



The name says it all...

Just Jazz

August 2014

Hi Friends —

In 1936 Count Basie and his free-wheeling band from Kansas City came east and took New York by storm with their rocking, blues-based take on big band jazz. For nearly a decade and a half this stellar cast — which at various times included trumpeters Buck Clayton and Harry "Sweets" Edison, trombonists Benny Morton, Dickie Wells, and Vic Dickenson, tenor saxophonists Lester Young, Herschel Evans, Buddy Tate, Don Byas, Illinois Jacquet, and Lucky Thompson, singers Jimmy Rushing and (briefly) Billie Holiday, and the renowned "All-American Rhythm Section" of Basie on piano, guitarist Freddie Green, bassist Walter Page, and drummer Jo Jones — would sit atop the very pinnacle of swing.

Weary of the road and discouraged by a drop in bookings, Basie broke up the band in 1950 and formed a first-rate septet. But Basie missed the power and glory of sixteen men swinging, so in the fall of 1951 he began to reassemble his orchestra. Basie founded this new edition on an ever-growing book of charts by top-rung arrangers, and it quickly evolved into an ensemble of amazing strength and precision, of many moods and colors, as strong at *pianissimo* as it was at *fortissimo*, as swinging at slow tempos as it was at fast ones. One by one the Count brought in lead alto and "straw boss" [Marshal Royal](#), trombonists [Benny Powell](#), [Henry Coker](#), and [Al Grey](#), trumpeters [Joe Newman](#), [Thad Jones](#), and [Snooky Young](#), and tenor saxophonists [Frank Foster](#), [Frank Wess](#), and [Billy Mitchell](#), modern players who also were completely at home in the Basie idiom.

Once, while talking with [Frank Foster](#), I mentioned that as a kid, learning about this music, I thought that the Basie band of the 1950s and '60s was the definition of jazz. Foss grinned and replied, in his deep, Billy Eckstine speaking voice, "It was the definition of jazz." And it still is. So, this month, to celebrate Count Basie's 110th birthday anniversary, I will be featuring his music on *Just Jazz*.

Stay cool and keep list'nin',
Bob



Just Jazz Celebrates the 110th Birthday of Count Basie

Just Jazz Presents... Features

- 8/3: Singers Hour
- 8/10: Trombone Hour
- 8/17: Latin Jazz Hour
- 8/24: Big Band Hour
- 8/31: The 50 All-Time Most Recorded Jazz Standards (starting at 10:00 p.m.)

"Just Jazz Presents..." is heard Sundays midnight-1:00 a.m. during Just Jazz @ wnti.org

Just Jazz is heard every Sunday from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time (US) over 91.9 WNTI-FM and streams live at wnti.org.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

The band has always been built from the rhythm section to the tenors and then to the rest of the band.

I usually look for a type of guy, for a certain kind of character in a man. I think it's important to have a likeable guy, a happy sort of a guy as well as one who is a nice musician. Those things put together make a happy band.

— Count Basie

DON'T MISS WNTI'S GREAT SUNDAY LINE-UP

10:00-11:00: [On the Dance Floor](#) with [Bob Bernotas](#)

The big bands, great singers, and beloved entertainers from that Golden Age of American Song when great music was popular and popular music was great.

11:00-noon: [The Sinatra Hour](#) with [Bob Bernotas](#)

Need I say more? [*heard on local radio only*]

noon-2:00: [The Happy Foot Request Party](#)

[The Golden Gup](#) & [Lulu](#) present swing, jump, jive, rhythm & blues, rock & roll, and pop from the '40s to the '60s.

2:00-4:00: [Uncle Pete's Blues Party](#)

[Peter Hoff](#) plays blues that make you feel good.

It's one swingin' six-hour party, Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US), on 91.9 WNTI & wnti.org!

NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

[Kris Berg](#) & the Metroplexity Big Band: *Time Management* (Summit): This new release from bassist-composer-arranger Kris Berg is ample proof that great big band jazz isn't alive and well, it's alive and *thriving*. His Metroplexity Big Band plays with power and swings with assurance, and his inventive charts are enhanced by a roster of accomplished soloists like trumpeters Clay Jenkins and Wayne Bergeron, guitarist Andy Timmons, and guest alto saxophonist Phil Woods.

