

ETIENNE CHARLES



Born on the Island of Trinidad in 1983, **Etienne Charles** defies easy musical categorization. He has been hailed by *New York Times* as "an auteur" and by *Jazz Times* as "A daring improviser who delivers with heart wrenching lyricism." According to *Downbeat Magazine* "Charles delivers his ebullient improvisations with the elegance of a world-class ballet dancer." Etienne has received critical acclaim for his exciting performances, thrilling compositions and knack for connecting with audiences worldwide. In June 2012, Etienne was written into the **US Congressional Record** for his musical contributions to Trinidad & Tobago and the World.

Perhaps more than any other musician of his generation or Eastern Caribbean origin, Etienne brings a careful study of myriad rhythms from the French, Spanish, English and Dutch speaking Caribbean to the table. Crucially, as a soloist, he fully understands the New Orleans trumpet tradition (which is readily discernible in his trademark instrumental swagger) and what famed Crescent City Pianist, Jelly Roll Morton so succinctly captured in the now immortal phrase, 'The Spanish Tinge'.

His latest recording, **Creole Soul** (Culture Shock Music 2013) has received worldwide critical acclaim for its fusion of root grooves from the Afro-Caribbean (3 weeks at #1 Jazzweek Chart, iTunes #5, #3 Jazzweek top 100 of 2013, #25 Billboard Jazz Chart). His previous release, **Kaiso** (Culture Shock Music 2011), features his arrangements and interpretations of the music of calypso legends Lord Kitchener, Mighty Sparrow and the Roaring Lion.

As a sideman he has performed and or recorded with Monty Alexander, Roberta Flack, Frank Foster, Ralph MacDonald, Johnny Mandel, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Maria Schneider, Count Basie Orchestra, Eric Reed, Lord Blakie, David Rudder and many others.

Etienne Charles currently serves as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University. He holds a Master's degree from the Juilliard School and a Bachelor's degree from Florida State University.



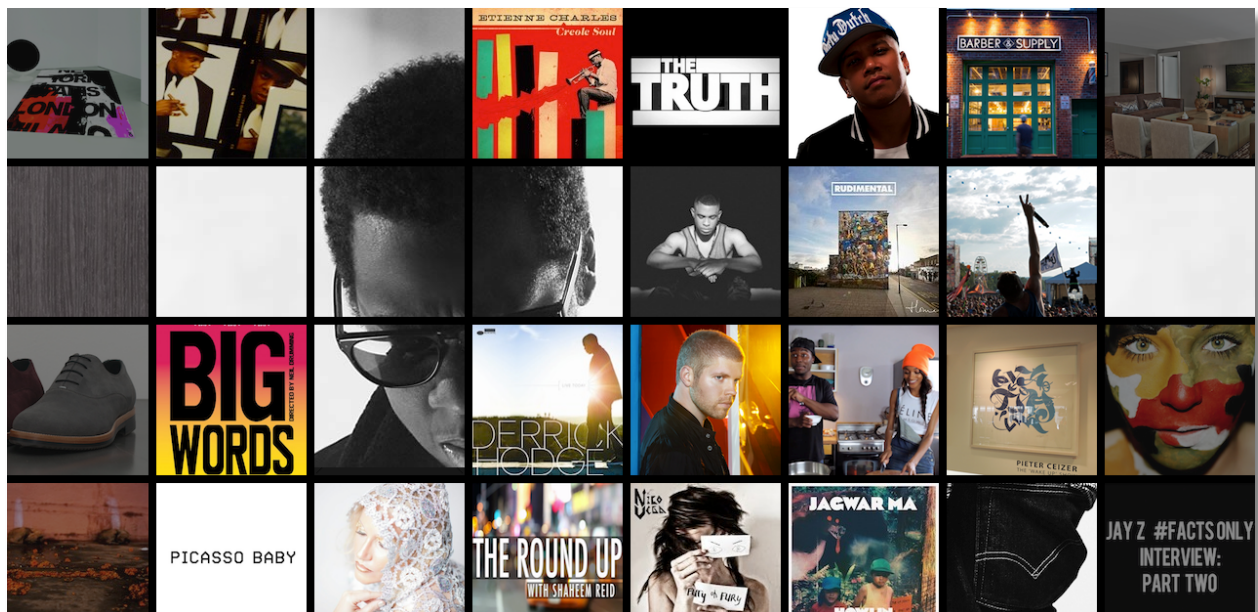
For more information please visit etiennecharles.com



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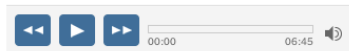
Press Play is the place where The New York Times debuts noteworthy new music. Every week, we present tracks from an upcoming new album. Listen to them here exclusively.



