

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Cassandra Payet: Two Poems

Cassandra Payet · Monday, November 17th, 2025

Poem about Hope

The future is now blurred.

How can we hope for a happy life when everyone kills each other with a knife ?

How can we make things change when we don't even stand a chance of bringing the last rays of the sun into somebody's heart due to the multiple wars ?

The future is now dark but all we have to do now is spreading love and rising together like doves.

*

I remember...

I remember living on my little rock, which is my Island.

I remember laying on its sand and see the people I love holding hands.

I remember the sound of the ocean waves, because they remind me of how much I can be brave.

I remember my cousins' laughs and smiles, even though they are miles and miles away from me now.

I remember the feeling of belonging.

I remember my grandfather sharing mangoes with me as a way of showing his love.

I remember my grandmother's eyes; they remind me of how fast time flies.

I remember my mother's words; they encouraged me to see the world.

I remember the palm trees and the flamboyant trees.

I remember that I had to leave, and here I am, writing in front of the autumn leaves.

(Featured image by [Thorsten Kuttig](#); used under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

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Tech Which Will Make Your Life Easier at home

Our Friends · Sunday, November 16th, 2025

Technology has evolved hugely over the years, affecting us in many ways. New things are being released each week, changing the way we do things. Just look at driverless cars in the US. Years ago, they would have been a dream. Now people can order a taxi, and it doesn't come with a driver, which seems surreal, especially when you are sitting in one, and can see it's being driven by robots!

Shifting our attention to home tech, this is an area which is changing so frequently, with cool things being announced all the time. For your garden, you can get a **robot mower**, your heating can be controlled by your phone or voice, and you can get smart lights, meaning you don't have to ever get up again, if you forget to turn them off when you get into bed, or sit down with your warm cup of tea.

If you are thinking about tech which will make your life easier at home, you are spoilt for choice. To help inspire you, we have put together a brief guide on six different pieces of **tech** which you should consider.

Robot Mower

Something that everyone should have if they have a garden is a robot mower. These will change your life, as no longer will you need to go out and mow the lawn, early in the morning or late in the evening, after a busy day. A robot mower can be set to an auto-schedule, helping you keep your garden consistently tidy. They have superior obstacle avoidance and extra safety for pets, wildlife and humans and require very little installation.

Smart Lighting

One of the most affordable changes you can make to your home is installing smart lights. Smart lights are easy to install and don't cost much at all, meaning you can change most of your lights in your home on a budget. When you have smart lights installed, you can control them via your voice or through an app on your phone. This is great when you forget to turn the hall light off before going to bed and don't want to get up! Plus, smart lights are **cheaper to run** than normal lights, so you will save money in the long run.

Smart Heating

A piece of tech which, once you have gotten it, you can't live without is smart heating. Smart heating operates in a very similar way to smart lighting. You can control it through your phone or through your voice if you have a smart device like **Google Home or Alexa**. Smart heating is great as you can turn it on before you get in on a cold day, meaning you don't walk into a cold home. You can also check if it's on when you are out, in case you forget to turn it off, which, let's face it, can happen a lot if you live a busy life.

Robot Hoover

Similar to the robot mower, a robot hoover looks after the inside of your home. Every day, you can set your robot hoover to go over each room in your house or flat, ensuring it's always clean and

dust-free – this is ideal if you have pets or children who constantly create a mess. As you can imagine, a robot hoover saves you time as you don't have to do the hoovering each day, it can work on multiple floor types (carpet, laminate or marble flooring), and it cleans hard-to-reach areas. If there is one thing to think about buying to help you keep on top of things inside your home, a robot hoover will do the trick.

Alexa or Google Home

We dropped the name earlier about Alexa or Google Home. Both are smart devices which you can place around your home and use as a smart assistant. You can speak to your Alexa or Google Home and ask them to assist you in your daily tasks, whether that's setting an alarm for work, setting a timer when cooking, playing music when relaxing or phoning someone quickly. You can use your device alongside a lot of other smart tech, which we have mentioned above. For example, you can use your Alexa or Google Home to turn the lights on or control your heating. If you are after an introduction into smart tech, Alexa or Google Home is often a good place to start.

Smart Security

Finally, on our list of recommendations, we would suggest you look into smart security. Security has come a long way over the years, with home security getting some of the biggest upgrades. Devices like the Ring smart doorbell allow you to see and speak to anyone at your door directly from your phone, whether you're at home or away. They also record activity, giving you added peace of mind and an easy way to monitor who comes to your doorstep. Along with having a smart doorbell, you can also buy a smart security camera, which works alongside it. Cameras can easily be installed and placed around your home, in your back garden or front yard, giving complete peace of mind when you are out that your home is safe. If you want to learn more about smart security and see it in action, a lot of DIY stores will have demos available for you to see, so we would recommend that you go in. At the same time, they will also have tech which will make your life easier at home, for you to see which we haven't included.

We are just scratching the surface of the myriad of options which you can choose to make a difference to your home using tech. Whether you opt for smart lighting, a robot mower or a new hoover, the new tech will change your life.

What piece of tech have you recently invested in and why? Is there anything new that's coming out in the next year that you are excited to try? Which of the options above do you think offers the greatest benefits? Let us know in the comment box below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Photo: Jens Mahnke via Pexels.

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Amanda J. Bradley: Three Poems

Amanda J. Bradley · Sunday, November 16th, 2025

How It All Started

At fifteen, Leah and I tagged along with her older sister to my first house party. No adults. A girl answered the door in a bra. Kids mingled with fruity Bartles & Jaymes coolers in their hands. *Licensed to Ill* blared from a stereo somewhere. I found myself situated at a table in the kitchen playing my first ever round of Quarters with some goodlooking guys. The longer we played, the more a new warmth crept through my body. I tossed my hair back, made sassy remarks, laughed loudly – unlike me around boys. Curious to move in this new body, I wandered into a room down the hall, plopped in an easy chair, tilted my head back, and noticed a ceiling fan. Its whir-whir-whir mesmerized me. Lit up inside but calm, I felt gloriously apathetic. I didn't care about much of anything. I didn't realize then this would be the feeling I would chase for the rest of my life, reaching and passing it over and over again until pieces of me disintegrated, comforting whir a distant memory.

*

“Am I beaten or proud?”

~Steve Henn, from “The Deer”

With belts, switches from trees, school paddles, children are beaten. In the news on the radio, one child found locked in a closet in a wheelchair, skin of arms and legs covered in cigarette burns.

Teaching Roethke's poem “My Papa's Waltz” for decades demonstrated how beating has changed in our time. Twenty years ago, students understood the poem's happy childhood memory of waltzing recklessly on his father's feet about the house, annoying Mom in the wake. Now, students prove more interested in the undertones of abuse and alcoholism implied in the diction: whiskey on breath, battered, scraped, beat, like death.

Freud discussed how “a child is being beaten” percolates as a rampant fantasy in humans. How troubling. And yet, it does strike at a crux of things, no? Innocence and violence against it.

I knew I would do it all wrong, could not bear
 to bring life into this society, all its weird pressures
 to do ridiculous things. I might have waltzed
 recklessly with my child, too, might have hung
 like death on her words, scraped advice from
 a battered corner of my mind. I did not want
 to find out the ways I'd harm my child by chance.

*

A Toast to Dylan Thomas

I thought of you and your death so young, thirty-nine, when they tore down St. Vincent's Hospital. Everyone thinks of you at Whitehorse Tavern, famously your favorite watering hole. You fed the image of yourself as a drunken, condemned poet, wearing that mantle like a royal robe. Biographers squabble over whether you drank yourself to death. Tiffs aside, it contributed. I used to teach your villanelle, asking students if the son addressing his dying father gives sound advice when he urges "Do not go gentle into that good night / Rage, rage against the dying of the light." Some found the advice exactly right, to go down fighting the only way to go. Others suggested it was selfish, more for grieving son than dying father. Berryman was at your side as you were dying. If anyone could understand your draw to alcohol, it was him. So depressed and sick of his demons, he jumped off a bridge in Minneapolis. My suicide attempt would have worked had I lived alone, had my husband not worked as a paramedic earlier in life. What is it with us drunk poets who sometimes want to die? Sylvia Plath gassed herself in the kitchen. Anne Sexton with carbon monoxide in a car. Randall Jarrell stepped in front of a car. Hart Crane jumped off a ship. Vladimir Mayakovsky shot himself. Sara Teasdale took sleeping pills. Are we going gentle or raging against when we take death in our hands? I had a professor who claimed to admire the poets for their ambition. I do, too. Perhaps you got it right in your other famous poem: "Though lovers be lost love shall not / And death shall have no dominion." Perhaps our realizations take root, and we must pluck them free.

