



The name says it all...

# Just Jazz

February-March 2019

**Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.**  
— The United States Constitution, Amendment XIII, Section 1

Hi Friends —

**For thirty-five days in December and January the American labor movement was faced with a singular opportunity.** Trump's petty, pointless, \$11 billion government shutdown locked out 800,000 federal employees plus 1.2 million contract workers. Many were illegally forced back on the job for no pay. Missing paychecks, these public servants endured severe economic and personal hardships that they will not soon overcome. **And in this pivotal moment, what did their unions do?**

**They did nothing.** I know, I know, "It's illegal for federal government employees to strike." Well, I've got news for you: If every forcibly recalled, unpaid worker, joined by the rest who had been "furloughed" — the euphemism for "laid off" — had stood up and collectively said, "No work for no pay!" the shutdown would have been over in 48 hours. (If this were France that's exactly what would have happened.) There are 800,000 of them — too many to punish, too many to replace. And their brothers and sisters in every industry, every sector of the economy, could have — *should have* — gone out in support of them. The conditions were ripe in this country for the working class to exert its real power. **The conditions were was ripe for a GENERAL STRIKE!**

I also heard, "Oooo, they better not. You don't know what Trump might do." Nonsense! Trump gets what power he has from the irrational fear of what he might do, "if...". That's what all bullies count on, whether in the schoolyard or in the White House. As long as workers, cowed by such vague and empty fears, are afraid to stand up and fight back, their bosses will be able to control them and prevail. **But this time federal workers had the numbers plus a coalition of public, political, and press support — not to mention right — on their side. To refrain from fighting back under those condition was a major political mistake.**

Why would that have been so crucial? Because Trump's shutdown was not just about his phony border wall. He'd already issued an executive order freezing federal workers' pay in 2019. And now he's attempting to end the pensions that they have earned. **We are witnessing a full blown assault on the rights and living standards of federal workers, And it's all part of a broader, orchestrated attack on the entire working class.** Remember, comrades, *an injury to one is an injury to all.*

There is no doubt that job actions taken by air traffic controllers and TSA agents were a key actor in getting Trump to cave so ignominiously. **But it took them 35 days to do it. They better not wait so long next time.**

Stay cool, hang loose, admit nothing,  
Bob

**Letters, I get letters** (emails actually). Here's some positive feedback — for a change — about my previous newsletter's comment on a song I don't like anymore:

Hi Bob,

FINALLY made time to read your December newsletter. Loved the story on "Baby It's Cold..."

I totally agree. The "What's in this drink" line really gets me.

My buddy Craig and I were playing Christmas and seasonal songs at gigs in December. We asked for requests, and some MAGA hat woman shouted: "Play Baby, It's Cold Outside — The Libs hate it!"

We didn't play it. On our next break I spoke with her explaining WHY we ignored her and why the song was inappropriate. Not sure if she originally got it, so I asked her if it was OK for some guy to drug her daughter to get her to stay at his place after she said no.

She walked away without a response. Go figure!

Thanks, buddy, I needed that.



## Quotes of the Month

In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as "right to work." It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. ... Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. ... We demand this fraud be stopped.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## RECOMMENDED INTERNET JAZZ RADIO

**Late Night Jazz with Rusty Hassan:** A Hall of Fame jazz broadcaster. Thurs. 10:00-midnight ET.

**Café Latino:** Singer-songwriter **Laura Fernandez** features two hours of great Latin music. Sat. 4:00-6:00 p.m. ET on Toronto's Jazz FM91.

**Jazz Lives:** Hosted by Bob Dauber: "Classic jazz over the decades covering a variety of genres with one exception — smooth." Mon. 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

**Friday Night Jazz:** Hosted by renowned trumpeter-educator **Ray Vega**. Fri. 8:00-11:00 p.m. ET on Vermont Public Radio.

**Good Vibes:** Gloria Krolak hosts the world's only radio show dedicated to the vibraphone. First Sun. of every month 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET.