Etienne Charles Creole Soul

July 23, 2013
Culture Shock Music | etiennecharles.com

The album explores the jazz trumpeter's Caribbean and American musical roots with both original compositions and songs by Thelonious Monk, Bob Marley and others.



Creole

The Folks

You Don't Love Me (No No No)

Roots

Memories

The New York Times WEEKEND Arts

July 19, 2013

★ **ETIENNE CHARLES AND CREOLE SOUL** (Tuesday) Mr. Charles, an irrepressible trumpeter and percussionist, explores the affinities between jazz, the music of his calling, and calypso, the music of his culture. (He was born and raised in Trinidad.) As on his excellent new album, "Creole Soul" (Culture Shock), he leads a dynamic unit that includes Jacques Schwarz-Bart on tenor saxophone, Alex Wintz on guitar, Ben Williams on bass, and Daniel Sadownick and D'Achee on percussion; rounding out the ensemble are the pianist Taylor Eigsti and the drummer John Davis. At 10:30 p.m., Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker Street, near Thompson Street, Greenwich Village, (212) 505-3474, lepoissonrouge.com; \$10 in advance, \$15 day of show. (Chinen)



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Rank				Artist	Title	Label	Chart					
TW	LW	2W	Peak				TW	LW	Move	Weeks	Reports	Adds
1	1	1	1	Etienne Charles <i>3 weeks at No. 1 / Most Reports</i>	<i>Creole Soul</i>	Culture Shock Music	301	312	-11	5	59	1
2	2	2	2	Christian McBride Trio	<i>Out Here</i>	Mack Avenue	279	310	-31	6	53	1
3	14	63	3	Warren Wolf	<i>Wolfgang</i>	Mack Avenue	225	185	+40	2	44	5
4	6	25	4	New Gary Burton Quartet	<i>Guided Tour</i>	Mack Avenue	213	216	-3	3	45	9
5	3	3	3	Yellowjackets	<i>A Rise In The Road</i>	Mack Avenue	211	236	-25	10	37	2

JazzWeek



Top 100 Jazz 2013

Rank	Artist	Title
1	Christian McBride Trio	<i>Out Here</i>
2	Terri Lyne Carrington	<i>Money Jungle: Provocative In Blue</i>
3	Etienne Charles	<i>Creole Soul</i>

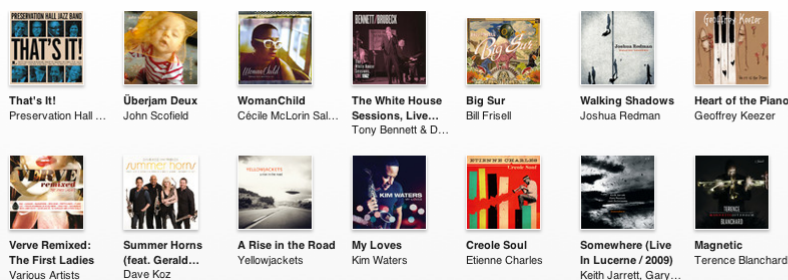


Aug. 19: Three-peat for Etienne Charles

No. 1 for a third consecutive week on the **JazzWeek Jazz Chart** — and again most reported (59 stations) — is Etienne Charles *Creole Soul* (Culture Shock Music). The highest debut (No. 14), biggest gainer (+94 spins), and most added (27 stations) is the late George Duke *DreamWeaver* (Heads Up).



New and Noteworthy



Jazz

TOP CHARTS

See All >

Albums

Songs



1. **That's It!**
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
2. **Every Man Should Know**
Harry Connick, Jr.
3. **Überjam Deux**
John Scofield
4. **Summer Horns (feat. Gerald ...)**
Dave Koz
5. **Creole Soul**
Etienne Charles

Best of 2013: Albums of the Year



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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

July 19, 2013

GREATER NEW YORK

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE JAZZ SCENE | By Will Friedwald

Uptown Swing, Crescent City Blues



Trumpeter Etienne Charles fuses West Indian music and modern jazz.

jazz

npr music



Piano Mastery, Trinidadian Trumpet, Singing Apes: New Jazz Releases

This summer has seen plenty of worthwhile jazz, including a pianist who's been around since the '50s, a Caribbean jazzman, a band of deliberate melody, and a Jungle Book cover. Sample recordings from Harold Mabern, Etienne Charles, the band Black Host and Lauren Desberg.

