

## Los Angeles Jazz Scene - CD Reviews

### April 2016

**Yaniv Taubehouse**  
**Moments In Trio**  
(Fresh Sound New Talento)

**Norbert Stein Pata Messengers**  
**Play Rainer Maria Rilke**  
(Pata Music)

**Amanda Tovalin**  
**Punto De Partida**  
(Terraza)

It has been several decades since one could accurately say that nearly every significant jazz artist is from the United States. In truth, jazz has been an international music ever since recordings became widely available in the early 1920s. Proof that high-quality jazz is being created by those not from the U.S. can be found everywhere, including on these three releases.

Pianist Yaniv Taubehouse was born and raised in Israel. He moved to the United States in 2009 to further his studies and in 2013 he relocated to New York. Taubehouse has worked with such notables as Anat Cohen, tenor-saxophonist David Schnitter, trombonist Roswell Rudd and guitarist Rory Stuart among others. Moments In Time (available from [www.freshsoundrecords.com](http://www.freshsoundrecords.com)) is his second CD as a leader. Taubehouse is teamed with bassist Rick Rosato and drummer Jerad Lippi, performing eight of the pianist's originals, one by Rosato, and the standard "How About You." The interplay between the musicians is a bit reminiscent of the Bill Evans Trio (bassist Rosato has a very active role throughout) although the pianist's chord voicings are individual. The music, which includes one song ("All My Figs") based on "All The Things You Are," is filled with fresh melodies, interesting chord changes and spontaneous improvising within the structures of each song. While Taubehouse is generally the lead voice, Rosato has plenty of concise solos and Lippi offers stimulating support. The three musicians listen closely to each other and often create with a single voice, displaying an attractive group sound. Moments In Trio is easily recommended to those who enjoy swinging and modern jazz piano trios.

Norbert Stein is an adventurous tenor-saxophonist from Germany. In 1986 he founded the Pata Music label, recording and releasing 22 CDs thus far. Play Rainer Maria Rilke is an unusual set that features his quartet (with guitarist Nicola Hein, bassist Joscha Oetz and drummer Etienne Nillesen) alternating explorative instrumentals with brief readings of the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke by Ingrid Noemi Stein. While the narrative is in German, the liner notes give an English translation of the poems. Only about seven minutes of the 47-minute playing time is taken up the poems, so the main focus is on the quartet's playing. Stein has a warm and often melodic style that is open to free explorations worthy of Albert Ayler. His playing is unpredictable yet consistently rewarding. The originals sometimes sound like folk melodies, in a couple of cases the music is a bit funky, and there are also lyrical ballads. The result is an inventive set of music that is available from [www.patamusic.de](http://www.patamusic.de) and well worth checking out.

Amanda Tovalin is a talented young jazz vocalist from Mexico City who sings in Spanish. She performs nine songs on Punto De Partida (available from [www.amandatovalin.com](http://www.amandatovalin.com)) and, although those of us who do not know the language will not know what she is singing about, her talents are obvious. Ms. Tovalin has a lovely voice, builds her improvisations from the melody and structure of the pieces, and shows versatility. Her voice is particularly attractive on the opening "Quiero Regressar," (one of her four originals) which has her interacting with an a cappella quartet. The other selections are with a rhythm section and sometimes mix jazz with aspects of pop and Latin music, but the jazz content is always present in the vocals and communicates well. Hopefully Amanda Tovalin will have the opportunity to perform in the U.S. in the future.

**Darek Oleszkiewicz**  
**Blues For Charlie**