

CURT'S JAZZ CAFE

We Serve Jazz - 24/7/365

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[Unsung Saxophone Masters – The Introduction »](#)

CurtJazz's Best Jazz Albums of 2011 – The Final List

Notable Mentions

Here are a few more fine discs from 2011 that are worth a listen or ten. Don't pass them up if you have a chance:

- ***A Boy's Journey* – Peter Hum Quintet (self-released)** – The knowledgeable and witty jazz journalist is also a very fine pianist. An impressive debut recording.
- ***Parallel Lives* – Andrea Wolper (Jazzed Media)** – This vocalist grows more impressive with each album. Her coolly inviting mix of originals with rarely heard standards are a perfect tonic for a tough world.
- ***State of Art* – Ben Williams (Concord Jazz)** – The Monk Competition winner drops a formidable blend of the new and the traditional on his first disc. It's fresh, it's exciting and I want to hear more.
- ***Sweet Thunder (Duke & Shak)* – Delfeayo Marsalis (Troubador Jass)** – Delfeayo does The Duke proud on this hard-swinging octet version of *Such Sweet Thunder*. It's the year's best album from someone named Marsalis (Read the full review post [HERE](#))
- ***When the Heart Emerges Glistening* – Ambrose Akinmusire (Blue Note)** – A rare case of a much-hyped major label debut living up to expectations. Akinmusire is the real deal; and the greatest thing is that he's *nobody's* clone.

<http://curtjazz.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/curtjazzs-best-jazz-of-2011-the-final-list>