



The name says it all...

# Just Jazz

## August 2016

Going to lunch he passed an office-building that was being put up – just the skeleton. A beam or something fell eight or ten stories down and smacked the sidewalk alongside him. It brushed pretty close to him, but didn't touch him, though a piece of the sidewalk was chipped off and flew up and hit his cheek. ...

The life he knew was a clean orderly sane responsible affair. Now a falling beam had shown him that life was fundamentally none of these things. He, the good citizen-husband-father, could be wiped out between office and restaurant by the accident of a falling beam. He knew then that men died at haphazard like that, and lived only while blind chance spared them. — from *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

Hi Friends —

Has a well-meaning person, when something truly crummy has happened to you, tried to soothe your disappointment and pain with those empty words of comfort, “Everything happens for a reason?” And having heard that, have you wanted to murder that well-meaning person? Well if you did, and it were up to me, no jury would ever convict you of this justifiable homicide.

And that's because, as the parable above makes clear, so much of our existence is random, unpredictable, film noir-ish. Mundane choices like when you wake up, where you go, what route you take to get there literally can be the difference between life and death. Everything happens for a reason? Little kids get cancer for a reason? Planes crash killing all on board for a reason? People at work, at school, in theaters, in stores, on the street get gunned down by some sick stranger for a reason?

No, there is no great and mysterious cosmic “reason” for so many of the bad things that can and do affect us — they happen, we survive them if we can, and that's all there is to it. So the next time someone tells you, “Everything happens for a reason,” just them to shut the hell up. And if they persist with that other obnoxious, insufferable platitude, “When a door closes, a window opens,” ask them to take you to that open window. And when they do, push them out of it and go fix yourself a martini.

Stay cool and keep list'nin',  
Bob



### Special Shows and Segments

8/7: **Tony Bennett's 90th Birthday\***

8/14: **Buddy Greco's 90th Birthday\***

8/21: **A Three-hour Count Basie Birthday Tribute**

\*during The Sinatra Hour, 11:00 a.m. ET



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

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

For my money, Tony Bennett is the best singer in the business. He excites me when I watch him. He moves me. He's the singer who gets across what the composer had in mind, and probably a little more.

— Frank Sinatra



## RECOMMENDED INTERNET JAZZ RADIO

[wemu.org](http://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 [wptwfm.org](http://wptwfm.org).

**Café Latino**: Singer-songwriter [Laura Fernandez](http://laurafernandez.com) features two hours of Latin music. Sat. 4:00-6:00 p.m. 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.

**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 on [wfdm.fm](http://wfdm.fm) (Sat. 3:00-5:00 p.m. and Mon. 9:00-11:00 a.m.) and [PureJazzRadio.org](http://PureJazzRadio.org) (Tues. 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Thurs. 11:00-1:00 a.m.)

And every Sunday after **Just Jazz** stay tuned to WRNJ and [wrnjradio.com](http://wrnjradio.com) for **Value This with Brian and Leon** at 1:00, followed by **The Tail-Finned Turntable** from 2:00 to 3:00 and **Still Rockin'** from 3:00 to 4:00, both hosted by “the Golden Gup,” Gup Gascoigne.

## NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

**Brad Mehldau: Blues and Ballads (Nonesuch)**: Blues and ballads, impeccably rendered, are exactly what you get from this latest release by pianist Brad Mehldau's trio. The pace is unrushed and leisurely as Mehldau, bassist Larry Grenadier, and drummer Jeff Ballard craft thoughtful, often extended explorations of standards by Cole Porter, Charlie Parker, Buddy Johnson, Lennon and McCartney, and more.

**Gina Schwarz Unit feat. Jim Black: Woodclock (Cracked Anegg)**: Austrian bassist Gina Schwarz's new quintet release crackles with excitement and energy. The compositions are sharp and edgy, and the performances, featuring drummer Jim Black, saxophonist-bass clarinetist Fabian Rucker, and, of course, Schwarz's exemplary bass work, are exhilarating. A particular highlight is her lovely piece, “From Shenandoah,” dedicated to the late bassist Charlie Haden.

**Kendra Shank & Geoffrey Keezer: Half Moon: Live in New York (Ride Symbol)**: “Gosh, I love singing with Geoffrey,” Kendra Shank remarks after this CD's first track. “It's so much fun. I never know where we're gonna go.” Pianist Geoffrey Keezer adds, “Me either.” And that's the essence — and the charm — of this duo outing, their spontaneity and the surprises they create for themselves and their audience. The joyful interaction between these two artists draws you in and holds your attention.

**Reggie Watkins: Avid Admirer (BYNK)**: Trombonist Reggie Watkins' latest release pays a heartfelt, respectful homage to one of the masters of his instrument, Jimmy Knepper. What makes the tribute extra special is that Watkins' quintet not only performs eight of Knepper's compositions — plus Gordon Jenkins' “Goodbye,” a Knepper favorite — but he plays them on Knepper's vintage Bach Stradivarius 36 trombone. This fine session by a genuinely avid admirer truly is a credit to Knepper's horn, his music, and his legacy.

## UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

**Sat., August 13, noon-9:00: Montclair Jazz Festival**  
bassist **Christian McBride Situation** w/drummer **Bernard Purdie** and DJ **Logic**, singer **Dee Dee Bridgewater** Quintet, saxophonist **George Coleman** Quartet, pianist **Michelle Rosewoman + New Yor-UBA** & more **Nishuane Park, Montclair, NJ; FREE! Rain or Shine!**

**Sat., August 20, noon-10:00: Morristown Jazz & Blues Festival**  
**George Gee Swing Orchestra**, guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli** Quartet, **Louis Prima, Jr. & the Witnesses**, **Quinn Sullivan**, **Robert Randolph & the Family Band**  
**The Green, Morristown, NJ; FREE! Rain or Shine!**

Every week the **New Brunswick Jazz Project** — “bringing great Jazz to Central Jersey” — offers events at numerous venues throughout New Brunswick, NJ. Click [HERE](#) to see their monthly schedule

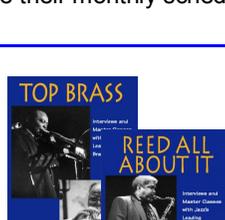
## Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

*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)

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