(Featured image from *Pexels*)

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Staying Safe and Informed After an Accident: Steps Everyone Should Know

Our Friends · Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Accidents can happen without warning, leaving you feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about what to do next. Acting quickly and confidently ensures not only your immediate safety but also protects your interests as you move forward. Whether the incident happens on a busy highway or a quiet neighborhood street, knowing the right steps can minimize stress and maximize your recovery. In addition, securing support from the **best injury attorney** can safeguard your rights and assist with any legal concerns that arise following an accident.

Understanding the essential actions to take after an accident helps you stay calm and collected, empowers you to make informed decisions, and puts you in a stronger position when dealing with insurers or legal representatives. Your priority is immediate safety, but every next step—documenting details, seeking medical attention, and consulting professionals—can affect your recovery and future well-being.

Ensure Immediate Safety

Your first task is to check for injuries among all parties. Call emergency medical services if necessary. If possible, move vehicles out of the traffic flow to prevent further incidents and activate your hazard lights to warn other drivers. These actions not only protect yourself but also contribute to the safety of other road users. Immediate, clear-headed responses can make a significant difference in serious situations.

Document the Scene Thoroughly

After ensuring everyone's safety, begin documenting the accident scene. Take plenty of photos that highlight vehicle positions, damages, license plates, road conditions, and any nearby traffic signs. These visuals, combined with written notes about what occurred, will support your insurance claim and could prove crucial if there are legal questions later. Accuracy here builds a strong foundation for any reports or claims you may need to file.

Exchange Information Accurately

Swap contact, insurance, and vehicle details with the other parties involved. Ensure that you record the names, phone numbers, addresses, driver's license numbers, and insurance information for all drivers. If there are witnesses, politely request their contact information, as impartial third-party accounts can help clarify what happened during the incident. Double-check the information before leaving the scene, as incomplete or incorrect details can delay the resolution process.

Notify Your Insurance Provider Promptly

Contact your insurer as soon as possible **after the accident**. Share all relevant facts and documentation and cooperate fully throughout the claims process. Early reporting ensures that your claim is addressed without unnecessary delays and may facilitate immediate assistance, such as towing or temporary transportation.

Seek Medical Attention

Even in the absence of obvious injuries, seek a medical evaluation promptly after the accident. Certain conditions, such as whiplash or internal injuries, might only become evident hours or days later. Proper medical documentation not only safeguards your health but also serves as an official record should you need to prove your injuries for insurance or legal claims.

Consult a Legal Professional

If you feel uncertain about your rights or if injuries and damages are substantial, consult with an experienced legal professional. A personal injury attorney can advise you on your options, assist with negotiations, and help you avoid common pitfalls that could jeopardize your case. Skilled legal representation ensures you aren't taken advantage of during the aftermath of an accident and can lead to more favorable outcomes in disputes or claims.

Be Cautious with Communications

Carefully consider your statements at the scene and in conversations with insurance representatives to ensure accuracy. Avoid admitting fault or making definitive statements until you've spoken with your attorney. Insurance adjusters may use your words to minimize payouts or shift blame, so always be guarded and factual. If in doubt, refer communications to your legal advisor, especially for official or recorded statements.

Stay Informed and Prepared

Preparation is the best defense against the unexpected. Know emergency procedures, keep an emergency kit, and stay informed about traffic rules. Being proactive helps protect your safety and interests if an accident occurs. These steps help you manage the aftermath: stay calm, document the situation, and seek help to protect your well-being, finances, and legal rights.

Conclusion

Handling the aftermath of an accident requires a balance of immediate action, careful documentation, and informed decision-making. By prioritizing safety, seeking medical attention, and accurately recording details, you protect both your health and your rights. Prompt communication with insurers, cautious handling of statements, and the guidance of a legal professional can further safeguard your interests. Staying prepared ensures that even in stressful situations, you can respond calmly and effectively, reducing risks and paving the way for a smoother recovery process.

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A Double Dose of Impressionism in Santa Barbara

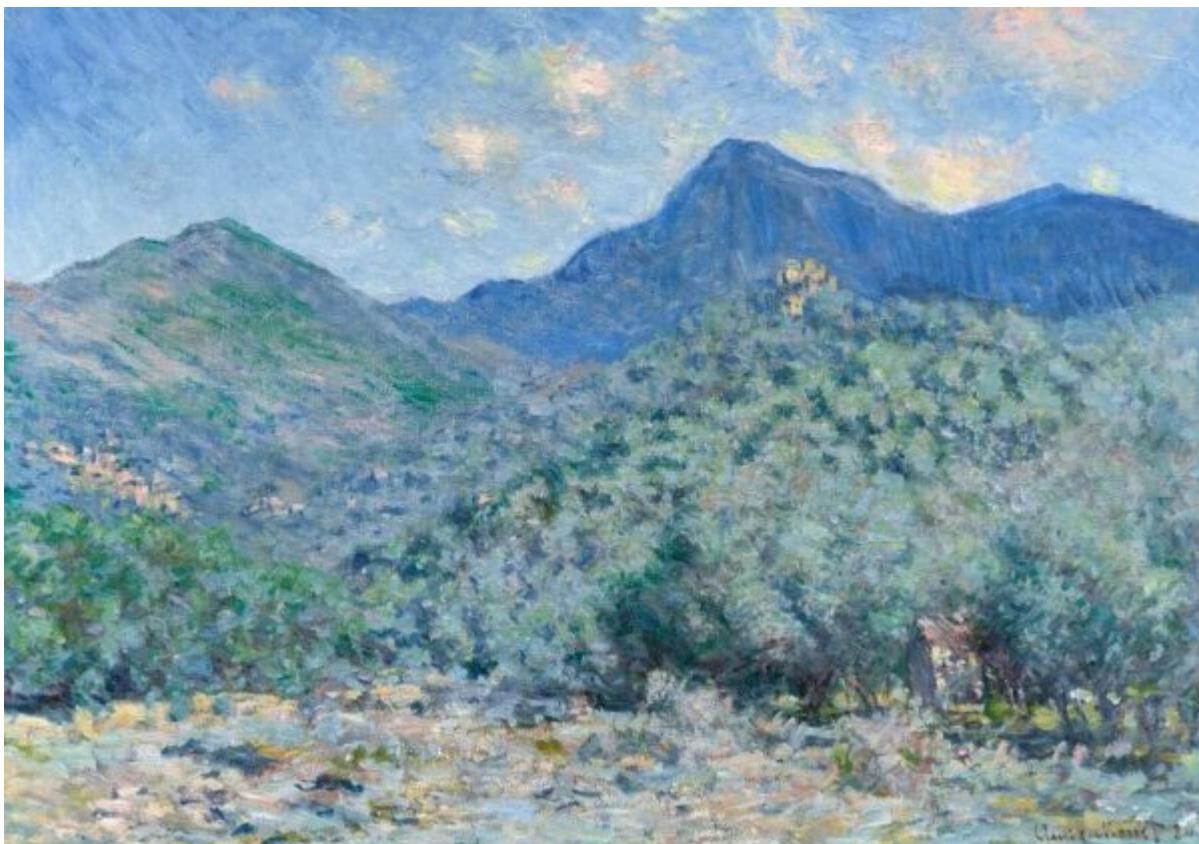
Stephen West · Friday, November 14th, 2025

Two major exhibitions of Impressionism and its artistic offspring are on view in [Santa Barbara](#), and together they form an excellent sampling of the movement that got painters out of their studios and into the real world. It changed things forever.

The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse From the Dallas Museum of Art, along with its companion, *Encore: 19th Century French Art From the Santa Barbara Museum of Art*, display more than 100 works, including paintings by most of the major figures of Impressionism.

