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Best of 2009 - Jazz / Chris Barton

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Vijay Iyer

(Lynne Harty / ACT Music)

Like the rest of the recording industry, jazz clearly has its issues going into 2010. But rumors of its death remain greatly exaggerated. In the last 12 months, a variety of performers released remarkable, forward-looking music that in some cases showed little regard for barriers between genre or culture. A sampling of the year's best, ranked from 1 to 10.

1. Vijay Iyer, "Historicity" (Act Music + Vision): No record defined the jazz landscape in 2009 quite like this release on a German label from a New York-based piano trio led by the son of Indian immigrants. Backed by an acrobatic rhythm section of Marcus Gilmore and Stephan Crump, Iyer delivered a complex yet accessible mix of originals and covers from both the jazz firmament (Andrew Hill) and cutting-edge pop (M.I.A.).

Pictured: Stephan Crump, left, Marcus Gilmore and Vijay Iyer.

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Opera star Domingo does Mexico City concert - *La Plaza* 12/20/2009, 4:23 p.m.

Boys' basketball: Taft-Campbell Hall game set for Monday - *Varsity Times Insider* 12/20/2009, 3:13 p.m.

VIDEO: 'Avatar' director Jim Cameron and his stars on opening night - *The Hero Complex* 12/20/2009, 3:12 p.m.

Boys' basketball: Final eight teams for SFV Invitational - *Varsity Times Insider* 12/20/2009, 3:08 p.m.

L.A. police investigate death of Brittany Murphy - *L.A. Times - Entertainment News* 12/20/2009, 2:56 p.m.

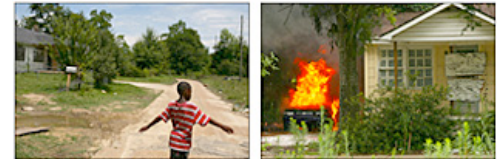
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Album reviews

Album review: Arizona's Tokyo Electron reaches the end of the highway

Album review: Alicia Keys' 'The Element of Freedom'

Album review: Robin Thicke's 'Sex Therapy: The Session'

Album review: Animal Collective's 'Fall Be Kind'

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Live reviews

Live: Power 106 Cali Christmas at Gibson Amphitheatre

Live review: Aimee Mann skips the merry and bright in Christmas concert

Garth Brooks bypasses glitz and shows genius in Vegas

Live: Morrissey at the Gibson Amphitheatre

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Classical

Music review: Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' at Disney Concert Hall

Reviewing the decade in the arts

Friday morning at Disney Hall: Vivaldi's 'Four' at 11

Music review: Marc-Andre Hamelin revives Alkan in San Francisco

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Vancouver, host of the 2010 Winter Olympics



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