[Read this story](#)

Etienne Charles: 'Creole Soul'

◆ (Le) Poisson Rouge
158 Bleecker St., (212) 228-4854
July 23

In 1949, American blues star Louis Jordan recorded "Push Ka Pee Shee Pie," a novelty that proclaimed as "the new calypso." Shortly after, the pioneering Calypsonian Lord Kitchener approached the matter from the opposite angle, singing the praises of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie in "Bebop Calypso." Now, 60 years on, Trinidadian trumpeter Etienne Charles (further inspired by Kingston pianist Monty Alexander) brings the fusion of West Indian music and modern jazz up to date with his latest album, "Creole Soul." Chief among Mr. Charles's accomplishments are putting Thelonious Monk to a Caribbean beat on "Green Chimneys" and rendering Bob Marley's "Turn Your Lights Down Low" as a boppish ballad. Call this music the new "New Calypso Bebop."

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Roundup

What's New Under the Sun

Recent jazz releases find inspiration in the tropics.

By Mark Holston

The lasting imprint of European colonizers, mixed with African, indigenous and myriad global influences, makes the Caribbean an endlessly fascinating corner of the world. As this quintet of releases attests, musicians from the region — as well as others who view it from afar — find much in its traditions to stimulate their creativity.

Extracts of a Desire, the self-produced recording by alto saxophonist, composer and arranger **Jonathan Suazo**, once again reveals Puerto Rico as a font of creative musicianship. The nine-track date is technically accomplished, thematically daring and structurally complex. Performances range from rhythmically dense, energy-packed works like "Pace of Life" to the placid and introspective "Forgive Me." Working with a basic quintet — impressive guitarist Gabriel Vicéns is the other primary soloist — and featuring guests such as percussion ace Paoli Mejías, Suazo delivers a truly impressive debut disc.

Suazo's session was co-produced by celebrated alto saxophonist and composer **Miguel Zenón**, who offers his own stirred-up take on the jazz-Latin hybrid on *Oye!!! Live in Puerto Rico* (Miel Music). Accompanied by the Rhythm Collective, a group of *boricua* musicians with whom he toured West Africa a decade ago, Zenón finds liberation in a band that features no instrument to lay down harmony-defining chords. The trap drummer, percussionist, electric bassist and saxophonist are particularly potent when they create urgent, interlocking riffs that give new personalities to tunes like Tito Puente's "Oye Como Va." Zenón's fluency on his instrument mesmerizes, as does his ability to fashion haunting narratives seemingly out of thin air.

On *What's Up?* (Okeh), his second solo recording in a three-decade-long career, Dominican pianist **Michel Camilo** delivers an A-to-Z survey of the jazz, Latin and classical styles that he has assimilated. With his customarily high quotient of verve, wit and technical bravado, Camilo has fun with the elemental and bluesy vibe of the title tune. His classical side comes forth in "Sandra's Serenade," an homage to his wife that unfolds dynamically like a flower awakening to the warm kiss of the morning tropical sun. The piquant rhythms and melodic lyricism of "Beat" capture the pianist's unconventional take on the reggae synthesis of African-grounded traditions and jazz.

From neighboring Haiti comes inspiration for the unusual concept album *First Black Nation* (MLS Music), by guitarist and composer **Michael-Louis Smith** and his quintet. The overarching narrative that links the session's 10 tracks is the 2010 earthquake



Etienne Charles

that dealt this impoverished country yet another deadly setback. "In the Hot Sun" casts a happy, pre-quake tone via a calypso-type work that features the group's talented saxophonist, Stacy Dillard. The next two tracks, "Earthquake" and "Voices in the Rubble," capture the agony of the moment through means available to a small ensemble — the crashing of Ismael Lawal's drums and cymbals for

Trinidad-born trumpeter and composer **Etienne Charles** and his group crystallize a kind of pan-Caribbean sound that draws its stylistic focus from the area's English-speaking islands on *Creole Soul* (Culture Shock). With Fender Rhodes, electric guitar and tenor and alto saxophones strongly shaping the group's sonic identity, Charles and company easily transform calypso, reggae and other regional idioms into a pleasing blend of jazz and funk. The rhythmic formula coupled with Charles' big tone and fluid articulations are an effective combination. And his reading of Thelonious Monk's "Green Chimneys" confirms the trumpeter's growing reputation as a first-rate soloist. ▲

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A Midsummer Night's Dream. By Michael Fagien

18 Prelude

George Benson covers Nat Cole; Geri Allen returns to Motown; Gary Burton picks up the pace; the Cherry Poppin' Daddies return to swing; Bill Frisell the Baker; re.