The movement made its debut a century and a half ago, at a less-than-successful exhibition in Paris in 1874. The academic style then in vogue had often featured historical subjects and highly finished aristocratic portraits made in studios. (Think [Jacques-Louis David](#)'s portraits of Napoleon on his rearing white horse.)

Impressionism, by contrast, looked at ordinary French people going about their lives in the real world. As a wall label notes, these artists were helped by the invention of portable, premixed oil paint in resealable metal tubes, as well as the growth of the French railroad system. Both allowed artists to work easily outside their studios.



Claude Monet (1840-1926), *Valle Buona, Near Bordighera*, 1884, oil on canvas; Dallas Museum of

Art, gift of the Meadows Foundation Inc.

One of the greatest of these Impressionists was Claude Monet, who is represented by seven works in the show from Dallas, plus another four from Santa Barbara. *Valle Buona, Near Bordighera* of 1884 (above and top image) depicts the rugged landscape above the Italian Riviera, just over the French border, where the artist spent three months working. The painting shows some of the essential features of Impressionism: a real-world subject, loose brushwork, and a combination of different colors in close proximity. The picture glows.



Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), *Apple Harvest*, 1888, oil on canvas; Dallas Museum of Art, Munger Fund.

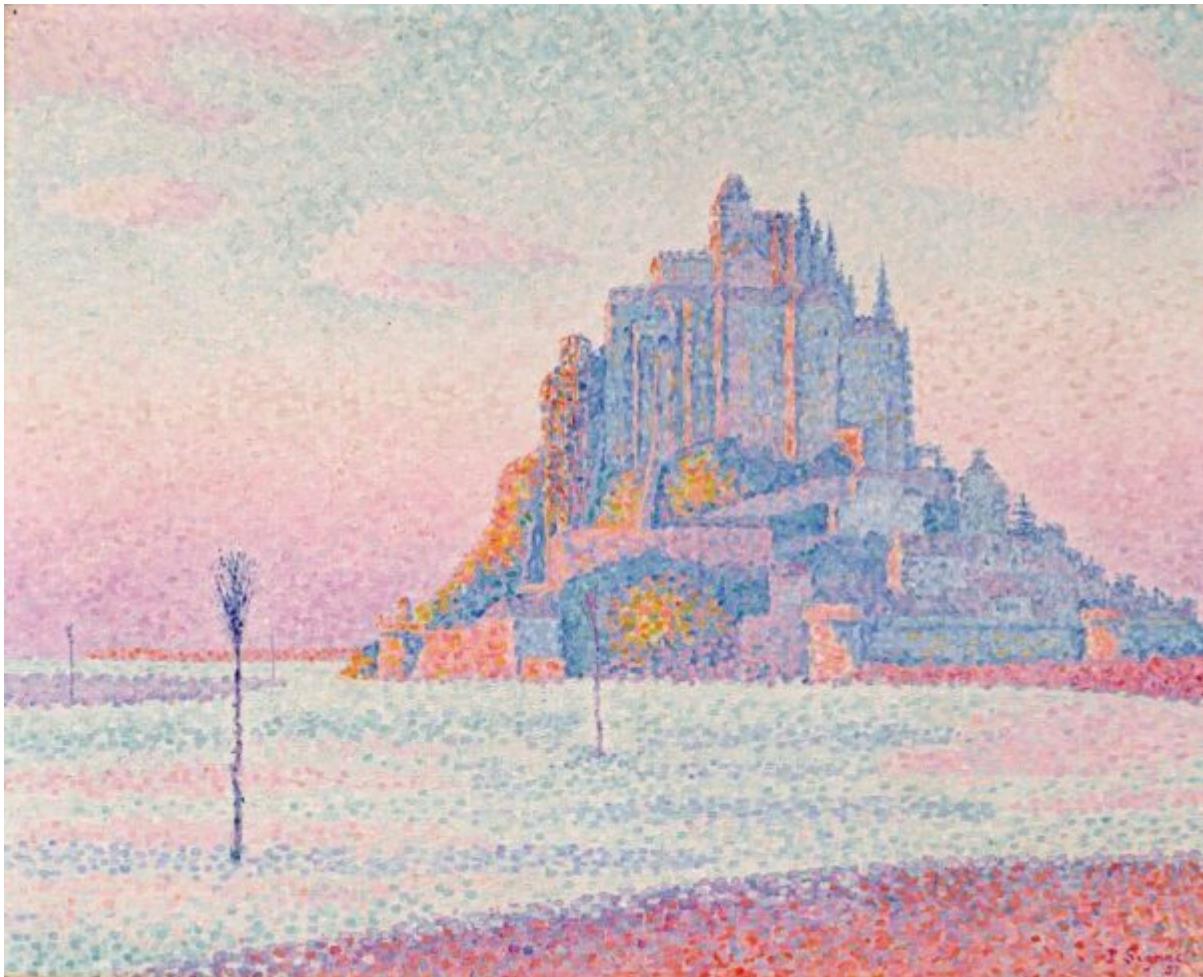
Camille Pissarro's *Apple Harvest* of 1888 takes a similar approach, with farm people going about their job of picking apples from a tree. The scene itself is simple: With a yellow-green field in the background, a man uses a long pole to pull the apples off the tree, while two women collect them from the ground and fill their baskets. Another woman looks on. What's remarkable about the painting isn't the subject; it's how the painter uses a Pointillist style, first developed by Georges Seurat. According to a wall label, "dots of pure red, blue, green, pink, lavender, orange, and yellow recreate the dazzling light of the afternoon sun."



Gustave Caillebotte (1848-1894), *The Path in the Garden*, 1886, oil on canvas, Dallas Museum of Art, The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Art Fund Inc., bequest of Mrs. Eugene McDermott.

A different sort of verdant landscape is depicted in *The Path to the Garden* of 1886 by Gustave Caillebotte, a lesser-known painter who exhibited in the first Impressionist exhibition along with Monet and Pissarro. (He was a wealthy man who befriended several members of the movement and was the subject of a [major exhibition](#) earlier this year at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.)

Caillebotte co-owned the garden depicted in the painting with his brother, and he regularly visited and painted it at the family's country estate outside Paris. With the painting's vertical framing, the wide downhill pathway bordered by red flowers and green grass draws your eye deep into the sunny background. It's a simple but effective visual strategy.



Paul Signac (1863-1935), *Mont Saint-Michel, Setting Sun*, 1897, oil on canvas; Dallas Museum of Art, The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Art Fund Inc., bequest of Mrs. Eugene McDermott in honor of Bill Boziotis.

