



The name says it all...

# Just Jazz

August 2017

Hi Friends —

**vocalese**: a genre of jazz singing in which lyrics are written and sung to melodies that originally were improvised instrumental jazz solos

Yes, there are a few earlier, one-off instances of vocalese writing and singing, but **Eddie Jefferson** is understood to have invented the genre sometime in the 1940s. (But not the word — he preferred “vocalmentals.”) **Jon Hendricks**, largely through his work with the trio, Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross, during the 1950s and ‘60s is the genre’s most prolific exponent. **And it is about time the two of them were included in any serious discussion of American song’s most important lyricists.\***

People always ask, “Which comes first, the words or the music?” (Sammy Cahn always answered, “*The money!*”) Well, Lorenz Hart wrote lyrics to Richard Rodgers’ melodies, but then Rodgers set melodies to Oscar Hammerstein’s lyrics. Anyway, **few lyricists ever tried to put words to music as complex as solos by James Moody or Miles Davis, or full performances by the Duke Ellington Orchestra or the Horace Silver Quintet. But that’s exactly what Eddie Jefferson and Jon Hendricks did.**

Their methods were slightly different, but equally inventive. Eddie wrote in a decidedly “stream of consciousness” manner, letting the flow and the contour of a particular solo carry his imagination to wherever it might take him. Jon generally found his inspiration in the songs’ titles, often spinning them into clever three-character “plays” for himself, Dave Lambert, and Annie Ross. “It’s like opera,” he once mused, “except it’s *bopera*.”

Now add to their creativity, complexity, and immense body of work **one more credential: their connection to music beyond jazz.** If you strip away the melody — but don’t, OK? — you can hear **the roots of rap** in Eddie’s lyric to James Moody’s solo on “Lester Leaps In,” retitled “**I Got the Blues**.” And Jon’s erudite, upbeat, life-affirming lyrics, like the one he wrote to Miles Davis’ “**Four**,” are echoed in **the positive messages of funk hits** like Earth, Wind & Fire’s “Shining Star,” Tower of Power’s “What is Hip?” and Sly and the Family Stone’s “Everybody Is a Star.”

Poet-historian **Hilaire Belloc** declared, “It is the best of all trades to make songs, and the second best to sing them.” And Eddie Jefferson and Jon Hendricks have done both with as much skill and artistry as any man or woman who ever put words to music.

Stay cool, and keep list’nin’,  
Bob

\*I don’t want to overlook **Annie Ross**’ pioneering vocalese contributions from the early 1950s, when she crafted original, witty lyrics to Wardell Gray’s recordings of “Twisted,” “Farmer’s Market,” and “Jackie.”

## Special Shows and Segments



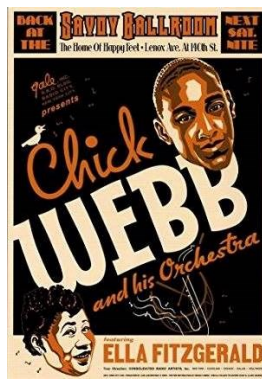
From June through August, during **Hour Three of Just Jazz** (noon-1:00), I’m counting down the **100 Most Frequently Recorded Jazz Standards** as compiled by the excellent website, [jazzstandards.com](http://jazzstandards.com).

8/6: Songs 30-21

8/13: Songs 20-11

8/20: “**The Best of the Rest**”: Ten Great Songs *Not* in the Top 100

8/27: Songs 10-1



2017 marks the **100th birthday anniversary** of the great **Ella Fitzgerald**. And so, I am celebrating Ella and her music all year long on **Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour**.

**Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour** is heard every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern Time (US) over WRNJ 104.7 & 92.7 FM and 1510 AM and streaming worldwide at [tunein.com/radio/WRNJ](http://tunein.com/radio/WRNJ)

## Lyric Quotes of the Month

Darling, won't you say that you will always be mine?  
I guarantee you everything will turn out just fine.  
Just hurry and tell me something 'fore I go out my mind.  
And say my plea is not in vain and love is not blind.  
I'll do the things you always wanted me to.  
Success is 'round the corner and it's pointing at you.  
Don't make a mistake and tell me, "Baby, we're through."  
We're made for one another, I belong to you.

