



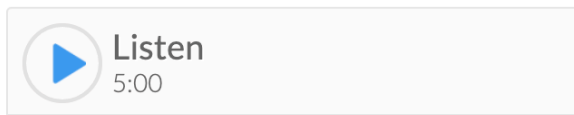
Take Five: Sharp New Music by David Sanchez, Ryan Keberle, Matt Mitchell & Alexa Tarantino

By NATE CHINEN • MAY 26, 2019

Alexa Tarantino, “Breeze”

So far this has been a good year for the visibility of a winning young saxophonist named Alexa Tarantino. A few months ago she released an album with the Posi-Tone Records collective called *Something Blue*. ([We featured them](#), and her, in *Take Five*.)

Tarantino was also a prominent voice in a [recent episode](#) of *Jazz Night in America*, about the DIVA Jazz Orchestra as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. And she appears on *Bliss*, a recent album by baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevian. (They regularly work together in a band called LSAT.) *Winds of Change* is Tarantino’s own new album, releasing on Posi-Tone this Friday. It boasts a first-rate rhythm section: pianist Christian Sands, bassist Joe Martin and drummer Rudy Royston.



"Breeze," by Alexa Tarantino, from 'Winds of Change'

“Breeze” is an aptly titled original that Tarantino describes as “an easygoing medium-swing composition that has a few deceptive moments to keep you on your toes.” Her delivery of the melody faintly recalls an alto precursor like Art Pepper, though Tarantino is hardly interested in impersonation. And listen to the comping that Sands does behind her, before his own spirited solo.



The Alexa Tarantino Quartet appears on Tuesday at [Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola](#).