listener, vast in scale. A full disc in-studio with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, two discs live

from London with the spectacular Shorter quartet, even a graphic novel: It's as triumphant a late-career statement as anyone could make. Choose any entry point and one can get lost in it, with tantalizing clues and markers to be grasped as one ascends. Three of the four Orpheus pieces receive quartet treatments as well, including "Prometheus Unbound," seeds of which were sown in "Capricorn 2," the final track from *Alegria*. It's heartrending to recall that on David Weiss' *Endangered Species: The Music of Wayne Shorter* (2013), we hear Geri Allen probe the same piece's secrets alongside bassist Dwayne Burno—two brilliant lights who would soon depart well before their time. These complex histories intersect on *Emanon*, as Shorter defies the march of time and stirs up spirits that can never die. **D.R.A.**

