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Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers

Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 14 Jan 2006 21:32:23 GMT

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I listen to mostly big band and up temp combo work. This means no bedroom music. One thing I've been trying to get my local library to buy is the dvd of Calle 54. This is all the things that the Buena Vista Social Club isn't. I've only heard the vhs of this documentary on modern Cuban jazz masters. The dvd should give a better sound representation for included works by Chu Chu Valdez in an amazing duo with... name I forgot plus Tito Puente and Chico O'Farrill. Gato Barbeiri is on there too, but I mentioned no bedroom music. In the up tempo combo work department the early work of Monty Alexander can't be beat. I'm talking about out of print stuff from his discography going back to 1974. The premiere artists in the combo field such as Oscar Peterson fit in here plus Gene Harris and others I've become acquainted with from listening to the Jazz With Bob Parlocha radio program available from WGBH and elsewhere. In the big bands, current work done by John Fedchock and Bob Florence stands out. I'm partial to what I can only call 'classical big band arrangements' the sort done by Stan Kenton with Bill Holman and also George Russell. The Thad Jones Mel Lewis Band has also done some great things with compositions by Bob Brookmeyer who did play bedroom music in small groups with Gerry Mulligan, Stan Getz and others. You can't have everything. Duke Ellington defies classification. With the volume of work Ellington did and its variety and complexity, I consider him like Beethoven whose collected body of work will last for all time.

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