

Music

Saxophones dominate on recent Canadian albums

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Hey there, time traveller!

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IT'S time to catch up on some Canadian jazz recordings, ranging from duets to nonets, from Montreal to home.

And if saxophones tend to predominate, don't read it as a trend; it just happened that way.



Tara Davidson performs a series of duets on her new album.

Toronto saxophonist Tara Davidson steps back from her usual recording format of quartet to nonet for a series of 13 duets with six top musicians, including tenor saxophonist Mike Murley, her first jazz saxophone teacher, to expat pianist Laila Biali, now based in New York City.

Davidson, playing alto and soprano saxophones, performs with a wide range of emotions to suit the material and her duet partners' styles on the disc *Duets* (Addo Records). There is some boppish back-and-forth on 130 E. 39th St. with Murley, pianist David Braid sets up an odd-metered groove on *Lele's Tune Part 1* and Biali conjures the sun on *The Good Earth*.



SUPPLIED PHOTO
Versatile sax player Tevet Sela plays hard on *Lying Sun*.

Montreal saxophonist Tevet Sela, a transplant from Tel Aviv since 2010, plays like hell on his CD *Lying Sun* (Effendi Records).

The alto and soprano player gets help from pianist John Roney, bassist Morgan Moore and drummer Martin Auguste on tunes such as *Morganic* and *Field of Dreams*.

This is a very tight ensemble throughout with contributions from everyone. Roney does a lot of heavy lifting and really shines on numbers like *Genie is Out*.

Sela plays hard, especially on the title track and takes it easy on *Getting Younger*. He's versatile, and has a nice warm tone.

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