

Title	Artist	Scored out of 10. 0 = lowest score, 10 = best score					Total	Comments
		Music	Recording	Space	Depth	Dynamics		
Universal traveller	Julian Joseph	8	8	8	8	7	7.8	Great 90's CD from the English Jazz Maestro. Absolutely outstanding musicianship and recording.
Ultimate Guitar Collection	JulianBream	9	6.5	5	5	9	6.9	Wonderful collection of classic guitar pieces from the pre-eminent classical guitarist of the late 20th century
Something For You	Eliane Elias	9	7	7	6	7	7.2	A wonderful collection of Bill Evans classics played by one of the greatest jazz pianists around. Wonderfully evocative. A masterpiece.
Quiet	John Scofield	8	8	8	7	6	7.4	Great music with inspired guitar playing by Scofield and some wonderful brass ... complety spoilt by the synthesized bass lines on every track. Who the hell decided to do this? A classic tragically relegated to mediocrity ... Listen and weep at what could have been.
Damaged	Lambchop	6	7	6	7	7	6.6	A nice relaxig CD. Vallium vocals. Something to enjoy late on a Saturday night after the consumption of a bottle of wine, hopefully after drifting off into a deep sleep ... Zzzzzz
Spain	Manhattan Jazz Orchestra	8	7	7	8	8	7.6	A great CD that could have benefitted from a more sympathetic approach to the preservation of the recording space. Nevertheless, wonderful brass attack and 'tizz'. Great for a Saturday afternoon, loud and when the house is devoid of family.
Matt Bianco	Matt Bianco	3	6	6	6	6	5.4	A trashy, poppy recording. One for a party, but not anything serious. Probably best consumed along with 5 or 6 litres of beer, but count me out on that ...
It's Time	Michael Buble	7	8	7	7	6	7.0	A great recording from the Canadian with the mellifolous voice. Some classic songs. Smooth and refined. Pour me a Scotch darling and come and join me on the couch ...
The Best of Michael Franks	Michael Franks	7	8	7	6	7	7.0	Great collection of songs. 'The Art of Love' has got to be the funkiest tune ever! Great stuff!!
Sweet Freedom	Michael McDonald	8	7	7	6	7	7.0	A wonderful collection of tunes. McDonald, a west coast music veteran, probably reached his zenith with this early '90's album, before sadly fading into obscurity. Glorious music.
Kind of Blue	Miles Davis	9	8	8	7	7	7.8	A jazz classic, never since repeated. Absolutely wonderful. It will take half a dozen listening sessions for the uninitiated, after which a long addiction will surely follow ...
Bitches Brew	Miles Davis	8	8	7	7	8	7.6	Great recording, great virtuosity ... But inaccessible and requires real dedication to get into. One for musicians who can appreciate the technicalities ...
Piano Moods	Osacar Peterson	8	7	7	6	6	6.8	A hugely enjoyable collection of jazz standards from one of the greatest jazz pianists of the 20th century. Recordings not always great, but the music and energy shine through.
Pauito d'Rivera	Portraits of Cuba	9	9	8	8	7	8.2	A Classic! Absolutely wonderful collection of tunes by a modern Latin Master. Another one for a Saturday afternoon and a bottle of Rioja while the partner is out shopping ...
Respect	Aretha Franklin	9	7	5	6	7	6.8	A collection of her hits spanning 30 years. This is absolutely heavenly music from one of the greatest vocalists of the last 50 years. Wonderful.
Ben Webster Meets Osacar Peterso	Ben Webster & Osacar Peters	9	7	6	7	6	7.0	Recorded in the early 60's in the Netherlands, this is a wonderful collection. Ben Webster's sax playing is ultra laidback, while the bass playing is a bit pedestrian, Peterson's genius clearly on the rise and destined for great things ...
Treasure	Cocteau Twins	7	8	7	7	7	7.2	A great album by the Scottish duo. Spacy and free spirited, one to enjoy when in a good frame of mind as background music.
déjà vu	Crosby, Stills and Nash	9	6	5	5	5	6.0	A classic from the early '70's. Memories of a different time flood back. Spliffs, beer, girls (although I could never find one), surfing and a carefree youth, bent on changing the world for the better. Our time has come ... along with complexities we never could have contemplated. Wonderfully nostalgic and evocative now.
Time Out	Dave Brubeck Quartet	9	8	7	8	8	8.0	An outstanding piece of work given that this recording is from the earley 1960's. The musicianship shines through and the recording stands up to techical scrutiny 50 years later. Check out 'Pick Up Sticks' and of course 'Take Five'! A classic.