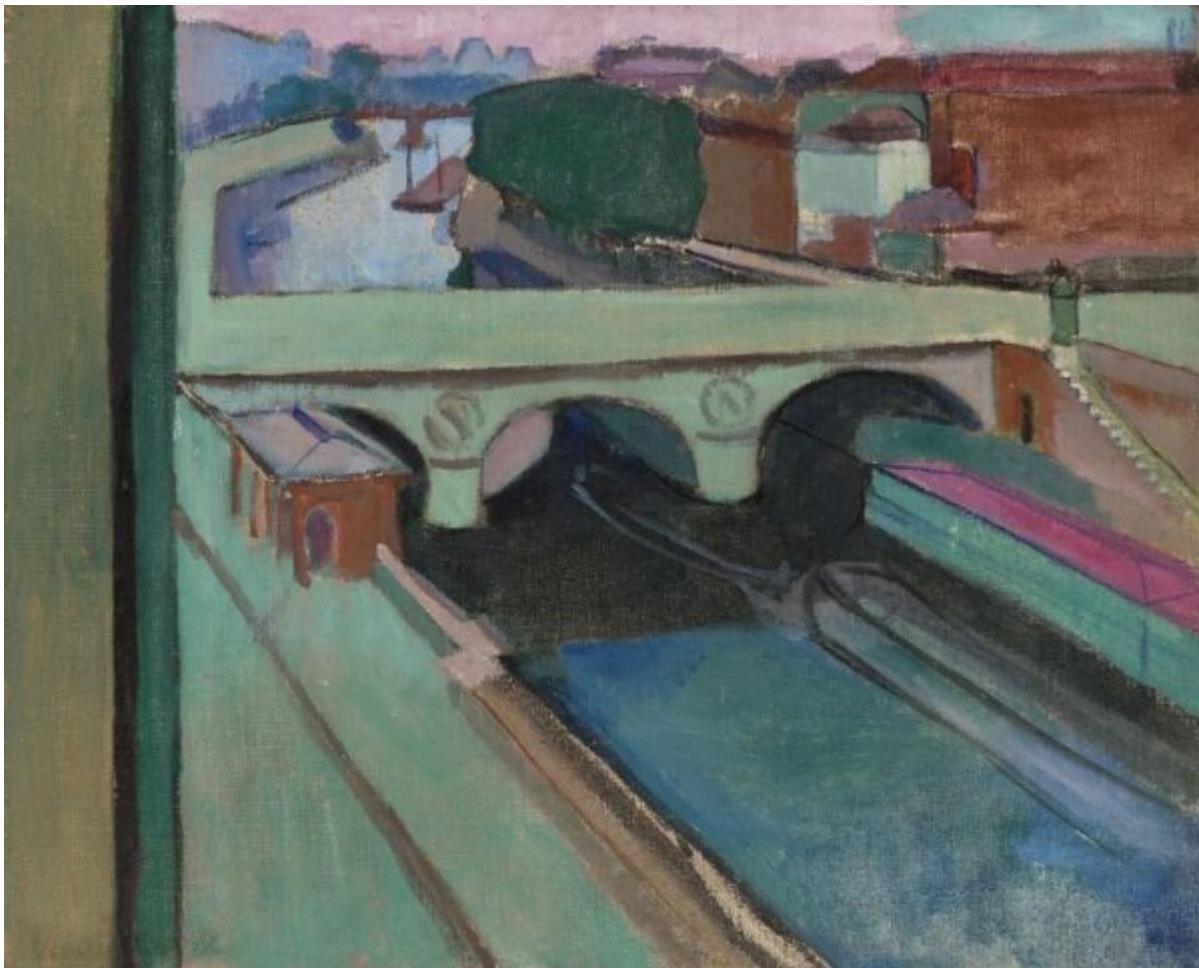
Paul Signac, who began his career as a Pointillist and protégé of Paul Seurat, adapts that technique in *Mont Saint-Michel, Setting Sun* of 1897. Rather than using dots of unmixed paint, he expands them into small patches of bright color to depict the famous monastery and village perched on a small mountain just off the coast of Normandy. Signac relies mostly on a pink-and-blue color scheme to define both the craggy building and mountain as well as the surrounding sky and sea.



Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890), *Sheaves of Wheat*, July 1890, oil on canvas; Dallas Museum of Art,

The Wendy and Emery Reves Collection.

Vincent Van Gogh, normally considered a Post-Impressionist, is represented by *Sheaves of Wheat*, completed in July 1890, just days before his death by suicide. His work grew more abstract and seemingly tormented in his last years, and this painting is no exception. Within the tightly framed image the sheaves of harvested wheat look almost like small yellow volcanoes standing next to an equally abstract blue stream or field in the background.



Henri Matisse (French, 1869-1954), *Pont Saint-Michel*, 1901, oil on canvas; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Bequest of Wright S. Ludington, © 2025 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Henri Matisse's *Pont Saint-Michel* of 1901 is a relatively early work, before he became a leader of the Fauve movement. Depicting a bridge over the Seine, mostly in flat blues and greens, it seems more like an experiment in the use of color than an attempt at a realistic landscape. That's the basis of Fauvism, which became the alternative to Cubism in the first decade of the new century, and more or less the opposite of Pointillism. As the saying goes, the more things change...

The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse From the Dallas Museum of Art runs through January 25, 2026, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, California. The exhibition opened in Dallas in 2024 and was on view at the Museum of the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City earlier this year. A catalog is published by the Dallas Museum of Art and distributed by Yale University Press. The show is accompanied by *Encore: 19th-Century French Art From the Santa Barbara Museum of Art*.

Top image: Claude Monet (1840-1926), *Valle Buona, Near Bordighera* (detail), 1884, oil on

canvas; Dallas Museum of Art, gift of the Meadows Foundation Inc.

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How Culinary Innovation Is Transforming the Steakhouse Experience

Our Friends · Friday, November 14th, 2025

The steakhouse, once known for its traditional dining experience, is getting a facelift. Creative cooking now transforms a steakhouse dinner into a more lively and flavorful night out. Visionary creators, powerful technology, and a range of products for different preferences drive the transformation you're seeing. In this article, we examine how those shifts are changing the steakhouse experience, for better or worse.

Welcoming New Tastes

Chefs are experimenting with various flavors and ingredients to make their dishes stand out. They're blending classical methods—think slow braises and careful saucing—with contemporary flavors and plating, offering diners a strikingly fresh viewpoint. By using herbs or spices from all over the world, they build flavor profiles that amaze and delight. Ingredients from distant lands add value to these steakhouses, transforming them into more than just places to eat, but also into destinations for exceptional hospitality. If dining at the [best steakhouse in St Louis](#) is your goal, inquire about their meat sourcing and cooking methods to enjoy an outstanding fine dining experience.

Sustainable Design and Ingredients

You may have noticed that menus now include local, seasonal dishes that make you feel good. Many eateries now use fresh produce from local farms. This not only supports the surrounding community, but it also ensures the highest quality possible for their fruits and vegetables. Equally crucial in attracting environmentally conscious clientele. Sustainable sourcing implies amiable stewardship and aligns the steakhouse business with consumer values.

Feel the Steakhouse Spirit

From innovative grills to digital menus, steakhouses are reshaping themselves. The method of sous vide cooking is gaining popularity. Chefs can achieve perfect temperature control through this technique, resulting in a more tender and juicy steak. [Digital tools are also being used](#) to make the restaurant business more effective, streamlining processes such as table reservations and ticket purchases online, which means better services for diners at every step of the process. With these new capabilities at your fingertips every day, you can see how restaurants truly improved service for both owners and consumers alike.

Artistic Performance: Craft, Aesthetics, and Presence

In today's world, food presentation is an art in itself. Therefore, chefs pay more attention to the visual appeal of the dishes they serve. Meals are prepared with care, and expert plating techniques are used to make them visually appealing. Visuals turn into masterpieces. Focusing on aesthetics enriches the entire dining experience that lingers in diners' memories. A dish presented beautifully can also give diners an incentive to share their eating experience on social media, further promoting the restaurant.

Nurturing Modern Eating Habits

As dietary preferences evolve to cater to people with specific dietary restrictions and needs more comprehensively, steakhouses have expanded their menu offerings to meet these needs. Now, vegetarian and vegan options are more widely available. You can see extra choices on menus because restaurants aim to satisfy a range of diner preferences. By expanding their menus and enhancing their dining atmosphere, steakhouses attract a more diverse crowd, making it possible for anyone to enjoy their hospitality.

A Thoughtfully Designed Environment

The environment is just as important as the food when it comes to a satisfying dining experience. Sitting in those steakhouses, which now have inviting interiors, can be a pleasure in itself. Light, music, and decoration are all considered, completing the meal's perfection. The overall atmosphere is so inviting that any visit becomes an exceptional experience for the guests.

Focused Care

Customer satisfaction remains the top priority. Many venues are providing their staff with targeted training, ensuring you receive higher-quality service. A personalized touch and knowledgeable suggestions can make a big difference to a diner's experience. By paying careful attention to customer preferences, restaurants can offer a more tailored service, encouraging subsequent visits.

A Signature Culinary Creation With Chef's Drinks

Food and drink pairings have now become an art. Steakhouses are offering customers crafted cocktails and curated wine lists to complement their dishes. Each of these pairings has been carefully selected to enhance the meal's flavors. If a steakhouse follows these expert tips, you walk away with a juicier steak, smarter sides, and a far more satisfying dining experience.

Conclusion

Culinary innovation is changing the traditional steakhouse scene. If you want bold flavors and a lower environmental footprint, modern steakhouses, powered by innovative tech upgrades, offer nights you won't forget. Currently, the trend favors creative plating, diverse menus, and a vibrant atmosphere. As these changes gather steam, diners can, we believe, anticipate a future steakhouse experience that practically rewrites the rulebook.

