



The name says it all...

Just Jazz

June-July 2018

Hi Friends —

The prolific and award-winning film composer, Henry Mancini, titled his autobiography, *Did They Mention the Music?* Coming from a writer of movie scores, it's a good question and a fair question. Musical underscoring can heighten a film's drama and action, reinforce the laughs and the tears. In so many ways movie music helps tell the story. Another master film composer, David Raksin, rightly asserted, "People who are skeptical about the value of film music should be condemned to watch films without it."

Still there is a delicate balance. An overbearing score (Leonard Bernstein's for "On the Waterfront") or an overly interesting one (Duke Ellington's for "Anatomy of a Murder") can attract attention to itself and divert it from the plot. So Mancini's question is as practical as it is rhetorical, begging a second question: **If they mentioned the music, why did they mention it?**

But there is another issue — the one I really want to talk about.

Mancini also was the composer of some great popular songs, most of which began their musical lives as movie themes or parts of his film scores. And how often have you heard an instrumentalist or singer — or radio host — refer to "Moon River" by Henry Mancini or Henry's Mancini's "Days of Wine and Roses?" (Paging Johnny Mercer.)

Why does that matter? Because, as Irving Berlin once observed, "It's the lyric that makes a song a hit, although the tune, of course, is what makes it last." And as someone who wrote both, Berlin knew as well as anyone that **in truly evocative and unforgettable songs melody and lyric work together, as a team.** Lyricist Yip Harburg — collaborator of Harold Arlen, Vernon Duke, Burton Lane, among other eminent tunesmiths — knew it, too. "Words make you think a thought," he mused. "Music makes you feel a feeling. A song makes you feel a thought."

In an anecdote that's possibly apocryphal, but nevertheless instructive, Mrs. Oscar Hammerstein is said to have overheard someone declare that "O! Man River" was "a great Jerome Kern song." "I beg your pardon, but Jerome Kern did not write 'O! Man River,'" she admonished the unwitting speaker. "Mr. Kern wrote *dum dum dum da*. My husband wrote *o! man river*." **So, performers and presenters, please remember to mention the lyrics — and the lyricists.**

Stay cool,
Bob

Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour Has Been Canceled by WRNJ

In case you haven't heard, the popular, professionally produced radio and internet program, *Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour*, that I had been presenting on WRNJ since November 2015 **has been canceled**. (My final show was aired on March 25.) The perpetrator of this crime against our music was the station's majority owner, **a soulless, gutless jazz hater named Larry Tighe**. This "big shot" was too cowardly to inform me personally — I was notified *via email* by someone else, acting on his orders — and too thoughtless to offer me the courtesy of a farewell program.

The sudden cancelation elicited a volley of email complaints and protests* from listeners, supporters, and lovers of jazz, not that it made any difference (and not that I expected it would). But it was gratifying to see how many people appreciated the hard work and talent that went into each program. And this loser needed to know how many listeners his station had lost due to his ignorance, closed-mindedness, and lack of musical taste.

So now if you're looking for the best new jazz releases, classic jazz tracks, and the songs of Frank Sinatra and the great voices of jazz and popular music, **don't tune in to WRNJ** because none of it is there anymore — and it never will be **as long as the place is owned by a cretin who wouldn't know good music if it bit him in the ass.**

*** If you'd care to protest WRNJ's cancelation of Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour, feel free to email the station's president/general manager, Norman Worth, at nworth@wrnj.com**

Quote of the Month

Now, you ask, which comes first, the words or the music? I'll tell you which — *the money!* Or the phone call — or the request!

