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## Ian Patterson's Best Releases Of 2020



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January 1, 2021  
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A year like no other produced a terrific amount of great music, much of inspired by—or in spite of—the surreal circumstances. Here, in no particular order, are some of my favorite releases of the year. A huge thank you to all the musicians, record labels, studios, agents, promoters and virtual technicians who helped keep us relatively sane and uplifted.

Carole Nelson



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~~Been Down This Road Before~~  
By ~~Clifton Anderson~~

FEATURED ALBUMS



**Americana**

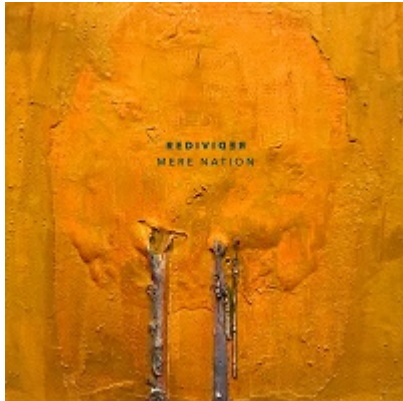
Gregoire Maret

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PREMIUM



portraits.



ReDiviDeR

*Mere Nation*

Diatribes Records

The third outing from ReDiviDeR, the two-horn, no-chord Dublin-based quartet founded by drummer [Matthew Jacobson](#) in 2007, is arguably the best yet. Jacobson's mazy compositions are built upon sketches that invite collective improvisation from alto saxophonist [Nick Roth](#), trombonist [Colm O'Hara](#) and bassist [Derek Whyte](#). The two horns weave in and out of unison as Jacobson and Whyte ply rhythmically intriguing courses, though lead and comping duties overlap constantly.

There is a lot going on rhythmically, harmonically and melodically, but whilst complex, the music is still

the long poem "Grove Park" and the episodic "Haiku," which closes a fascinating album on a powerful note.



Yuri Honing Acoustic  
Quartet  
*Bluebeard*  
Challenge Records

In the past decade Dutch saxophonist [Yuri Honing](#) has pursued a hauntingly spare sound, one characterized by its meditative quality and pronounced lyricism. With *Bluebeard*, the fourth release from the Yuri Honing Acoustic Quartet, the leader comes close to perfection. Talk Talk's masterpiece *Spirit of Eden* (Parlophone, 1988) provided the atmospheric inspiration for Honing's beautifully brooding music, heard notably in drummer [Joost Lijbaart](#)'s curiously deceptive, hypnotic rhythms.