Abu Nawas Rhapsody	Dhafer Youssef	9	8	7	7	8	7.8	This Tunisian master, resident for many years in Norway, has created a unique musical canvas on this album. Inspired playing by skilled instrumentalists, coupled to Youssef's spectacular vocal abilities leaves the listener entranced. Check out the 2nd track 'Les Ondes Orientales'. Essential listening.
Live in Paris	Diana Krall	9	9	9	8	7	8.4	Every thinking man's Godess, Krall weaves magic with her divine piano playing and rich, soulful vocals. Exemplary recording, and audience applauses and ambience only make the recording more entertaining. Turn down the house lights and turn up the music!
Five For Fun	High Five	8	9	9	8	8	8.4	Exciting Latin Jazz wonderfully and sensitively recorded. Italian mastery: very spacey recording coupled to great sound stage depth that is both musically enjoyable, and technically enthralling
Grace	Jeff Buckley	8	9	8	8	8	8.2	Tragically, the only release by an artist that would have undoubtedly emerged as one of the great talents of the pop world; musically enthralling, Buckley's unique vocal talent's give wing's to the songs, underpinned by great guitar playing. A classic - and do try it out on 180g vinyl. Absolutely essential listening.
Sol	Fabrizio Bosso	8	9	9	8	7	8.2	The modern day Italian 'brass maestro' displays his flair on this album. Album liner story obscure in the x-treme (sounds like the story of someone's acid trip), but the music is totally overwhelming. If you're looking for the ultimate demo CD, look no further ...
Rumours	Fleetwood Mac	9	7	7	7	6	7.2	Incredibly, this album is 40 years old. A 70's classic, combining the best talents from both sides of the pond, it will no doubt continue to shine in the pop firmament for decades to come. Pull it out and take a listen every 12-18 months to recalibrate your sensibilities. Wonderful.
X	Fourplay	6	9	8	5	6	6.8	Music executed to such perfection, and engineered to such high standards sadly loses its soul. Great for 'deep background' listening (i.e. at -80dBa), or 'lift music', but although pleasant enough, sadly cannot be taken seriously in the final analysis.
First of a Million Kisses	Fairground Attraction	8	9	8	8	7	8.0	A wonderfully recorded CD, given its 1988 vintage although perhap's a little over engineered. But, the commitment of the Scottish musicians shines through; some wonderful stories in the lyrics - a great album.
Selling England by the Pound	Genesis	8	8	7	6	6	7.0	A great early 70's album that still resonates in 2010 - we have come full circle. Very compressed and flat compared to the best, but a great listen nevertheless. Nostalgic and thought provoking.
Wind and Wuthering	Genesis	8	7	7	7	6	7.0	A great album released in 1977. 'All in a Mouse's Night' is one of my favourites, along with the '11th Earl of Mar'. Another classic that brings the memories of my '70's youth flooding back ...
Breezin'	George Benson	9	8	8	7	7	7.8	Released in 1976, this album cemented Benson's reputation as the foremost jazz guitarist of the quarter century leading up to 2000. Flawless playing and a glorious voice to match, this album is an absolute classic. The recording overall is ok, but does not stand up to the best on offer in 2010. Nevertheless, stunning!
The Very Best Of George Benson	George Benson	7	8	8	7	7	7.4	Certainly a step down from his jazz roots, this collection of songs nevertheless is pleasant. Its fun, poppy listening however. Particularly appealing no doubt to early 1980's yuppies, latching onto Benson releases that were already 3 or 4 years old at the time ...

Swingin' For the Fences	Gordon Goodwin Big Band	7	8	8	8	6	7.4	A nice enough recording but ultimately does not excite as anticipated. After a few listen's, you are left yawning, and reaching for something else. A pity, because a big band should be an enormously visceral listening experience. I heard them live at the Blue Note in Tokyo, and they were awesome. Sadly, something they are unable to repeat on this CD.
No Room for Squares	Hank Mobley	9	8	8	8	8	8.2	Released in 1963, this wonderful CD was given to me by my son, a recording engineer and musician. The recording is top notch, and one is left wondering how this kind of spaciousness and dynamic was able to be captured given the technology at the time. Deserves a serious listen.
Home	Hothouse Flowers	9	8	7	7	7	7.6	A great album from this Irish outfit, and a trick they seem to have been unable to repeat on subsequent releases. 'Christchurch Bells' is a favourite, as is 'Giving It All Away'. Great stuff!
War of the Worlds	Jeff Wayne et al	8	8	8	8	8	8.0	A classic released in 1978. Play the whole thing late on a Friday night, loud and with a Pinot Noir at your side. Marvel at the recording and Richard Burton's narration. Mind you, you'll need your specs to read the liner notes. Fabulous, but I hope to hell the Martian's never visit ...