— Eddie Jefferson, “I Got the Blues”

Don't you know the score?  
Well, people when they're younger, never realize the pleasure-treasure life's got.  
But as they grow older realize a lot. They've got their mind on all the wrongest scenes and things that cost lot of money.  
But it's really very funny, they fade away and don't amount to a hill of beans.

— Jon Hendricks, “Four”

## RECOMMENDED INTERNET JAZZ RADIO

**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.

**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.

### NEW LISTING!

**Jazz Lives** hosted by Bob Dauber: “Classic jazz over the decades covering a variety of genres with one exception — Smooth.” Fri. 8:00-10:00 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.

And **every Sunday after Just Jazz** stay tuned to WRNJ and [tunein.com/radio/WRNJ](http://tunein.com/radio/WRNJ) for **The Tail-Finned Turntable** from 1:00 to 2:00 and **Still Rockin’** from 2:00 to 3:00, both hosted by “the Golden Gup,” Gup Gascoigne.

## NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

**Pete Malinverni: Heaven (Saranac)**: Pianist Pete Malinverni is a master at crafting thoughtful, engaging concept albums. His latest presentation is a cross-cultural gift of hymns, spirituals, and folk songs, some traditional, some contemporary, all of them uplifting and brimming with hope. Malinverni’s trio — with Ben Allison on bass and Akira Tana on drums — is augmented on one track apiece by three eminent guest artists: singer Karrin Allison, trumpeter Jon Faddis, alto saxophonist Steve Wilson.

**Plucky Strum (Sheryl Bailey & Harvie S): Departure (Whaling City Sound)**: This second release by “Plucky Strum” — a.k.a. guitarist Sheryl Bailey and bassist Harvie S — follows the brightly lit path of the duo’s terrific 2015 debut. Their original compositions — plus a couple of surprises — highlight their intuitive interplay and cohesive artistry. In simple arithmetic the sum of one and one is just two. But in music, with musicians like these, it’s a great deal more.

**Dave Stryker: Strykin’ Ahead (Strikezone)**: Guitar-organ-vibes (plus drums) is an appealing, but too seldom used, combination in jazz. But for the past few years guitarist Dave Stryker has been employing it most effectively, and he does it again here on his latest release. Stryker, organist Jared Gold, vibraphonist Steve Nelson, and drummer McClellent Hunter create a delightful blend on four Stryker originals and give a fresh flavor to jazz standards by Wayne Shorter, Billy Strayhorn, Clifford Brown, and Charlie Parker.

## UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

### Jazz Summer Series at Rutherford Hall

**Fri., August 11, 7:30: Pat Longo’s Hollywood East Coast Big Band**  
\$30 advance / \$35 at the door; Rutherford Hall, 1686 Rt.517, Allamuchy, NJ  
908-852-1894 ext. 138 or 908-637-6455

### Sat., August 12, noon-9:00: Montclair Jazz Festival

bassist **Christian McBride Situation**, singer **Dee Dee Bridgewater & Memphis Soulphony**, pianist **Cyrus Chestnut Trio**, trumpeter **Ted Chubb Band**, **Louis Prima, Jr. & the Witnesses**, **The Jazz House Faculty Collective**  
Nishuane Park, Montclair, NJ; **FREE! Rain or Shine!**

### Sat., August 19, noon-10:00: Morristown Jazz & Blues Festival

**Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks**, guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli Quintet**, **Louis Prima, Jr. & the Witnesses**, guitarist-singer **Ana Popovic**, **The Walter Trout Band w/saxophonist Mark Rivera**  
The Green, Morristown, NJ; **FREE! Rain or Shine!**

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.

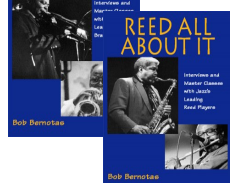
## Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

*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  
[jazzbob.com](http://jazzbob.com)



Bob Bernotas • host of **Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour**

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

WRNJ Hackettstown, NJ • 104.7 & 92.7 FM and 1510 AM • streaming live at [tunein.com/radio/WRNJ](http://tunein.com/radio/WRNJ)

Website: [jazzbob.com](http://jazzbob.com) • Email: [bob@jazzbob.com](mailto:bob@jazzbob.com)

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