



The name says it all...

Just Jazz

July 2013

Hi Friends —

Normally in this space I throw my fastball (jazz) or my curveball (politics). **But this month I'm tossing my changeup and talkin' baseball, specifically, the "designated hitter rule."** I come neither to bury nor to praise the DH, but to answer the so-called purists who for four decades have been railing against it. Oh, they've been singing the same kind of tune for years and years, defending their pet version of the National Pastime from desecration by the lively ball, night games, domed stadiums — they were right about the last one.

Hey, I'm a lifelong baseball fan — a DH-less National League fan — and I can see no evidence of how the DH has ruined the game. Changed it, yes, but hardly ruined it. Was it wrong to extend the careers of veterans like Orlando Cepeda, Rico Carty, Tony Oliva, Willie Horton, Harold Baines, or save the careers of young stars like Hal McRae — productive players and fan favorites — whose ability to run around in the field had been eroded by age and/or injury?

Purists argue that the DH robs the game of "strategy." But what they call "strategy" I call "knee-jerk moves" that rob the game of fun and excitement. National League fans, how many times have you had to endure an automatic sacrifice bunt by your pitcher? Even if it succeeds this so-called strategy spends one of your team's most precious assets, an out. (You get only twenty-seven per game.) Or maybe the manager decides to pinch hit for the pitcher. National League fans, how many times have you been exasperated to see your starter, pitching well in a tight game, taken out in a vain attempt to "manufacture" a run and replaced by an inept reliever who then flushes the game down the toilet? **The DH keeps strong pitchers in the game and weak ones in the bullpen — or in the minors.**

But DH's are "one-dimensional players." Yes, and most pitchers also are "one-dimensional players": all pitch, no hit. Oh, I know all about the Bob Gibsons and the Don Drysdals who "hit well for pitchers" — faint praise that. But if they were that all gifted with the bat sooner or later they'd have been made into outfielders. That did happen — *just once* — to a brilliant young big league pitcher who hit well, and not just "for a pitcher." I guess you've heard of Babe Ruth.

Look, the DH is here to stay. You don't have to love it, but at least understand that since its adoption forty years ago it has brought some new and interesting and even useful elements into the game. **And if you can't do that, just take two and hit to left.**

Stay cool and keep your eye on the ball,
Bob

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. **Just Jazz Presents with Bob Bernotas** is heard every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m., Tuesday at 11:00 p.m., and Wednesday at 3:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US) on the Internet at Pure Jazz Radio.



Just Jazz Artist of the Month trumpeter Louis Armstrong

Just Jazz Presents... Features

- 7/7: Latin Jazz Hour
- 7/14: **Special Guest Co-host singer-pianist Dena DeRose (starting at 10:00 p.m.)**
- 7/21: Bebop Hour
- 7/28: Big Band Hour

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

Just Jazz Presents with Bob Bernotas

- 7/6, 9, & 10: The Music of Jimmy Van Heusen
- 7/13, 16, & 17: The Music of Harry Warren
- 7/20, 23 & 24: Highlights from *Porgy and Bess*
- 7/27, 30 & 31: The Greatest Jazz Trombone Solos

**Saturdays 9:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 11:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 3:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
@ Pure Jazz Radio**

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Little of beauty has America given the world And so by fateful chance the Negro folksong ... stands to-day not simply as the sole American music, but as the most beautiful expression of human experience born this side of the seas.

— **W.E.B. DuBois**
The Souls of Black Folk (1903)

The bottom line of any country is, what did we contribute to the world? We contributed Louis Armstrong.

— **Tony Bennett**

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 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

Josh Brown: *Songbook Trio (Gut String)*: Minimal, sensitive guitar and bass accompaniment — by Randy Napoleon and Neil Miner, respectively — supports the trombone of Josh Brown, breezing through this tastefully swinging set of eight standards and two originals. Brown never forces the issue, never overplays or overpowers, remaining always in full command of his instrument, and his well chosen material.

Paul Carlon: *La Rumba Is a Lovesome Thing (Zoho)*: With cleverness and creativity saxophonist-arranger Paul Carlon has crafted an imaginative Latin-tinged homage to master composer Billy Strayhorn. Carlon and an excellent Latin jazz ensemble carry ten classic tunes to a land of new ideas and sounds, offering a fresh perspective on Strayhorn's immortal work.

Duduka Da Fonseca: *New Samba Jazz Directions (Zoho)*: Following its brilliant 2011 presentation of the music of Toninho Horta, drummer Duduka Da Fonseca's Rio-based trio (David Feldman, piano; Guto Wirtti, drums) now offers a lively program filled largely with their own originals. There is nothing more delightful than the fusion of American jazz and Brazilian samba, and no one achieves this samba-jazz fusion more effectively than Duduka Da Fonseca.

Wayne Wallace: *Latin Jazz-Jazz Latin (Patois)*: Trombonist Wayne Wallace and his Latin Jazz Quintet, plus an array of special guests, straddle — no, *erase* — the line between jazz and Latin musics. Wallace's own compositions stand tall alongside his inventive recastings of such jazz classics as Coltrane's "Giant Steps" (performed as a merengue), Monk's "I Mean You" (as a bomba), and Ellington's "Prelude to a Kiss" (as a danzón/bolero).

UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

Sun., July 14, 3:00: **Piano in the Parlor singer-pianist **Dena DeRose Trio** w/Martin Wind, bass & Tim Horner, drums**

\$20 advance / \$25 at the door

Rutherford Hall, 1686 Route 517, Allamuchy, NJ

908-852-1894, ext. 334

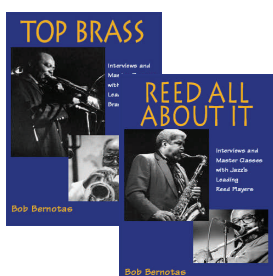
Dena will be my *quest co-host* on the July 14th edition of Just Jazz (10:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m.) and the July 21st edition of The Sinatra Hour (11:00 a.m.-noon).

The Stanhope House presents jazz regularly throughout the month. See its [Events Calendar](#) for schedule and details. 46 Main Street, Stanhope, NJ; reservations: 973-347-7777 **The Stanhope House is a valued underwriter of WNTI and Just Jazz.**

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

Pure Jazz Radio: a 24-7-365 celebration of jazz, featuring the "Founding Fathers," the "Keepers of the Flame," and everyone in between (including *Just Jazz Presents with Bob Bernotas*).

groovebone.org: All jazz trombone, all the time, produced and programmed by trombonist-bandleader **Dave Dickey**.

Café Latino: Singer-songwriter **Laura Fernandez** hosts two hours of Latin music, Sat. 4:00-6:00 on Toronto's Jazz FM91.

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

wemy.org: Linda Yohn starts your day right with three and a half hours of jazz and blues, Mon.-Fri. 9:00-12:30 (Eastern Time).

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