

MELISSA ALDANA QUOTES

“There may have never been a major tenor player who shouts less, and who sounds less egocentric, than Aldana... The music is contemplative and searching, even grasping. Its quietude in the moment is deep, yet its intensity burns like an underground fire. Her horn is the voice of her heart.”

- ***Stereophile: June 2022 Jazz Record Review***

“Melissa Aldana’s music journey has been sprinkled with stardust... *12 Stars*, her debut album on Blue Note...mine[s] the depths of interpretive gift...a bounty of new material wrapped in a fresh sonic package.”

- ***DownBeat***

“her resplendent Blue Note debut, *12 Stars*... marks her debut on arguably the king of jazz labels: Blue Note Records. Therein, highlights like ‘Falling,’ ‘The Bluest Eye’ and ‘Los Ojos de Chile’ thread her experiences through her mastery of her musical language.”

- **[GRAMMY.com](https://www.grammy.com)**

“[*12 Stars*] confirms her development into a major voice in jazz.”

- ***Chicago Reader***

“As she was formulating the concept behind *12 Stars*, her stunning debut as a leader for Blue Note, tenor saxophonist Melissa Aldana had her mind’s eye turned toward the major arcana — core elements of tarot.”

- ***WBGO***

“Many musicians have chosen their Blue Note moment to reveal themselves as the artist they are or intend to be. So it is not surprising that a young, gifted artist such as Grammy nominee Melissa Aldana, riding a sure, ascendant arc both creatively and professionally, goes big on her Blue Note debut... Aldana is an emotionally arresting player who balances vulnerability and victory; her horn at once loses whispery confessions and purposeful statements of strength and resolve.... Let the top discs of 2022 begin here.”

- ***All About Jazz***

“Melissa Aldana's nuanced and superbly executed 2022 album *12 Stars* feels like a new beginning for the tenor saxophonist... Aldana plays with an easy warmth that belies just how athletic and harmonically adept her improvisational skills are. With *12 Stars*, Aldana puts all of her colorful sonic and emotional textures on display.”

- ***All Music***

“contemplative and emotive... this is Aldana focusing acutely on her own sound, which remains expressively pure throughout... a continuous journey of her different mood phases. Deeply crafted, with the balance tilted toward composition rather than improvisation, Aldana paints evocative tapestries.”

- ***Glide Magazine***

“Her band is highly supportive and cohesive, but this is Aldana’s stage. Her signature control and expressiveness at the top of the horn’s range stands out.... a fluid, confident player as she smoothly traverses the horn’s full range... her playing also has a brawny side that alludes to her early allegiance to tenor saxophone legend Sonny Rollins.”

- ***SoundStage Xperience***

“[12 Stars] references the stars in the crown of the Empress Tarot card, symbolizing her mastery over all things, a fitting conclusion to a powerfully engaging record.”

- ***New York City Jazz Record***

INTERNATIONAL:

"12 Stars is a marvelous album, for the quality of its repertoire, it's great production and a very nuanced playing"

- ***Figaro Magazine/France***

“A marvelous piece of melodic and fluid jazz”

- ***Rolling Stone/ France***

“Delicacy, virtuosity, sensitivity” ***A 5-star jazz album***

- ***L'Alsace/France***

“It’s clear from the first bar that she can play any idea, no matter how complex, with great virtuosity.”

- ***Süddeutsche Zeitung/Germany***

“Sophisticated, mysterious and quietly powerful collection defined by Aldana’s subtle, gentle style”

- ***The Times/UK***

“A gem with bright facets”

- ***ALL ABOUT JAZZ, Italy***

"A beautiful ensemble playing captivating melodies, alternately soothing and whirling"

- ***Le Monde, France***

“A typically New York sound, plugged into the avant-garde. What if the new tenor star was her?”

- ***TSF Radio, France***