

2019 Expanded Critics' Poll Results

JazzTimes' critics pick their favorite artists, festivals, venues, and more from the year just past

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For this annual companion poll to last issue's [Top 50 Critics' Picks](#), our regular contributors participated in this survey based on our yearly readers' poll. Winners are bolded; runners-up are listed below in order of votes. Contributors were asked to focus on artists' achievements during 2019 rather than assessing entire careers. An asterisk * denotes a tie.

BEST MUSICIANS

Trumpeter
Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah
Ambrose Akinmusire

Wynton Marsalis*
Tom Harrell*
Jonathan Finlayson

Trombonist
Michael Dease
Trombone Shorty
Ryan Keberle
Wycliffe Gordon*
Jennifer Wharton*

Keyboardist
Herbie Hancock
Craig Taborn
Robert Glasper
Jamie Saft

Organist
Dr. Lonnie Smith
Larry Goldings
Joey DeFrancesco
John Medeski

Alto Saxophonist
Bobby Watson
Rudresh Mahanthappa
Miguel Zenón
Alexa Tarantino*
Steve Lehman*

Tenor Saxophonist
Branford Marsalis
Chris Potter
Joe Lovano
Charles Lloyd*
JD Allen*

Acoustic Bassist
Christian McBride
Ron Carter
Dave Holland
Linda May Han Oh*
Larry Grenadier*

Electric Bassist
Melvin Gibbs
Tarus Mateen
Steve Swallow
Marcus Miller

Soprano Saxophonist
Branford Marsalis
Dave Liebman
Jane Bunnett
Chris Potter

Baritone Saxophonist
James Carter
Gary Smulyan
Claire Daly
Ronnie Cuber

Vibraphonist
Stefon Harris
Joel Ross
Warren Wolf
Joe Locke

Percussionist
Zakir Hussain
Pedrito Martinez
Roman Díaz
Tyshawn Sorey

Vibraphonist
Stefon Harris
Joel Ross
Warren Wolf
Joe Locke

Clarinetist
Anat Cohen
Ben Goldberg
Don Byron
Ken Peplowski

Flutist
Nicole Mitchell
Charles Lloyd
Anne Drummond
Jamie Baum

Violinist
Regina Carter
Jenny Scheinman
Mark Feldman
Aaron Weinstein

Pianist
Kris Davis
Fred Hersch
Jason Moran
Chucho Valdés

Percussionist
Zakir Hussain
Pedrito Martinez
Roman Díaz
Tyshawn Sorey

Drummer
Allison Miller*
Brian Blade*
Eric Harland
Jeff "Tain" Watts
Jack DeJohnete

Male Vocalist
Gregory Porter
Theo Bleckmann
Kurt Elling
Andy Bey

Female Vocalist
Cécile McLorin Salvant
Dianne Reeves
Jazzmeia Horn*
Sara Gazarek*
Cassandra Wilson

Composer
Maria Schneider
Guillermo Klein
Esperanza Spalding
Kris Davis*
Fred Hersch*

Arranger
Maria Schneider
Darcy James Argue
Gil Goldstein*
Anthony Braxton*
Arturo O' Farrill

Misc. Instrumentalist
Tomeka Reid (cello)
Brandee Younger (harp)*
Béla Fleck (banjo)*
Grégoire Maret (harmonica)
Colin Stetson (bass saxophone)

Vocal Group
Duchess
Manhattan Transfer
New York Voices
Tillery

Club
Village Vanguard
Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola
Jazz Standard
The Stone

Artist of the Year
Terri Lyne Carrington
Branford Marsalis
Joe Lovano
Kris Davis

New Artist
Angel Bat Dawid
Joel Ross
Terri Lyne Carrington and Social Science*
Jenny Scheinman & Allison Miller's Parlour Game*
Chris Lightcap's SuperBigmouth

Big Band/Large Ensemble
Maria Schneider Orchestra
Miho Hazama and m_unit
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
Anat Cohen Tentet