To Survive	Joan As A Policeman	9	9	7	7	7	7.8	A wonderfully intimate album from a highly respected artist. The vocals are a bit too close mic'd for my tastes, but the music shines through. Takes 3 or 4 listens to 'get into' but addiction soon follows ...
Carmel	Joe Sample	9	7	6	7	7	7.2	One of Joe Samples great recordings, this '79 masterpiece sees him displaying all his virtuosity in 'Carmel', while 'A Rainy Day in Monterey' re-affirms him as one of the foremost exponents of the electric piano. Not the best recording around, but the musicianship shines through.
Life's Rich Pagent	REM	8	8	7	7	7	7.4	Released in 1986, this great Album was another in a long line of hits for REM. It contains great tracks, well recorded and full of fun.
Raising Sand	Robert Plant and Alison Kraus	8	9	7	7	7	7.6	This is a collaboration between rock musician Plant and folk Goddess Krauss that on paper should not work. But it does, and the music is stranglely gentle, restrained and euphoric. Clearly the country producer (T Bone Burnett) came to town to teach everyone a thing or two about how to make a great CD ... No doubt a classic in years to come.
Chavez Ravine	Ry Cooder	9	9	7	8	8	8.2	Cooder at his best. Through the songs, this album traces the arc of misguided anti communist sentiment, bigotry and plain misinformation that permeated late 1950's and early 1960's American politics. Gritty, funny and yet also sad. A classic.
Day Dreamer	Chris Russell	9	8	8	7	7	7.8	A great 1st album by this Mancunian artist. Heartbreak, cold weather, social commentary (check out 'Pamela') - this is all covered. Great recording and lyrics!
Relayer	Yes	3	4	3	3	5	3.6	One for the bottom of the CD pile. Inaccessible wall of noise. Whoever decided this was worthy of release?
Fragile	Yes	9	7	6	6	7	7.0	A great 1970's recording that in many respects set the benchmark forever for prog-rock. This was sophisticated music that was not to everyone's taste's. John Howe's acoustic guitar is masterful as is Jon Anderson's handling of the vocals. Remastered and reissued. Essential listening.
Beethoven's 9 Symphonies	Berlin Philharmomic/Herbert v	10	7	7	7	9	8.0	Heavily criticized in some quarters for the arrangements and von Karajan's self aggrandizement, this 6 CD set nevertheless captures all of Beethoven's 9 symphonies splendidly. The recordings are very good, although not quite as spacey and 3 dimensional as they could have been in my view. Everytime I listen, I discover something new. Wonderful. Essential listening.
Big Band time	Paquito d'Rivera	9	8	8	7	8	8.0	A wonderful CD, beautifully recorded. The Latin Maestro does it again. My favorite track is Andalusia. This is how big band should be done. A collectors piece.
Praise and Blame	Tom Jones	8	6	5	5	7	6.2	Unfortunately, I only heard this on MP3, and the sound is awful. However, after a lifetime of boozing, womanizing and whatnot (well, that the impression from the songs, my apologies if it is not the case in real life!), the Welsh crooner still has what it takes to deliver the goods. Great album, Mr. Jones!
Both Worlds	Michel Petrucciani	8	8	7	7	8	7.6	Released in 1997, this wonderful CD has the jazz pianist at his best. Challenged with brittle bone disease to which he eventually succumbed, Petrucciani's music was always thoughtful and beautifully executed. A masterpiece.
Old Places Old Faces	Joe Sample	9	8	8	9	8	8.4	This great recording from the 90's is sparse and open in a wonderful way. The music breathes and is exceptionally well recorded. Clifton's Gold is a classic as is tones for Ben. A great disc for exercising you system. Essential listening.
When I look in Your Eyes	Diana Krall	8	9	9	7	8	8.2	Another great recroding from the Canadian artist and a tick in the box for Tommy LiPuma who has guided this star's rise to fame over the last decade or so. The material in my view a little too 'safe', but that's ok. Krall's recordings are always absolutely top class, and when combined with the musicianship, makes for an enthralling listen. Wonderful stuff.
The Very Best of Cat Stevens	Cat Stevens	9	7	6	6	7	7.0	One of the great British pop stars of the 70's, this CD showcases a string of Stevens hits from that era. Lady D'Arbanville, Moonshadow, Mathew and son, Rubylove with its bazouki accompaniment ... Wow, what wonderful stuff. Surprisingly well recorded. A great CD.
Rufus Wainwright	Rufus Wainwright	7	7	7	7	8	7.2	A nice collection of songs from another Canadian artist, although judging from the sombre mugshot of him on the album sleeve you'd never guess.