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JULY
19 & 20

At Jiffy Lube country bar
Dierks Bentley and Miranda
Lambert. At Bohemian Caverns
jazz trumpeter Etienne Charles.

JIFFY LUBE

Brad Paisley, whose duet with LL Cool J, "Accidental Racist," raised eyebrows this year, stops by. Chris Young and Lee Brice open. June 20. \$50.25 to \$65.75.

Country superstar and The Voice judge Blake Shelton showcases *Based on a True Story*, his eighth studio album. July 20. \$29.25 to \$49.

The Dave Matthews Band has been playing together for more than 20 years since forming in Charlottesville in 1991. *Billboard.com* called the alt-rock group's newest album, *Away From the World*, "restrained, moody, and subtle." July 27. \$49.80 to \$75.

Country star Miranda Lambert, who doubles as one-third of the acclaimed girl group Pistol Annies—not to mention as Mrs. Blake Shelton—shares a bill with Dierks Bentley, Kix Brooks (formerly

of Brooks and Dunn), and RaeLynn. July 28. \$29.25 to \$54.75. 7800 Cedar Door Dr., Bristol; 877-898-5407; lineation.com.

MERRWEATHER POST PAVILION

Merrweather's lineup includes the Scottish indie band Belle & Sebastian (July 19), the alt-rock stalwarts Phish (July 19 and 20), indie popsters Fun (July 20), Bob Dylan (July 23), and the indie folk band the Lumineers (July 28). \$35 to \$215. 10478 Little Patuxent Pkwy., Columbia; 877-438-0549; merrweathermusic.com.

BOHEMIAN CAVENS

Etienne Charles, whom the *San Jose Mercury* described as "one of jazz's most vivid new voices," comes to the U Street corridor with his quintet. The 29-year-old trumpeter, composer, and bandleader fuses jazz motifs with the musical traditions of his Trinidad upbringing. July 19 and 20. \$30 to \$25. 2021 14th St., NW; 202-209-0300; bohemiancaverns.com.

WARNER THEATRE

Minus Dory Jones, who passed away last year, the Monkees—Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, and Peter Tork—showcase the songs that helped them sell more than 65 million records, including "I'm a Believer" and "Last Train to Clarksville." July 21. \$30 to \$180. 815 15th St., NW; 877-898-5407; warnersiteattheatre.com.

830 CLUB

Indie-rock singer/songwriter Kurt Vile stops by with his band, the Violators. After finding success with the Philadelphia band the War on Drugs, Vile has pursued a solo career, gaining comparisons to Stephen Malkmus and Neil Young for his psychedelic-tinged sound. July 20. \$20.

Paul Weller, an alum of the British new-wave band the Jam, released his self-titled debut solo album in 1992 and established himself as a key member of the Britpop wave of the late '90s. The Telegraph called his 2012 album, *Soak It Up*, "refreshingly limber and genuinely enjoyable." July 30. \$45. 518 V St., NW; 877-438-0549; 930.com.

THE BIRCHMERE

Washington-raised singer/songwriter Rachael Yamagata, a Holton-Arms graduate, stops by with songs from the

2011 album *Clothes Make the Man*, described by the website AllMusic as having "tracks that run the gamut from lush and languid to sultry and spooky." July 8. \$25.

The Mike Seeger Commemorative Old Time Banjo Festival returns for a seventh year, with performers including Tony Trischka, Dan Gellert, Adam Hurt, Paul Brown, and Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. The event features a concert on July 20 and workshops with Trischka, Gellert, Hurt, and Brown on July 21 (e-mail tyto@oldtimebanjofestival.com for details). Concert tickets are \$25, and

HOWA
The
album
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Album

A show
at W6
Int'l



August 20, 2013

LIFE

THE PLAYLIST

USA TODAY music critic Jerry Shriver highlights 10 intriguing tracks found in the week's listening.

