

# Jakob Baekgaard's Best Releases of 2014

By

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2014 proved to be another fruitful year for jazz. The artists on this list represent many different musical directions, but that is the wonder of jazz. It is so many things and the world would indeed be poorer if the idiom was restricted to one particular sound. These artists all have a fresh approach to the music, but, at the same time, they respect tradition. Argentinian pianists Francisco Lo Vuolo and Paula Shocron know the language of the standards and even Danish saxophonist Lars Greve's enchanting dialogues with nature has its predecessor on saxophonist Peter Brötzmann's and drummer Han Benninks *Schwarzwaldfahrt* (FMP, 1977).

Once again, tradition was transformed and artists collaborated across continents, and old treasures, like Ethiopian master Hailu Mergia's masterpiece *Tche Belew*, were (re)discovered. It was also proven that the elusive Nordic sound is still thriving, with Norwegian pianist Jan Gunnar Hoff's *Fly North* being a particularly convincing example of the genre.



Paula Shocron

[Surya](#)

(Kuai Music)



Francisco Lo Vuolo

[In Walked Francis](#)

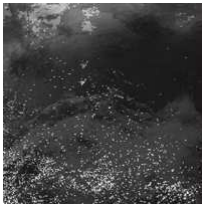
(RivoRecords)



Hailu Mergia

[Tche Belew](#)

(Awesome Tapes From Africa)



Lars Greve

[Breidablik](#)  
(Hiatus Label)



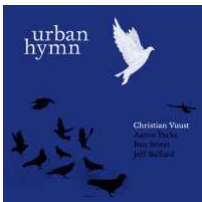
Simon Toldam

[Kiq Op 14](#)  
Ilk Music



Mark Turner

[Lathe of Heaven](#)  
(ECM)



Christian Vuust

[Urban Hymn](#)  
(Self Produced)



Jan Gunnar Hoff

[Fly North](#)  
(Losen Records)



Gjertrud Lunde

## [Hjemklang](#)

(Ozella Music)



Jakob Buchanan

## [Some People & Some Places](#)

(Self Produced)



Mimi Jones

## [Balance](#)

(Hot Tone Music)



Samo Salamon & The Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra

## [Free Strings: Orchestrology](#)

(Self Produced)

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*Jakob is still amazed by the ability of jazz to constantly transform itself as an art form.*