[Steven Kroon](#): *On the One* (Kroonature): Percussionist Steven Kroon's working sextet presents a tuneful and enjoyable package of Latin jazz. Most of the tracks feature the delightful frontline of Craig Rivers' flute and Bryan Carrott's vibes — joined, on four tunes, by guest Tim Ries' saxophones — and all of them are driven by the solid rhythm team of Igor Atalita on keyboards, Ruben Rodriguez on electric bass, Vince Cherico on drums, and Kroon's congas

[Doug Talley](#): *Chess Players* (Serpentine): The Kansas City-based quintet of tenor saxophonist Doug Talley offers an inspired homage to the music of Wayne Shorter. This impeccably rendered, thoughtfully presented program faithfully reflects the diversity of Shorter's music — hardcore hard bop from his Jazz Messengers days, freewheeling pieces from his time with the Miles Davis Quintet, and "Real Book" standards from his classic Blue Note albums.

[Manuel Valera](#): *Self Portrait* (Mavo): The gifted Cuban-born, New York-based pianist Manuel Valera is showcased in this striking solo piano recital. The full range of Valera's formidable talent is on display in a set that features boleros, tunes by Bill Evans, Bud Powell, and Thelonious Monk, and numerous original compositions, including a trio of "impromptus" dedicated to George Gershwin, Erik Satie, and Nicolas Slonimsky.

UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

Fri.-Sun., August 8-10: [19th Annual Litchfield Jazz Festival](#)
Main Stage Performers: Cyrus Chestnut Trio, Jimmy Greene Quartet, Mike Stern Band, Jane Bunnett & Maqueque, Curtis Fuller & Friends, Claudio Roditi Brazilian Jazz Sextet, & many more
single-day, two-day, & three-day tent and lawn tickets are available [click here](#) or call 860-361-6285 for prices and info

kids 12 and under: free on the lawn
Goshen Fair Grounds, Goshen, CT

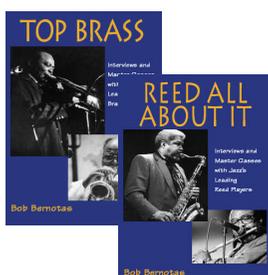
Sat., August 16, noon-10:00: [Morristown Jazz & Blues Festival](#) FREE!
Trio Da Paz, Bucky Pizzarelli's Guitar Summit, Winard Harper & Jeli Posse, Mikey Junior Band, Matt Schofield Trio
The Green, Morristown, NJ

Sat., August 30, 5:00-10:00: [The 11th Annual Wall Street Jazz Festival](#) FREE!
Laura Dubin Trio, "All-Star All-Play" ("Sweet" Sue Terry, Claire Daly, Peggy Stern, John Menegon, Peter O'Brien, Jay Clayton, Teri Roiger), Virginia Mayhew Quartet, Roberta Piket Sextet, "Estrella Salsa Etc."
Wall & Front Streets, Kingston, NY

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 jazzbob.com



RECOMMENDED INTERNET JAZZ RADIO

groovebone.org: All jazz trombone, all the time, produced and programmed by trombonist-bandleader [Dave Dickey](#).

[Café Latino](#): Singer-songwriter [Laura Fernandez](#) features two hours of Latin music. Sat. 4:00-6:00 ET on Toronto's Jazz FM91.

[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 & the following Wed. 4:00-6:00 p.m. ET

[Jazz Spotlight on Sinatra](#): Nancy Barell presents Sinatra's music through the decades, plus jazz instrumentalists and singers who recorded songs he performed and other great standards.

wemu.org: Linda Yohn starts your day right with three and a half hours of jazz and blues. Mon.-Fri. 9:00-12:30 ET

Bob Bernotas • host of *Just Jazz* • Sunday nights, 10:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)
91.9 WNTI-FM, Hackettstown, NJ & streaming live at wnti.org
Website: jazzbob.com • Email: bob@jazzbob.com

If you'd prefer not to receive any future *Just Jazz* e-Newsletters, click [here](#)