Late Night Mona	Nashville rockers tell a deeply sad story of a woman, who wishes she was anywhere but where she is, on this track from the new <i>Torches & Pitchforks</i> .
One Harry Nilsson	This rarity from the new 17-disc RCA Albums Collection is a take on his own tune, which became a hit for Three Dog Night.
Brunette Woman Jeff Jensen Band	The blues guitarist's new <i>Road Worn and Ragged</i> showcases his versatility, and this burner leads the way.
Grand Central Warren Wolf	The standout jazz vibraphonist captures the feel of the city on this track from his new <i>Wolfgang</i> .

Turn Your Lights
Down Low
Etienne Charles

Bob Marley's tune takes on a new dimension in the hands of this jazz trumpeter on his excellent new album, *Creole Soul*.

Love's a Long Time Coming Elvis Presley	The King's simple country ballad from 40 years ago is one of several gems on the delightful new set <i>Elvis at Stax</i> .
Stay Young Olkervil River	This peppy plea to closed-minded folks to open their hearts portends good things from the album <i>Silver Gymnasium</i> , out Sept. 3.
Dark Matter Andrew Belle	Singer/songwriter Belle is most often heard on TV show soundtracks; new album <i>Black Bear</i> should expand his audience considerably.
9,999,999 Tears Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison	This irresistible weeper from the excellent album <i>Cheater's Game</i> was released in February, but its charm endures.
Funny Little Tragedy Gov't Mule	Hear a new, punkier side of the Warren Haynes-led group — including a vocal by Elvis Costello — on this single from double-disc <i>Shout!</i> , out Sept. 24.

WASHINGTONIAN



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Best of the Year

W

HEN I WAS CONSIDERING AND REVISITING the many excellent CDs released in 2013, there was one that stood out because I played and replayed it the most throughout the year. I listened to it while working and also later in the evening to relax. I also played it when friends came to

visit – and was consistently asked ‘Who is this?’ When that it was 71-year old Chucho Valdés, they followed with, ‘It’s very good!’ They had never heard of the Grammy and Latin Grammy winner and jazz giant, but were intoxicated by the band’s exotic mix of hard-bop jazz and Afro-Cuban, Spanish, Moroccan, and Native-American rhythms. Yet it is Valdés piano mastery that is most astounding. Add to this Branford Marsalis playing at the top of his game on three tracks, and you have over

an hour of the finest jazz you could ever ask for – daring and familiar. **Chucho Valdés and The Afro-Cuban Messengers’ *Border-Free***, is my favorite CD (or should I say ‘release?’) of 2013.

Another standout among the many exciting jazz releases in 2013 is Trinidad-born trumpeter **Etienne Charles’ *Creole Soul***. The album explores the music of the French, Spanish and English-speaking Caribbean, mixing creole, calypso, and reggae with American be-bop jazz and rhythm & blues. In a collection of romping party music and tender ballads, Charles’ originals stand out, even among covers of Marley’s ‘Turn Your Lights Down Low’ and Monk’s ‘Green Chimneys.’

Three releases by artists with decades of excellent music behind them are among the best of the year’s releases. **Tom Jones’ *Spirit in the Room*** is his best album in years. At 73, Jones could easily have rested on his laurels and become a nostalgia act, a traveling restrospec-

by Andrew Elias

tive of old hits. Instead, he is making new music with refreshing vigor, stamping songs by the likes of Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, Tom Waits, and Leonard Cohen with his soulful voice and emotional intensity. Most surprising: a wonderful rendition of the Fifth Dimension’s psychedelic hit, ‘Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In).’ Music with roots as deep as his voice.

Another personal favorite, and an album I find myself playing again and again without tiring, is ***Timeless***, by **John Hammond**. If you’ve never seen Hammond in concert, in a small club or festival setting, you’re missing one of the truly great bluesmen of all time. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have

manances, we probably night and venue. With 50 years records and touring Hammond seems to much as ever. *Timeless* intimate show, rocking classic blues, such as ‘Road,’ ‘Drop Down Crying,’ and ‘Junk P



songs strike a balance of youth with more introspective and mat

Top 10 CDs of 2013

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

CHUCHO VALDÉS
and The Afro-Cuban Messengers
Border-Free

www.jazzvillagemusic.com

ETIENNE CHARLES
Creole Soul

www.etiennecharles.com

TOM JONES
Spirit in the Room

www.rounder.com

JOHN HAMMOND
Timeless

rosebudus.com

SAM PHILLIPS
Push Any Button

www.samphillips.com

SHANNON LABRIE
Just Be Honest

www.shannonlabriemusic.com

POKEY LA FARGE

www.pokeylafarge.net

LUKE WINSLOW-KING
The Coming Tide

www.bloodshotrecords.com

HANNI EL KHATIB
Head in the Dirt

www.innovativeleisure.com

GHOST BROTHERS
OF DARKLAND COUNTY
John Mellencamp, Stephen King,
T Bone Burnett

www.concordmusicgroup.com



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Weekly

**Mitchell library
costs alarm
Council**
Page 3

**SPOTLIGHT
ON THE
NEW
ARTS
SEASON**

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■ **Neighborhoods** A literary salon in Old Palo Alto Page 7

