

The Guardian



John Fordham

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Also out this month

Immanuel Wilkins Quartet: Live at the Village Vanguard (Blue Note) is the first of a three-volume set from that iconic New York club that confirms how powerfully and perceptively gospel/post-bop saxophonist Wilkins balances jazz past, present and future, notably on an impassioned account of Alice Coltrane's haunting Charanam. The unique Franco-Syrian flute improviser and composer **Naïssam Jalal** releases Landscapes of Eternity (Les Couleurs du Son), the rich result of her deep study of Hindustani traditions and solo travels in north India. Tears in Delhi's Fog epitomises Jalal's discoveries through her effortlessly flexible voice, the warmth and audacity of her improvisations and the punch of a traditional Indian and jazzily westernised lineup. And the legacy of cult 1960s psychedelic/rock group **Soft Machine** evolves on Thirteen (Dyad), a mix of psych-rock, blues-to-free guitar (the great John Etheridge, a Softs stalwart for half a century), ferocious sax-playing (Theo Travis) and the frontier-busting drumming of newcomer Asaf Sirkis.