



The name says it all...

# Just Jazz

December 2018-January 2019

Hi Friends —

Earlier this month a Cleveland radio station announced that it has stopped playing the seasonal favorite, "Baby, It's Cold Outside". Since then other stations across the US and Canada have followed suit. (A station in Colorado did so, but then reversed its decision.) And one station in Atlanta pulled the song over five years ago. The reason: many listeners raised concerns about the song's lyrics, arguing that they send a wrong and harmful message in this #MeToo era. **And they are right.**

It's a duet between a man and a woman. She wants to go home, but he pressures her to stay at his bachelor pad, ostensibly because, "Baby, it's cold outside." She insists, "I ought to say no, no, no, sir." He disregards her: "Mind if I move in closer?" Later he chides her, "Baby, don't hold out." And when she wonders, "Say, what's in this drink?" he just ignores her. A would-be Lothario, he doesn't get that "no means no," and it seems he is not beyond spiking a lady's drink. On the printed score, by the way, the parts are identified as "Mouse" (female) and "Wolf" (male).

The song was written in 1944 by Frank Loesser for him and his wife to sing at show biz parties. After years of performing it in those informal settings Loesser sold the tune to MGM for its 1949 comedy, *Neptune's Daughter*, and it won him that year's "Best Song" Academy Award. I suppose it was considered "cute" and "innocent" back then. Maybe those were "cuter" and "more innocent" times. (I doubt it.) **But as times change we and our culture must change with them.**

Well, the reaction was largely as expected — many misguided cries of "censorship" and "political correctness." (One [truly bizarre online article](#) actually claimed, idiotically, that the song's message is feminist!) And of course there was stuff like, "they should be more worried about the lyrics in TODAY'S music...nothing is more degrading than calling a woman a 'bitch' and a 'ho.'" And that's true. We can and should be concerned about all of it, since it's all a symptom of the same disease.

For years I played the song on my radio show in versions by Margaret Whiting and Johnny Mercer, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Jordan, Betty Carter and Ray Charles. But I stopped when a Facebook friend, a musician and the mother of three daughters, voiced her misgivings about the suggestive lyric and its unsavory message. "Say, what's in this drink?" Who is this guy? Bill Cosby? The prosecution rests.

Stay warm, stay safe — it's cold outside (and *Happy Holidays*),  
Bob



JAZZ IS A METAPHOR FOR DEMOCRACY... IT CELEBRATES FREEDOM AND ENCOURAGES PERSONAL EXPRESSION... IT'S LESS ABOUT SPECTACLE AND MORE ABOUT SUBSTANCE. A JAZZ BANDSTAND IS RICH WITH DIVERSITY.



## Quotes of the Month

Power is being able to laugh at people who oppose you and to laugh at them with impunity, to antagonize them without fear of reprisal.

Power is being able to ruin people, to ruin their careers and their reputations and their personal relationships.  
— author **Robert Caro**

Take heart: American history shows that, in the long run, weasels and liars never hold the field, so long as good people stand up. Not a lot of schools or streets named for Joe McCarthy.  
— former FBI director **James Comey**

## 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.

[NEW STATION: 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.

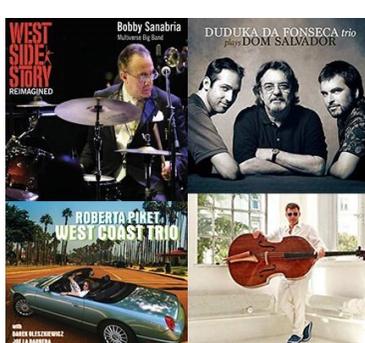
[Good Vibes](#): Gloria Krolak hosts the world's only radio show dedicated to the vibraphone. First Sun. of every month 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET.

[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](#).

## THE JUST JAZZ 10 BEST NEW JAZZ CDS OF 2018\*

- Jamie Baum: *Bridges* (Sunnyside)
- Don Braden: *Earth Wind and Wonder* (Creative Perspective Music)
- Anat Cohen & Fred Hersch: *Live in Healdsburg* (Anzic)
- Duduka Da Fonseca: *Duduka Da Fonseca Trio Plays Dom Salvador* (Sunnyside)
- Michael Dease: *Bonafide* (Posi-tone)
- Mark Masters: *Our Metier* (Capri)
- Roberta Piket: *West Coast Trio* (Thirteenth Note)
- Dafnis Prieto: *Back to the Sunset* (Dafnison)
- Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band: *West Side Story Reimagined* (Jazzheads)
- Martin Wind: *Light Blue* (Laika)



## BEST CD OF PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED MATERIAL:

John Coltrane: *Both Directions at Once: The Lost Album* (Impulse)

**BEST BOX SET:** Various Artists: *The Savory Collection 1935-1940* (Mosaic)

*\*If your CD is not on my list, maybe it's because your record label or publicist or you didn't send it to me.*

## UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

### Jazz at Rutherford Hall 2019-2018 Season

**Sun., December 9, 3:00:** tenor saxophonist [Houston Person](#) with the [David Leonhardt Trio](#)

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

**Sun., January 6, 3:00:** bassist [Jay Leonhart Quartet](#) featuring pianist [Tomoko Ohno](#)

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

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

Pick **ANY FOUR remaining events** in the 2018-2019 season for \$110.

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.

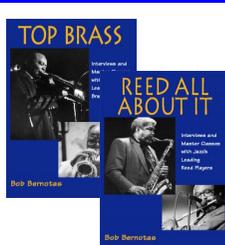
## Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

*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](#)



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