Image courtesy of Fleming's Steakhouse

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Jax Casino Review: Australia's Modern Destination for Online Gaming

Our Friends · Thursday, November 13th, 2025

The Australian online gaming market is thriving, and **Jax Casino** has quickly earned its place as one of the leading platforms for both casual and professional players. With its elegant design, vast game library, and transparent approach to bonuses, Jax Casino offers a premium experience that blends entertainment, security, and innovation. Whether you prefer classic pokies or live dealer games, this casino delivers variety and reliability in every spin or deal.

A Casino Built for Australian Players

Jax Casino was designed with Australian players in mind. The platform combines international standards with local convenience, featuring AUD payment options, accessible customer support, and a design that feels intuitive from the moment you log in. Licensed under the Curacao eGaming authority, Jax Casino provides a regulated environment where players can enjoy their favorite games safely and responsibly.

The website interface is modern yet user-friendly. Navigation menus are clearly laid out, making it easy to move between slots, live casino tables, promotions, and account settings. The performance is smooth on both desktop and mobile, with fast load times and crisp visuals.

From the moment users enter the homepage, they are greeted with an engaging mix of colorful banners, real-time jackpot counters, and promotional highlights that set the stage for an exciting gaming journey.

Game Selection and Software Providers

The heart of any online casino lies in its games, and Jax Casino excels here. Partnering with major software developers such as Microgaming, Betsoft and Evolution Gaming, it offers a diverse library of titles that appeal to every type of player.

The variety of games ensures that every session feels different. Players can explore hundreds of pokies, table games, and live casino titles.

Jax Casino's main gaming categories include:

- Online Pokies: Ranging from timeless three-reel classics to cinematic video slots and Megaways™ hits.

- Table Games: Featuring roulette, blackjack, baccarat, and poker with multiple rule variations.
- Live Casino: Hosted by real dealers streaming in high definition for a true casino atmosphere.
- Jackpot Games: Progressive slots with prize pools reaching into six and seven figures.
- Crypto Games: Specially optimized for digital currency users seeking fast, secure play.

Each game functions flawlessly across devices and includes demo modes, allowing users to test gameplay before betting real money. The software's reliability and fairness are guaranteed through certified Random Number Generators (RNGs).

Bonuses and Promotions

Jax Casino understands that generous promotions keep players engaged and rewarded. From a robust welcome package to ongoing bonuses for loyal members, the casino ensures every deposit brings added excitement.

Before looking at the details, it's important to note that all offers come with clear terms and fair wagering conditions. This transparency reflects the casino's commitment to providing genuine value instead of confusing fine print.

Here's an overview of the current promotional structure at Jax Casino:

Bonus Type	Offer Details	Wagering Requirement
Welcome Bonus	Up to AU\$2000 + 100 Free Spins	35x
Weekly Reload Bonus	50% up to AU\$200	30x
Weekend Cashback	Up to 15% on losses	None
Crypto Deposit Bonus	10% extra on crypto deposits	25x
VIP Program	Personalized rewards & higher limits	By invitation

As the table shows, Jax Casino accommodates different types of players — from newcomers making their first deposit to high-rollers seeking exclusive rewards. The casino's cashback option is particularly appealing because it carries no wagering requirement, letting players recover a portion of their losses directly.

These promotions are refreshed regularly, ensuring returning players always find new opportunities to maximize their winnings.

Payment Methods and Security

Jax Casino makes deposits and withdrawals straightforward and fast. The platform supports multiple secure payment methods suited for Australian players, including Visa, Mastercard, Neosurf, bank transfers, e-wallets like Skrill and Neteller, and cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum.

All financial transactions are protected by SSL encryption, ensuring the highest level of data security. Withdrawals typically take one to three business days to process, depending on the chosen method, while the casino's verification process is efficient and usually completed within hours.

This level of transparency and security builds confidence among players, reinforcing Jax Casino's reputation as a safe and trustworthy destination.

Responsible Gaming and Fair Play

Jax Casino takes player well-being seriously. The casino offers tools that promote responsible gambling, such as deposit limits, session reminders, and self-exclusion options. These features are easy to access within each user's account settings, empowering players to stay in control of their gaming habits.

Every game is independently audited to ensure fairness. The use of Random Number Generator (RNG) technology guarantees that outcomes are entirely random and unbiased. This adherence to fairness standards creates a level playing field for all participants and further enhances the platform's integrity.

Mobile Gaming Experience

Jax Casino provides a flawless mobile experience for those who prefer gaming on smartphones or tablets. The site is fully optimized for both iOS and Android browsers, eliminating the need for app downloads.

The adaptive design allows all elements — menus, buttons, and game interfaces — to scale perfectly on smaller screens. Whether playing slots or live dealer games, the performance remains fluid and visually stunning.

Mobile users also have access to the same bonuses, payment options, and customer support as desktop players, ensuring consistency across devices.

VIP Program and Loyalty Rewards

For players who enjoy consistent gaming, Jax Casino offers an exclusive VIP program. Membership is by invitation only and provides access to unique privileges such as faster withdrawals, personal account managers, higher betting limits, and exclusive promotions.

Beyond the VIP club, the casino operates a loyalty system where players earn points for every wager. These points can be redeemed for bonuses, free spins, or other rewards.

This dual-tier reward structure — combining loyalty accumulation with personalized VIP perks — keeps engagement high and makes every bet feel meaningful.

Customer Support and Service

Quality customer support is a vital component of any reputable casino, and Jax Casino excels in this area. The support team is available 24/7 through live chat and email. Response times are fast, and representatives are well-trained to handle technical issues, payment inquiries, or general questions.

In addition, Jax Casino features a detailed Help Center where players can find answers to common topics such as account verification, withdrawal timelines, and bonus rules. The tone of communication is professional and courteous, reinforcing the brand's reliability.

Such dedication to customer satisfaction has helped Jax Casino establish a loyal community of players who value both service and transparency.

Why Australians Choose Jax Casino

Jax Casino's growing popularity in Australia is no accident. Its success comes from a combination of trust, technology, and thoughtful design. Players appreciate how straightforward everything is — from registration and banking to gameplay and withdrawals.

Here are some of the top reasons why Jax Casino is gaining recognition among Australian players:

- Massive selection of pokies and live casino games.
- Generous bonuses and cashback offers.
- Secure and flexible banking options, including crypto.
- Responsive customer support available 24/7.
- Transparent terms and fair play policies.

Each of these elements contributes to an enjoyable, trustworthy, and professional gaming experience that keeps users coming back.

Final Verdict: Jax Casino Sets a New Standard

Jax Casino stands out as a strong example of what a modern online casino should be — fair, fast, and fun. Its combination of impressive game variety, appealing bonuses, secure payments, and dedicated customer support makes it a complete package for Australian players.

The casino's design reflects confidence and clarity, and its commitment to responsible gaming further enhances its credibility. While the platform does not currently offer a standalone mobile app, its browser-based performance is exceptional.

In summary, Jax Casino successfully bridges excitement and reliability, offering a gaming environment that both new and experienced players can trust. It's not just another casino — it's a benchmark for quality in the Australian market.

FAQ About Jax Casino

1. Is Jax Casino legal for Australian players?

Yes. Jax Casino operates under a Curacao eGaming license and accepts Australian players legally.

2. How long does it take to withdraw winnings from Jax Casino?

Withdrawals are usually processed within one to three business days, depending on the method used.

3. Does Jax Casino accept cryptocurrencies?

Yes, Jax Casino supports Bitcoin, Ethereum, and several other major digital currencies.

4. What bonuses can players claim at Jax Casino?

New players can receive up to AU\$2000 and 100 free spins, with ongoing reloads, cashback, and VIP offers.

5. Is Jax Casino safe and fair? Absolutely. The casino uses advanced SSL encryption and certified RNG systems to ensure player safety and fairness.

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How Can a Custom Inflatable Arch Elevate Sports Event Experience?

Our Friends · Thursday, November 13th, 2025

A custom inflatable arch can instantly change the atmosphere of a sports event. It creates a clear start or finish line, directs participants, and draws attention from spectators. A well-designed inflatable arch elevates the event experience by combining function, visibility, and brand presence in one simple structure.

