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34 GOING OUT JAZZ, BLUES & WORLD

Five best gigs

By Roger Trapp

Elan Mehler

The New York pianist Elan Mehler has just released his debut album, *Scheme for Thought*, and found himself being compared to Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett. Certainly, there is plenty of improvisation going on, but there is also a lyrical sense that increases the CD's accessibility. *The Vortex, London N16*

Thur



Emergence

The US tenor player Mark Turner has worked with such luminaries as Brad Mehldau and Joshua Redman, but he has steadfastly remained his own man. So Emergence, a collective in which he is joined by lesser-known players, is typically intriguing. *Pizza Express Jazz Club, London W1*

Thur & Fri

Blake Wilner

The guitarist Blake Wilner has a reputation for playing reflective yet melodic and accessible modern jazz. His quartet includes a long-time collaborator, the saxophonist Brandon Allen, as well as the in-demand bassist Oli Hayhurst. *Boxford Fleece*

Fri

Bude Jazz Festival

Bude has been running this quirky little jazz festival for the past two decades. There is plenty of New Orleans-style trad jazz, but there is room, too, for the swing vocalist Todd Gordon and the versatile saxophonist Alan Barnes. *Various venues*

to 1 Sept

Ola Onabule

The soulful singer Ola Onabule is currently on tour to promote his new album, *The Devoured Man*. The CD sees the African-born artist in a more political mood than usual, but audiences can still expect the compelling stage performance to which they are accustomed. *Ronnie Scott's, London W1*

Thur to 1 Sept