

Our favourite reissue albums of 2021 The reissue LPs, box sets, and compilations that shaped our year. December 20, 2021



28.Don Cherry

Organic Music Theatre

(Blank Forms)

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Captured at the 1972 festival de Jazz de Chateauvallon, Organic Music Theatre is a perrformance by Don Cherry and an expanded group of musicians and performers, who effectively transported the communal sound of Cherry's home in rural Sweden to a stage in the South of France. In Organic Music Theatre, Cherry leads with his voice rather than trumpet, taking cues from a global song book and the pan-ethnic musical ideas that he would go on to refine. Moving from devotional piano motifs to glossolalia, or from donso ngoni (Malian hunter's guitar) to Nana Vasconcelos stunning percussion work, there's a vast sound world at play here that's keenly balanced between spontaneity, composition and spiritual questing. With its open-hearted atmosphere and palpable sense of place and participation, Organic Music Theatre is a recording that actively celebrates live music, and the life affirming connections it offers. – JH