



## 2009's Best (Mostly) 'New Music,' From Q2

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In classical-music terms, "New Music" is always complicated to define. Yes, it's the current manifestation of the classical tradition, but these days, the edges of so-called New Music tend to bleed into the realms of ambient music, indie rock, jazz and even folk. Criteria for determining what constitutes newness in classical music are similarly slippery.

Therefore, in creating a list of the top new classical-music releases of 2009, I've decided that egregious cheating regarding style and time period is allowed; let's leave it at that. Simply put, these are the records from the past year that I cannot stop playing.

### 2009'S BEST (MOSTLY) 'NEW MUSIC,' FROM Q2



#### 1. The JACK Quartet/Iannis Xenakis

*Album:* String Quartets: Jack Quartet

*Song:* Tetras

The JACK Quartet provides the first complete compilation of these stochastically composed works. They're witty, eccentric, challenging and worth it.