Event organizers use these arches to create a professional look that stands out in photos and broadcasts. The arch can display team colors, sponsor logos, or event themes, giving every race or competition a strong visual identity. Its quick setup and portability also make it practical for different venues and event types.

From marathons to local charity runs, a custom inflatable arch sets the tone before the first athlete steps onto the course. It signals energy, organization, and excitement—qualities that make any event more memorable for both participants and spectators.

Key Ways Custom Inflatable Arches Improve Sports Events

Custom inflatable arches add structure, visibility, and style to sports events. They help define key areas, promote sponsors, and guide participants through the event space with clear visual cues that improve both organization and atmosphere.

Creating Iconic Start and Finish Lines

A well-designed arch immediately signals the start or finish of a race. It gives athletes a clear target and creates a recognizable point for spectators and photographers. The arch's size and color make it easy to spot from a distance, which helps participants stay oriented throughout the event.

Event organizers often choose an **inflatable arch for any occasion** because it works across different sports, from marathons to cycling races. It can include printed logos, timers, or lighting to match the event's theme.

Unlike permanent structures, inflatable arches set up quickly and pack away easily. This flexibility allows organizers to reuse them across multiple events, saving both time and cost while maintaining a consistent event identity.

Boosting Brand Visibility and Sponsorship

Inflatable arches offer large, open surfaces that display sponsor logos and event branding. This

visibility helps sponsors gain attention from both live audiences and media coverage. Each logo placement turns into a marketing opportunity, especially at high-traffic points like start and finish lines.

Organizers can customize arches with brand colors, slogans, or digital graphics. These features create a unified look that connects the event's visual elements. Sponsors benefit from lasting impressions as athletes and spectators share photos featuring branded arches on social media.

A custom arch also signals professionalism. It shows that the event values presentation and partner recognition, which can attract future sponsorships. The result is a stronger link between the event and its supporters.

Guiding Attendees and Improving Event Flow

Inflatable arches help define paths and checkpoints throughout large venues. They mark transitions between event zones, such as from cycling to running areas in a triathlon. This clear structure helps participants move efficiently and reduces confusion.

Spectators also benefit from these visual markers. Arches can direct foot traffic, point toward entrances, or highlight viewing areas. Their height and color make them easy to follow even in crowded spaces.

By using multiple arches, organizers can divide the course into distinct sections. This approach improves crowd management and keeps the event organized from start to finish, creating a smoother experience for everyone involved.

Design, Customization, and Practical Benefits

A custom inflatable arch adds visual impact, brand recognition, and functional value to sports events. Its design choices, materials, and setup features determine how well it performs on race day and how long it lasts across multiple events.

Personalization and Branding Options

Event organizers use custom inflatable arches to display team names, sponsors, or event logos in clear, bold designs. Each custom arch can match specific colors, shapes, and dimensions to fit the event theme. This flexibility allows a giant inflatable arch or inflatable finish line arch to serve as both a visual landmark and a branding tool.

Design elements often include printed graphics, interchangeable banners, and removable Velcro panels. These features let organizers update sponsor logos or event details without replacing the entire structure.

A well-placed blow-up arch at the start or finish line improves visibility for participants and spectators. It also draws attention in photos and videos, giving sponsors lasting exposure. For races, festivals, or community runs, a branded arch creates a consistent and professional look that supports the event's identity.

Material Choices and Durability

The strength and lifespan of an inflatable arch depend on its materials. Common options include

600D nylon, 420D nylon, and PVC tarpaulin. Each material offers different levels of weight, flexibility, and weather resistance. For example, nylon provides a lightweight structure suited for frequent setup, while tarpaulin offers a thicker layer for windy or wet conditions.

High-quality seams and reinforced anchor points keep the arch stable under outdoor stress. UV-resistant coatings help prevent fading during long hours in sunlight.

Proper care extends durability. Cleaning the arch after each event and storing it in a dry space prevents mold and wear. A well-maintained race arch can last for years, making it a smart investment for recurring sports events.

Setup, Portability, and Reusability

Ease of setup is one of the main reasons organizers choose custom inflatable arches. Most models inflate in minutes using a blower or pump. Constant air arches stay inflated through continuous airflow, while sealed air arches hold air without power once filled.

Lightweight materials make transport simple. Two people can usually carry and assemble a standard-size arch without special tools. Anchoring with stakes, ropes, or sandbags keeps it steady during use.

Reusable designs add long-term value. Teams can replace banners or graphics for future events, saving time and cost. As a result, welcome arches and finish line arches serve as practical, repeat-use assets that combine function with brand visibility.

Conclusion

A custom inflatable arch helps sports events look organized and professional. It gives participants and spectators a clear point of focus while adding strong visual appeal.

Event planners value its simple setup and reuse potential, which saves time and reduces costs. The arch also supports sponsor visibility through printed logos or colors that match the event theme.

As a result, it creates a more memorable experience for everyone involved. Its mix of function, design, and branding value makes it a practical addition to any sports event setup.

Photo: Freepik via their website.

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Top Signs Your Piano Needs Tuning (Even If It Sounds Okay)

Our Friends · Thursday, November 13th, 2025

Most piano owners know their instrument should be tuned regularly, but what if your piano *sounds* fine? If it still plays clearly and the notes seem in tune, it's tempting to put off that maintenance appointment a little longer.

The truth is, pianos often give subtle clues that they're drifting out of tune or developing mechanical imbalances long before you hear obvious sour notes. Ignoring these signs can turn small issues into expensive repairs or lasting tonal problems.

Here are the top signs that your piano needs tuning, along with how regular maintenance can help keep your instrument in tip-top condition.

1. Your Piano Hasn't Been Tuned in Over a Year

The simplest sign that it's time for tuning is the calendar. Even if you don't play often, your piano's strings are constantly under tremendous tension, about 40,000 pounds across the entire instrument.

Over time, changes in temperature and humidity cause the wooden soundboard and pinblock to expand and contract, loosening string tension. Even if you can't immediately hear it, your piano's overall pitch can slip.

Most technicians recommend tuning at least once or twice a year. Doing so keeps your piano close to its **intended pitch** and prevents larger tuning jumps that strain the frame and strings later.

Regular service also helps technicians spot early issues with voicing or regulation before they affect performance.

2. Octaves or Chords Sound "Off," Even Slightly

You might strike a C major chord and think it sounds fine, until you notice something feels subtly wrong. The resonance isn't quite as rich, or certain intervals seem to "wobble."

This is often the first sign your piano is drifting out of tune. Because most notes in the middle and upper registers use multiple strings (two or three per note), those strings can shift slightly apart in pitch. The result is a faint beating or shimmering sound between them.

At first, this can sound almost musical, but over time it creates tonal instability. Chords that once rang pure begin to sound uneven or cloudy. If you notice certain octaves sounding "hollow" or "buzzy," that's a sure sign the strings are no longer aligned and your piano needs tuning.

3. Changes in Touch or Response

Tuning not only affects sound, it can also reveal or disguise issues in how your piano feels to play. If you notice:

- Keys that feel sluggish or heavy
- Uneven key height

- **Difficulty controlling soft dynamics**

While these symptoms are more directly related to regulation, they often appear alongside tuning drift caused by environmental changes. A technician performing your regular tuning can also evaluate whether minor action adjustments are needed to restore even responsiveness.

A piano that feels “off” to play, even if it sounds acceptable, is often overdue for attention.

4. You Hear Tonal Drift or Dullness

A healthy, well-tuned piano has a vibrant, balanced tone that projects easily. When tuning starts to slip, that clarity begins to fade.

Instead of clear, ringing notes, you may hear a slightly muted or uneven sound. This tonal drift happens when different sections of the piano (bass, middle, and treble) fall out of sync with one another. Even though each note may still sound roughly correct on its own, the overall timbre loses richness.

If your piano sounds “tired” or “lifeless,” even after you’ve played it for a while, that’s a strong indicator that the pitch has sagged and the strings need re-tensioning.

5. The Piano Sounds Different Depending on the Day

One day your piano sounds bright and crisp; the next it’s dull or slightly flat. These changes can happen overnight, *especially* if your climate fluctuates.