■ **Sports** Stanford tight end catches on Page 26



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Arts & Entertainment

FORWARD INTO FALL

BY
REBECCA
WALLACE



MUSIC

Trumpeter Etienne Charles is a fitting choice to grace the Weekly cover this week. Not only is he quite photogenic (hello, impish smile), he epitomizes the musical offerings at Stanford Lively Arts this season.

Many campus concerts will showcase the sounds of the islands, including the Etienne Charles Quintet on April 4. Island accents

are sure to be prominent when this acoustic group — featuring Charles, who hails from Trinidad — plays.

Other performers with an island flavor will include the Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés & the Afro-Cuban Messengers on Feb. 19; Hawaiian slack-key guitarist Keola Beamer and singer Raiatea Helm on May 6; and trombonist Josh Roseman, who celebrates his Jamaican roots in a concert with his sextet on Nov. 12.

The Lively Arts season also includes ample offerings of string quartets; a helping of Gershwin with the pianist Kevin Cole and tenor Ryan Vandenboom on Dec. 3; and, on Oct. 26, beats galore from the chipper four musicians of So Percussion. Ticket prices vary, and concerts are held in various venues at Stanford University. Call 650-725-ARTS or go to livelyarts.stanford.edu.

Some Lively Arts performers also give short free concerts at the Community School of Music and Arts at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View; the Etienne Charles Quintet will do so on April 3. More info is at arts4all.org.

In other music news, the composer and Palo Alto native Deborah Lurie has more notes to share with the Peninsula.

Once a student at Gunn High School, she's now often known for her film scores ("Dear John," "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," the upcoming "Footloose" re-

(continued on next page)

If you filled your calendar with the highlights of the Palo Alto area's 2011-12 arts season, you'd be writing (or typing) up a mini-United Nations.

New and notable performers and performances will include: an Israeli hip-hop violinist, a Cuban pianist, a play about an Iranian family, a dance piece on the Taiwanese-American experience, visual art inspired by a French sculptor and the brand-new Palo Alto International Film Festival. In the Weekly's annual fall arts pre-

LOCAL
ARTS
GROUPS
STEP
AHEAD
INTO
THE NEW
SEASON

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"Blackbottom" is in a Cantor Arts Center show of artists influenced by Rodin; Andrea Weber of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company; cast members from the 1970s-flavored Lanford Wilson play "Fifth of July" at The Pearl Avenue Theatre; Ethiopian art on display at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center; West African singer Angélique Kidjo.



the cover: Etienne Charles will perform at Stanford University and at the Community School of Music and Arts in April. Photo by Laura Ferreira.



Quotes

“Mr. Charles likes jazz that’s crisp and ambitious but never unruly, powered by a clean and swinging rhythm, harmonically coming out of the mid-1960s.”

Ben Ratliff, New York Times

“Call this music the New Calypso Bebop.”

Will Friedwald, Wall Street Journal

“He hones a velvet, supple tone that’s as melodically captivating as it is rhythmically agile. When it comes to uptempo songs like the infectious **J’ouvert Barrio** or the humorous **Ten to One is Murder**, Charles delivers his ebullient improvisations with the elegance of a world-class ballet dancer.”

John Murph, Downbeat Magazine

“A great young trumpeter . . . **Creole Soul**, expressing mixed ancestry through musical admixture.”

Patrick Jarenwattananon, NPR’s A Blog Supreme

“Integrating calypso and jazz with his innovative blowing, Charles, 28, seems to have created space for his music in the newly resurgent art form. Its raw sentimentality might well take the listener to an age of elegance—at the dawn of a period designated by radical changes in cultural textures. Africa and New Orleans are also in the house, in the belly of improvisation.”

Dalton Narine, Trinidad Guardian

“Charles has managed to bring to life a very vivid sense of the mystery, the magical realism — the luminous folklore of the Caribbean.”

Kevin Le Gendre, Jazzwise Magazine

“A fascinating, fully realized hybrid.”

Bill Milkowski, Jazz Times

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