

# Charles Tolliver

## CONNECT

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CONNECT was released by Gearbox Records on July 31, 2020. It is Tolliver's first studio album in 13 years. The line-up features top musicians from the New York jazz scene who have collectively played with the likes of Herbie Hancock, Nancy Wilson, and Chick Corea. Forming as the Charles Tolliver All Stars, the band includes Jesse Davis on alto saxophone, Keith Brown on piano, Buster Williams on double bass, and Lenny White on drums. The album also bridges together New York and London by featuring leading British saxophonist Binker Golding on two tracks. It was recorded and mixed by Tony Platt of RAK Studios.

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"...the record takes a historical view—but its aim is not to evoke specific dates or even a linear chronology. It's more like an exhibition of varying flavors that have developed under the aegis of jazz. "My thought was to have a package where each song had a different rhythm," Tolliver says. "They have different harmonic and melodic scopes, too. But the rhythm, well, it's everything. The drum is central to this music. You cannot call this music 'jazz,' that nomenclature, without the drum. Take it out, and it's just not the same." [>>Read full feature interview with Bandcamp](#)

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[CONNECT on Bandcamp](#)   [CONNECT on Apple Music](#)   [Live performance of 'Suspicion'](#)

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"...a fine consolidation of the vocabulary the trumpeter has devised over five decades, which is a deeply touching take on hard bop and modal jazz...At the age of 78, Tolliver has deserved elder statesman status, and this is the kind of cultured work, with intellect and emotion in symbiosis, that befits an artist who has contributed a great deal to modern music during a lengthy, eventful career."

- Kevin Le Gendre, *Jazzwise*, ★★★★★

"A great unexpected gift... He still has so much fire in his playing and he's got such a mind for composition... It really coheres as a band. I hear this really great combination of the old heads digging into a groove in this way that feels so earthy and alive and then this fresh contemporary tilt."

- Nate Chinen, *NPR Music*

"Triumphant... 'Connect,' Tolliver's first album in over a decade, stands out in large part based on the quality of his compositions. The caliber of his company helps too."

- Giovanni Russonello, *New York Times*

"One of the last significant trumpet players from the 1960s still unleashing the kind of improvisational fury associated with those hard-blowing years." - *JazzTimes*

"Put out more flags. Connect, the first release from trumpeter Charles Tolliver in over a decade, is a monster... the album finds Tolliver still at the top of his game... He fronts a US quintet which brings with it the grit and groove of a mid-1960s Blue Note hard-bop band while sounding totally 2020. The lineup is augmented on two of the four tracks by tenor saxophonist Binker Golding, one of the young lions of the new London jazz. It is a killer combination." - *Chris May, All About Jazz*

"His sound is big and fierce and raw... defined by heady intellectual content and an animating inner fire." - *Downbeat*

““This track in particular just really resonates with me,” Nubya says about Charles Tolliver’s first studio material in more than a decade. “Blue Soul” is a glorious nugget of cool with classic-era Blue Note-energy imbued throughout. Charles is an unsung hero in the jazz world who makes music for the true music lovers. “I’ve had [‘Blue Soul’] on repeat over these last few weeks and I’ve just been loving getting deeper into it,” Nubya shares.”  
- *Nubya Garcia, Essence’s ‘The Playlist’*

“Inquisitively lyrical” - *The Wire*

"The septuagenarian's taut technique and impulsive soloing skills are undimmed on four dynamically arranged, old school-sounding excursions." - *MOJO*

"Tolliver has lost none of that sound, and none of that fire."  
- *La Libération (FR)*

“A legend not just for his fierce trumpet playing, but for his leadership... This is his first album as a leader in over a decade, and it features some killer musicians [who play] until smoke is coming from the speakers.”  
- *Phil Freeman, Stereogum*