That’s because temperature and humidity directly affect your piano’s wooden soundboard and frame. When the air becomes humid, the wood absorbs moisture and swells, increasing tension and making the pitch rise. When the air dries out, it contracts, lowering the pitch.

If your piano seems to “change moods” with the weather, it’s not your imagination. These swings indicate it’s due for a professional tuning, and possibly the installation of a humidity control system to stabilize conditions inside the piano.

6. You’ve Recently Moved the Piano

Even careful movers can’t completely protect your piano from the effects of transportation. Just the process of moving it from one room to another, or especially from one home to another, can alter its pitch.

That’s because relocation exposes the piano to new humidity and temperature levels. The wood adjusts to its new environment, and as it does, **string tension** changes subtly. If you’ve recently moved your piano, it’s wise to let it acclimate for a few weeks before scheduling a tuning to ensure it settles into proper pitch stability for its new surroundings.

7. You’re Playing More Than Usual

If you’ve recently taken up practice again or are preparing for performances, your piano may need more frequent tuning than before.

The more you play, the more the strings and hammers are struck, which gradually alters string

tension and seating. Frequent playing also accelerates wear on the felt hammers, changing tone over time.

Professional and teaching pianos often need tuning every three to four months, while home instruments can go six months to a year between services. Listening closely to tonal consistency, especially in the middle register, will help you know when it's time.

8. Other Instruments Don't Match Pitch

If you play with other musicians and find your piano doesn't quite blend even though it sounds okay alone, you're probably hearing pitch drift.

When string tension drops uniformly, the entire piano can drift flat, sometimes by a quarter tone or more. You might not notice it by ear alone, but play alongside a guitar or violin, and it becomes obvious.

If you're accompanying singers or other instruments and hear clashing notes, it's time for a tuning.

9. The Seasons Are Changing

Pianos are sensitive to seasonal transitions, especially those that experience all seasons. As the weather shifts from humid summer to dry winter (or vice versa), the soundboard and bridges expand and contract, changing pitch.

Because every climate affects wood and strings differently, technicians recommend consistent seasonal care, typically spring and fall tunings, to keep your piano in balance during these transitions. From [piano tuning in Denver](#), where seasonal temps and precipitation fluctuate significantly, to more humid coastal cities.

10. You Simply Don't Play as Often

It might sound counterintuitive, but **less playing** doesn't mean your piano stays in tune longer. In fact, pianos that sit unused tend to go out of tune faster because the strings aren't being exercised.

Playing helps keep the strings, hammers, and action parts evenly seated. Without that regular vibration, tension distributes unevenly and pitch drifts unpredictably.

So even if your piano sits quietly in the corner most of the year, it still needs periodic tuning to maintain its structural health and tonal stability.

Why Proactive Tuning Matters

While tuning is about correcting pitch, it's also about maintaining the overall health of your instrument.

Regular service:

- Prevents long-term string tension imbalance
- Reduces wear on the pinblock and soundboard
- Keeps the action responsive and balanced
- Preserves tone quality and value

Neglecting tuning for years can cause the entire piano to drop below standard pitch, requiring a pitch raise. Staying ahead with routine care saves time, money, and stress in the long run.

The True Value of Routine Care

Even if your piano sounds fine on the surface, subtle changes in pitch, tone, and touch are early warning signs that it's time for maintenance. Recognizing these clues ensures you stay ahead of costly repairs and preserve the rich sound your piano was designed to produce.

Environmental factors, such as humidity and altitude, can accelerate these changes, in addition to major moves, which is why consistent upkeep is crucial. Scheduling piano tuning once or twice a year is the best way to protect your investment and keep your piano playing beautifully for years to come.

Photo: wiestock via freepik.

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Building Reliable Digital Platforms with a Trusted iGaming Software Provider

Our Friends · Thursday, November 13th, 2025

Fast-paced online entertainment industry success is based on having a robust, secure, and scalable digital platform. From startup to established brand, businesses in the iGaming sector are quickly learning that the path to success starts with partnering with an excellent **iGaming software provider**, capable of introducing innovative, high-performance solutions tailored to their specific needs. This guarantees not only technical excellence but also long-term growth, compliance, and player satisfaction necessary ingredients that keep one competitive in a market in constant evolution.

The Importance of Reliability within iGaming Platforms

iGaming has very specific demands: huge volumes of transactions have to be handled, games should be provided in real time, and the integrity of platforms should be maintained against security threats. Besides all these, strict regulatory standards need to be met, often in multiple jurisdictions. In this complex ecosystem, an efficient digital platform is the backbone that enables seamless operations and builds player trust.

Reliability doesn't just mean uptime or server stability; it also covers performance, scalability, and seamless integrations with payment systems, content management tools, and marketing automation

technologies. A smooth-running platform ensures players have a frictionless experience, translating to better engagement and retention. This readily converts to steady revenue for the operator and a strong reputation in the highly competitive landscape.

Why Choose a Reputable iGaming Software Provider

Partnering with a seasoned software supplier can make all the difference between a platform that simply works and one which truly excels. A trusted iGaming software supplier provides real value through deep industry knowledge, creative technical innovation, and a hard-won reputation for delivering fully compliant, end-user-oriented solutions.

This encompasses everything from providing live casino features and sports betting modules to advanced analytics dashboards and responsible gaming mechanisms. Such providers understand that each operator's needs are unique in nature; thus, they create platforms that not only meet current requirements but evolve with the business as player expectations and technologies change.

Moreover, an expert partner offers regulatory compliance in global markets something few businesses know how to handle. The company keeps track of the constantly changing laws and licensing conditions to help operators confidently expand their reach into new regions with minimal risk on the legal front.

Core Features of a Reliable iGaming Platform

A well-designed iGaming platform brings together multiple technical and operational aspects that ensure seamless performance and scalability. Following are some of the key characteristics that define a reliable solution:

Scalability and Flexibility:

It should be able to absorb spikes in traffic for example, during major sporting events or promotions without any degradation of performance. Scalability ensures that the system can grow with the operator's user base.

Robust Security Framework:

While considering the sensitivity of user data and payment information, top-tier providers implement advanced encryption, anti-fraud mechanisms, and continuous monitoring systems that safeguard operations and customer trust.

Seamless Integration:

Integration with third-party tools from payment gateways and CRM systems to affiliate tracking and content management allows both operational efficiency and seamless player experiences.

Customizable User Interfaces:

Personalization is integral to player engagement. Strong software allows operators to customize design, content, and features to best match their brand and target audience preferences.

Modern platforms integrate analytics and reporting tools that empower operators to make informed decisions based on player behavior, transaction data, and performance metrics.

Innovation in Platform Development

Innovation is at the heart of the quick development of the iGaming industry. New technologies like AI, machine learning, blockchain, and augmented reality are changing the way players approach digital gaming.

A forward-thinking provider of iGaming software not only moves in step with such changes but leads them as they incorporate automation, predictive analytics, and adaptive game mechanics to help operators deliver dynamic, engaging, personalized experiences that strike a chord with players from each corner of the globe.

For example, AI-powered bots improve customer service, and blockchain increases the transparency of both transactions and game outcome fairness. These innovations enhance both player confidence and operator competitiveness.

Building Trust via Long-Term Collaboration

Reliability goes beyond technology; it's about relationships. A trusted software provider should be a strategic partner, providing ongoing support, updates, and enhancements to keep platforms stable, compliant, and at the leading edge for years to come.

This partnership model frees the operators to focus on core business matters, including marketing and player engagement, while their provider manages the technical intricacies behind the scenes. Continuous collaboration allows for mutual growth to take place and ensures that both parties adapt effectively to the dynamic market demands.

Delivering a Seamless Player Experience

After all, every technical decision that happens behind an iGaming platform has a goal: to enhance the player experience. And of course, the players want smooth gameplay, instantaneous transactions, easy-to-use interfaces, and availability 24/7 all things based on the reliability of the system. When these expectations are consistently fulfilled, trust and loyalty naturally follow. It is that trust that converts into brand advocacy, sustained engagement, and long-term profitability.

