

TOP OF THE WORLD

On your free CD – the editor's selection of the top ten new releases reviewed in this issue

FREE CD featuring music from...

MADAGASCAR
IRELAND **ARMENIA**
INDONESIA **HUNGARY**
INDIA

Best new album releases and an exclusive playlist by Mark Morris

BASSEKOU KOUYATÉ
QUINTETO ASTOR PIAZZOLLA
ALIM & FARGANA QASIMOV
ROKIA TRAORÉ **SONGLINES**



TOP OF THE WORLD PLAYLIST TRACKS



01 Cimbalom Brothers
'Jumppara'

From *Testvériség (Brotherhood)* on Fonó

Two master *cimbalom* players attempt to outdo each other on an impossibly punchy tune that skittles over four octaves. It is the fruit of a fertile rivalry indeed. **See p58**

06 Dudu Tassa and the Kuwaitis
'Bint El Moshab'

From *El Hajjar on Nur*

A distorted kick-drum thumps on a moody electronic bassline with Middle Eastern strings in this old Iraqi tune revived for a new Israeli scene. **See p70**



02 Vishtèn
'Elle Tempête'

From *Horizons* on Les Productions Takashoun

A drunkard dreams of leaving his wife in this Acadian-Celtic makeover of a traditional song, sung by twin sisters who create a compelling harmony in this quintessential Québécois trio. **See p56**

07 Damily
'Bekapamaky'

From *Valimbita* on Bongo Joe

From Madagascar comes the irresistible energy of *tsapiky* – fast and feisty drum patterns with electric guitar licks galore, led by Damily's trademark spirit-lifting vocals. **See p52**



03 Bassekou Kouyaté & Ngoni ba
'Deli'

From *Miri* on Outhere

Bassekou returns to Malian roots style with his three-strong *ngoni* ensemble in this wistful song extolling the virtues of true friendship. **See p53**

08 Quinteto Astor Piazzolla
'Chin Chin'

From *Revolucionario* on East 54 Entertainment

This supremely tricky tune composed by Argentina's tango revolutionary features some breathtaking musicianship from the foremost guardians of his legacy. **See p55**



04 Phillip Henry
'O'Carolán's Welcome'

From *True North* on Dragonfly Roots

British folk and Indian tones glide together on an instrumental track that speaks volumes, played with delicacy and feeling on the *chaturangui* – the 22-string slide guitar. **See p66**

09 Lisa O'Neill
'Blackbird'

From *Heard a Long Gone Song* on River Lea

A touching song to a blackbird, with simple classical guitar and fiddle accompanying O'Neill's soft yet searing vocals. This is Irish folk that will tug at your heartstrings. **See p60**



05 Lau
'She Put on Her Headphones'

From *Midnight and Closedown* on Reveal

A reflective tune with indie-folk sensibilities: fuzzy electronics, cool vocals and an emotive fiddle animated by the soft pump of a digital heartbeat. **See p59**

10 Vardan Hovannisian & Emre Gültekin
'Trapizoni Par'

From *Karin* on Muziekpublique

Turkey meets Armenia; *saz* meets *duduk*. This marriage of styles morphs from 6/8 to 4/4 in a complex dance tune that's traditionally played at weddings. **See p65**