**Jazz Spotlight on Sinatra:** Nancy Barell presents Frank Sinatra's music through the decades, along with jazz instrumentalists and singers performing songs he recorded plus other beloved standards. Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Tues. 11:00 a.m.-noon ET.

**The Tail-Finned Turntable** and **Still Rockin'** hosted by my buddy, "the Golden Gup," Gup Gascoigne. Sun. noon-2:00 ET on [wnti.org](http://wnti.org).

## NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

**Michael Dease: Bonafide (Posi-Tone):** Michael Dease's latest release is a striking showcase for the trombone — his, as well as that of the distinguished colleagues who join him on nearly half the tracks: Conrad Herwig, Marshall Gilkes, and, on bass trombone, Gina Benalcazar. Dease's writing is inspired and engaging, and among the many other highlights are his fresh take on Sonny Rollins' "Tenor Madness," a lovely bossa nova ("Nós") by the too often overlooked Brazilian composer Johnny Alf, and his four-bone chart on Phineas Newborn, Jr.'s "Theme for Basie" that swings like — wait for it — *Basie*.

**John Fedchock: Reminiscence (Summit):** As a follow-up to his excellent 2015 release, *Fluidity*, trombonist John Fedchock now presents more music drawn from that same live date. Joined by a strong, sensitive rhythm section of pianist John Toomey, bassist Jimmy Masters, and the late Dave Ratajczak on drums — Billy Williams takes the drum chair on one track — Fedchock delivers a second tuneful and swinging program of standards and originals. For once, here is a sequel that is every bit as successful as the prototype.

**Jay T. Vonada: United (Summit):** Based in Central Pennsylvania, trombonist Jay T. Vonada has been recording prolifically for over a decade, and every CD he releases is a welcomed reminder that you can find plenty of great jazz away from the two coasts, if you only knew where to look for it. This release features Vonada with his quartet — Kirk Reese, piano; Bob Hart, bass; Kevin Lowe, drums — in a solid mix of colors and moods, featuring seven of his originals plus the standards, "Summertime" and "Darn That Dream."

**But not every new & recommended jazz CD is by a trombonist ...**

**Josh Levinson: Morning Joy (Wise Cat):** This septet session from trumpeter-composer Josh Levinson is real thing, squared, hard bop for today and tomorrow, deeply rooted in that venerable jazz tradition, while looking forward with vision and clarity. Levinson has richly orchestrated a dozen of his originals for a tight four-horn frontline, abundantly laced with surprises that will keep listeners involved and delighted.

**And here's something very special ...**

**Cannonball Adderley: Swingin' in Seattle: Live at the Penthouse (1966-1967) (Reel to Real):** What could be better than two CDs worth of previously unissued live recordings by Cannonball Adderley's "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" quintet (Nat Adderley on cornet, Joe Zawinul on piano, Victor Gaskin on bass, Roy McCurdy on drums), annotated by an informative, interview-packed, 28-page liner note booklet? *Nothing!*

## UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

**Jazz at Rutherford Hall 2018-2019 Season**

**Sun., February 17, 3:00: David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Eternity Band**

\$30 in advance / \$35 at the door

**Sun., March, 17, 3:00: tenor saxophonist Jerry Weldon Quartet**

\$30 in advance / \$35 at the door

Rutherford Hall, 1686 Rt.517, Allamuchy, NJ; 908-852-1894 ext. 338 or 908-637-8461

The **New Brunswick Jazz Project** — "bringing great Jazz to Central Jersey" — regularly offers jazz events at numerous venues throughout New Brunswick, NJ. Click [HERE](#) for their monthly schedule.

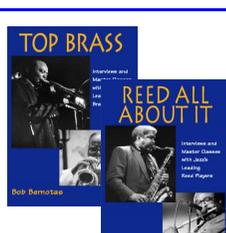
## Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

*Top Brass: Interviews and Master Classes with Jazz's Leading Brass Players*

*Reed All About It: Interviews and Master Classes with Jazz's Leading Reed Players*

[temporarily out of print]

\$20, plus shipping  
[jazzbob.com](http://jazzbob.com)



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