— lyricist Sammy Cahn



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 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." Now: Mon. 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

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'** both hosted by my good buddy, "the Golden Gup," Gup Gascoigne. Sun. noon-2:00 ET on wnti.org. **Don't listen to these shows on WRNJ because that station sucks.**

NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

Jamie Baum: Bridges (Sunnyside): Throughout its history jazz has progressed and remained the vital art form that it is by adopting and absorbing "non-jazz" elements. Flutist-composer Jamie Baum's previous CD was inspired by Near Eastern music, and now her visionary aesthetic has taken her even further east to the land of the Himalayas. The centerpiece of Baum's latest innovative, boundary-crossing statement is her ambitious three-movement *Honoring Nepal: The Shiva Suite*, rendered with apt delicacy and reverence by her working septet. Music like this truly is an essential part of the future of jazz.

Duduka Da Fonseca: Duduka Da Fonseca Trio Plays Dom Salvador (Sunnyside): One of the landmark ensembles of Brazilian jazz was the Rio 65 Trio, whose pianist was the great Dom Salvador. Drummer Duduka Fonseca and his own trio from Rio — with pianist David Feldman and bassist Guto Wirtti — have fashioned this loving tribute to the now eighty-year-old keyboard master. Salvador's compositions, while lesser known in this country than those of Jobim or Bonfá, are delightfully tuneful and deserve to be more widely heard, especially the lovely "Para Elis," rendered here by the trio plus cellist Jaques Morelenbaum.

Roberta Piket: West Coast Trio (Thirteenth Note): For her first, and much welcomed, trio date in more than a decade, East Coast-based pianist Roberta Piket has taken her artistry 3000 miles west, joining with bassist Derek Oleszkiewicz and the renowned drummer Joe La Barbera for a wide-ranging program of standards, jazz compositions, and her original works. Guitarist Larry Koonse augments the group for Piket's compelling "A Bridge to Nowhere" and George Shearing's "Conception," while an attention grabbing trio treatment of "Windmills of Your Mind" in 7/4 is a highlight of this set.

Martin Wind: Light Blue (Laika): A "two-sided" CD? (What a concept!) But this is in fact an engaging offering of two sides of bassist-composer Martin Wind. "Side A" ("Light") features Wind's contemporary jazz take, at times bright, funky, or lyrical. "Side B" ("Blue") has a Brazilian vibe that's fresh, hip, and fun. In presenting these two sides Wind has assembled a cast of familiar and comfortable collaborators: trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, clarinetist Anat Cohen, multi-reedplayer Scott Robinson, keyboardists Gary Versace and Bill Cunliffe, drummers Matt Wilson and Duduka Da Fonseca, and the voice of Maucha Adnet.

UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

Thurs, June 21, 5:30-8:30: Summer Solstice Jazz & Wine Festival

Swingadelic big band outdoor dance party!

Roy DeBoer Evergreen Garden, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Bring a blanket or chair. Wine from [Unionville Vineyards](http://UnionvilleVineyards.com) will be available to purchase by the glass. [Due Mari](http://DueMari.com) restaurant will be offering some of their most popular menu items. *No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed.*
For more information: 732-932-8451

Mon., July 16, 7:00: trombonist Ed Neumeister Quartet

[Hickman Hall, Room 138](http://HickmanHall.com), Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Free! For more information: 848-932-7511.

Thurs., July 19, 7:00: Mason Gross Jazz Faculty

[Hickman Hall, Room 138](http://HickmanHall.com), Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Free! For more information: 848-932-7511.

Fri., July 27, 7:30: Pat Longo's Hollywood East Coast Big Band: Stan Kenton Tribute

\$35 advance / \$40 at the door.
Rutherford Hall, 1686 Rt.517, Allamuchy, NJ; 908-852-1894 ext. 338 or 908-637-8461
Save on all 3 concerts of Rutherford Hall's Jazz Summer Series in Advance for \$90.00

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.

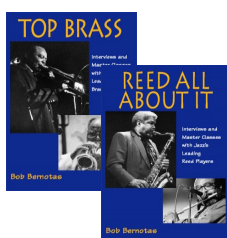
Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

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

[temporarily out of print]

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

\$20, plus shipping
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