Conclusion

Building a reliable digital platform within the iGaming industry is not a project but a continuous process that involves expertise, innovation, and trust. Collaboration with a seasoned provider of iGaming software means businesses are well-equipped not only to meet today's technological and regulatory standards but also future challenges and opportunities. In an ever-changing world where user expectations are changing at a fast pace, reliability and innovation stop being options but rather become cornerstones of successful iGaming platforms. The right choice enables operators to outcompete competitors, offer outstanding experiences for their players, and, with confidence, shape the future of digital gaming.

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Getting a Grip

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, November 12th, 2025

Armenian dance in Hollywood; Canadian ballet in Northridge; A.I. dances downtown; new contemporary choreography in Frogtown, Hollywood, Arts District, Long Beach, and downtown; ballet on tour in Glendale; more SoCal dance this week, lus a peek at next week.

A little help from friends

Under the banner, *Encore Performance*, Canadian contemporary ballet company **Ballet BC** gets some local help this visit as students from USC Kaufman School of Dance augment the company dancers for Shahar Binyamini's highly praised take on Ravel's *Bolero* that swells with dancers as the music builds to its crescendo. The program also includes *Sway* by Medhi Walerski and a new work from Sofia Nappi. The Soraya Center for the Arts, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 15, 8 pm, \$46-\$94. [Ballet BC](#).



Ballet BC. Photo courtesy of the artists

Triptych of week 2

Dance from **Gabriela Burdsall** is one-third of the *22nd Annual New Original Works (NOW) Festival Week 2*. Burdsall's solo, *Meneo*, includes a nod to Caribbean social dance. She shares the evening with a comedy-horror play titled *Mommy*, and an opera *Thresholds*. Saturday's show offers a streaming option. Details at the website. Disney Hall, REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown LA; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 13-15, 8 pm, \$25. [REDCAT NOW](#).



Gabriela Burdsall. Photo by Argel Rojo

Triptych of new week 3

With Week 3, this year's *REDCAT New Original Works (NOW) Festival* wraps up. **Lu Coy** draws on movement to consider Tecciztecatl—a gender-expansive Mexica moon deity, **jeremy de'jon guyton** offers “autofiction” of his family's move west, and **Luna Izpisua Rodriguez** presents a theatrical prism examining home and land ownership and dispossession. Saturday's show offers a streaming option. Details at the website. Disney Hall, REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown LA; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 20-22, 8 pm, \$25. [REDCAT NOW](#).



jeremy de'jon guyton. Photo courtesy of the artist

Thank you for your service

Continuing its impressive work with military veterans, **Diavolo** offers performances of *Escape*. Vets and dancer/gymnasts move inside, outside, over and through the often outsized architectural structures that are signature elements of Jacques Heim's choreography, this time up close and personal in the intimate studio setting. Proceeds support ongoing military and educational programs. L'Espace Diavolo Studios, 616 Moulton Ave., Lincoln Heights; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 6 pm, thru Sun., Nov. 23, 6 pm, \$51.74-\$93.14. [Diavolo](#).



Diavolo Veterans Project. Photo by George Simian

When the time is ripe

Invertigo Dance Theatre follows up artistic director Laura Karlin's highly praised *Formulae & Fairy Tales* with a preview of their current project, *Siren Songs at the Harpy Café*. The new work is described as exploring "a world where women reclaim their voices and find strength in vulnerability." The company and Karlin are known for taking their time, *Formulae* incubated for several years during which the company previewed tantalizing segments as the work matured into its final polished product exploring the life of Alan Turing, the mathematical genius who led the WWII decoding of the Nazi 'Enigma Machine' only to be prosecuted for homosexuality. This sampling promises a similar early taste of what's to come. Renberg Theatre, LA LGBT Center, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Hollywood; Sat., Nov. 15, 7 pm, \$20. [Invertigo Dance Theatre](#).



Invertigo Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

Tech movement

Among the video and filmed dance offerings at *The Music Center's Innovation Social: Connection Through Movement*, is a live performance of *Rhythmic Wave* by **Aya Umoh** that blends Nigerian dance with projected digital avatars. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Founder's Room, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Fri., Nov. 14, 6 – 9 pm, free w/reservation at [Connection Through Movement](#)

Know the story?

Led by Janet Roston, the contemporary dance company **Mixed eMotion Theatrix** partners with the LA LGBT Center for *So You Know, Stories in Motion, The Queer Community*. Performers draw from dance and theater to capture the life, loves and sorrows drawn from real individuals' personal stories. Renberg Theatre, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Hollywood; Thurs., Nov. 13, 7 pm, \$24.98-\$71.99. [Mixed e-Motion](#).



Mixed eMotion Theatrix (MeMT). Photo by Barry Weiss

Quorum and in session

The latest installment of the salon-style platform **Congress: Volume XII** showcases Jasmine Albuquerque, Rubberlegz/Kynetiqs, Tracy Phillips, Lucas Debiasi, Maria Bermudéz, Tyrik Patterson, Darrel 'Fridom' Dunn, Chaz Buzan + Genna Carey. Cocktail hour at 6:30 pm precedes the show. 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Downtown LA Arts District; Fri.-Sun., Nov. 14-16, 8 pm, \$55-\$85. [Congress](#).



Darrel “Fridom” Dunn. Photo by Steven Vargas

Shall they dance?

The 1910’s social dance culture epitomized by Irene and Vernon Castle is the starting point for **VULGAR, Mizrahi Moves**’s critique of the era’s rigid moral and gender norms. **EVERYTHING**, 500 S. Victory Blvd., Burbank; Fri-Sat., Nov. 14-15, 8 pm, \$23.18-\$49.87. [Mizrahi Moves](#).

They also “do”

Choreography from Cal State University Long Beach faculty members is danced by students in **CSULB Dance in Concert**. Dances from Rebecca Bryant, Lorin Johnson, Rebecca Lemme, Andrew Vaca, Tsiambwom M. Akuchu & Danzel Thompson-Stout are featured plus a contribution by guest Tashara Gavin-Moorehead. Cal State University Long Beach, Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 20-21, 8 pm, Sat., Nov. 22, 2 & 8 pm, \$30, \$20 students. [CSULB Dance in Concert](#).



Rebecca Lemme, part of CSULB Dance in Concert Photo courtesy of the artists

Dance into the mic

Continuing its commitment to showcase new work from LA-based choreographers, **MashUp Contemporary Dance** offers a new edition of *Choreography Open Mic Night*. This time, choreographers offering a taste of their work include Brigitte Smeza, Effie Spence, Jayde Spiegel, Kaite Mcculia, Marissa Mahoney, Nathan Makolandra, Sierra Tanji, and Patti Yankosky. Pickle Factory, 2828 Gilroy St., Frogtown; Sat., Nov. 15, 7:30 pm, \$15. [MashUp Open Mic](#).

Another lost shoe

The touring company **World Ballet Company** stops off with its *Cinderella*. No info on the choreographer or casting. Music is recorded. The Alex Theater, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Sat., Nov. 15, 7 pm, \$53-\$182. [The Alex](#).



Barekamutiuin Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

Hooray for 25

With dancers ranging from youth to adult, **Barekamutiuin Dance** celebrates its *25th Anniversary* with a concert ranging from traditional Armenian dance to contemporary moves. Dolby Theatre, Hollywood & Highland, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Sun., Nov. 16, 6:30 pm, \$77-\$255. [Ticketmaster](#).

A Peek at Next Week (November 21-27)

LA Contemporary Dance Company — *Story (Un)Structured* at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Downtown Arts District; Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22, 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 23, 2 & 6 pm, \$20-\$60. [LA Contemporary Dance Company](#).

Maya Billig & Camila Arana at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22, 8 pm, \$25.63. [Highways](#).

Momix — *Alice* at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 22, 3 pm, \$46-\$94. [Momix — Alice](#).



Momix' "Alice." Photo courtesy of the artists

Kenny Endo — *50 Years of Taiko* at Aratani Theatre, 244 San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; Sat., Nov. 22, 7:30 pm, \$35-\$55 (plus \$3.50 – \$5.50 fee). [JACCC](#).

World Ballet Company — *The Great Gatsby* at the Granada Theatre, 1214 State St., Santa Barbara; Sun., Nov. 23, 6 pm, \$54-\$129. [Tickets](#).

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