

daily.bandcamp.com/the-best-jazz-albums-of-2024

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„One of the best jazz albums of 2024.“

by Dave Sumner

Back when I wrote about this album in June's column (*), I led with the admission that I was addicted to it, and found it difficult to put it aside for other music. At the end of the year, I find I am still facing that challenge. Carlos Bica has historically displayed a talent at situating his music in that incongruous place where an abiding serenity coexists peacefully with wild dissonance, as if balanced precariously at the very edge of the eye of the storm, touched both by chaos and calm. But never to this degree and resonating with such force. The double bassist—joined by alto saxophonist José Soares, vibraphonist Eduardo Cardinho, and guitarist Gonçalo Neto (who adds some banjo, to boot)—conjures powerful magic on *11:11*, one of the most vivid albums of 2024.

(*) I. Cannot. Stop. Listening. To. This. Album. Melodically, it is mysterious and strange and stupendously mesmerizing. It's not unlike wandering through a labyrinth, always a blind to the path ahead, yet pulled forward by some irresistible force. Rhythmically, it's like the rustling of autumn leaves, overhead and underfoot, in all of their tones. These qualities are not a new thing to a Carlos Bica recording, but never have they been quite so damn affecting. The double bassist is joined by alto saxophonist José Soares, vibraphonist Eduardo Cardinho, and guitarist Gonçalo Neto (who adds some banjo, to boot).
Dave Sumner (June 2024)