



Digital release dates: **August 12, 2025**

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# Saso Popovski

## Awakening

On his second album for the French label **Art Melodies**, guitarist and composer Saso Popovski presents his new work named Awakening. More than just an album title, Awakening is a reflection of personal and musical transformation. Created during a year of movement, introspection, and emotional depth, this new release captures a vivid portrait of a life in motion. Each composition is rooted in real experience, forming a cohesive narrative that's both intimate and expansive.

The album opens with **22 Days to Spring**, a contemplative piece that evokes the final stretch of winter. Its gentle melancholy and slow unfolding mirror the emotional texture of waiting—for warmth, for change, for light.

From there, **Roads** dives into the life of a touring musician—one filled with constant travel, fleeting encounters, and moments of quiet reflection between destinations. It's a story of connection and isolation, of friendships built on the move.

The title track, **Awakening**, marks a turning point. It represents a creative renewal for Popovski—a freer, more open, and personal approach to contemporary jazz, rooted in emotional honesty and sonic exploration.

**Point Blues**, a contribution from Jaume Miguel, channels the expressive soul of Charles Mingus, adding a raw, dynamic energy to the album's flow.

**Lost in Shanghai** is based on a real event: Popovski's experience of getting lost in the vast urban maze of Shanghai for over two hours. The piece captures the surreal beauty, cinematic moments, and quiet disorientation of that journey—a sonic snapshot of awe and wandering.

Also composed by Jaume Miguel, **Fuente de la Salud** brings rhythmic balance and tonal contrast, adding freshness and vitality to the album's overall atmosphere.

**Dear Ron** is a deeply personal tribute to the late

trumpet legend Ron Miles. Influenced by Miles' lyrical sensitivity and humility, the piece is both farewell and celebration—a heartfelt thank-you through music.

**Going Home** captures the universal longing shared by musicians on the road: the pull toward stillness, rest, and return—not just to a physical place, but to oneself.

The closing track, **Elevator Waltz**, brings a whimsical and unexpected twist. Built around the four-note musical motif played in every elevator across Shanghai when the doors open and close, the piece turns a strange and ubiquitous sound into a playful, jazz-infused reflection. "It's kind of crazy," Popovski notes, "but that melody really stuck with me."

Together, the compositions on Awakening offer a deeply human, modern jazz experience—shaped by cities, memory, movement, and quiet transformation. It is a work of honest reflection and subtle power, signaling a new chapter in Saso Popovski's evolving artistry.

*Photo by*



**Daniel Gjurchinovski**

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Photo by  
**Daniel Gjurchinovski**

### Compositions

<b>1 - 22 Days to Spring</b>	<b>6'30</b>
<b>2 - Roads</b>	<b>6'30</b>
<b>3 - Awakening</b>	<b>4'20</b>
<b>4 - Point Blues</b>	<b>4'20</b>
<b>5 - Lost in Shanghai</b>	<b>7'46</b>
<b>6 - Fuente de la Salud</b>	<b>5'40</b>
<b>7 - Dear Ron</b>	<b>6'15</b>
<b>8 - Going Home</b>	<b>4'49</b>
<b>9 - Elevator Waltz</b>	<b>4'40</b>

### Members

- **Saso Popovski**, guitar
- **Jaume Miquel**, piano
- **Eric Kopetz**, double bass
- **Cote Calmet**, drums & percussion

### Info credits

All music written by **Saso Popovski** except No.4 and No.6 written by **Jaume Miquel**, arrangements by the quartet.  
Recorded from 10 to 12 March, 2025 by **Cote Calmet** at The Drum Hub Studio - Granada, Spain  
Mixed by **Cote Calmet** and **Saso Popovski**  
Mastered by **Cote Calmet** at The Drum Hub Studio - Granada, Spain  
Music producer **Saso Popovski**  
Design and photo by **Daniel Gjurchinovski**  
Label and distribution **Art Melodies**  
Thanks to all the good people in the world, and to my family and friends.

## Press reviews

« "Awakening", the new album by jazz guitarist Saso Popovski, reveals a more agile and playful side of his artistry, shaped by cross-cultural collaboration and shared musical vision. »

- **Nenad Georgievski**, *All About Jazz*, USA

« "Awakening" reminds me of the sound geography of the South, representing an emotional space where the warmth and melancholy of the guitar and piano, along with the rhythmic fluidity of the double bass and drums, form a strange mixture of jazz melodies and rhythmic reversals without explicit quotations. It is reminiscent of the Mediterranean and the Balkans. Harmonies float, phrases breathe, and the silence is never empty. »

- **Melanija Pović Jagarinec**,  
*World of Jazz HRT*, Croatia

« There's groove, without flaunting it. The bop pulses under the skin, the euro-jazz creeps in. And Saso's guitar? Modern, concrete, no poses. »

- **Mario Ferraioli**, *Jazz In Family*, Italy

« Awakening, the new album by the excellent jazz guitarist Saso Popovski, continues his well-known sound poetics - soft and crystal-clear sound, imaginative arrangements, beautiful melodies that freely develop in several directions at the same time, like tributaries of a restless river - but at the same time brings quite a few novelties and numerous upgrades. »

- **Mario Batelić**, *Radio Študent*, Slovenia

« Warm, joyful and energetic music that can bring a little sunshine in these difficult, tense times. »

- **Mery Zimny**, *Radio Jazzkultura*, Poland

« Popovski and his quartet are on an adventurous musical journey. »

- **Hiroki Sugia**, *PJ Portrait in Jazz*, Japan

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