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Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers

Posted by [lon](#) on Sun, 15 Jan 2006 03:20:22 GMT

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This sets in motion a lot more discussion. I wish I knew more about Roy Hargrove. For sax players I take the time to listen to Dexter Gordon more than Sonny Rollins. Don Sirley comes to mind as a moody rather than up tempo pianist. But as a soloist, I'm hard pressed to think of anyone better than Martin Taylor's guitar. Maybe it's because I use those mp3's to test my speaker builds. I'm most familiar with Taylor's "Artistry" album. Aside from 'sweet bands', I have just about everything the English bandleader John Dankworth ever did. His "Zodiac Variations" and "What The Dickens"-- themes on the works of Charles Dickens would qualify as mood pieces. Claire Fisher and Lenny Niehouse are well known for extended works as well. Zodiac Variations is an example of 'classical big band music' in that Dankworth gives notes on the compositional technique used for each sign. Dankworth is less well-known than his wife Cleo Laine. Together they did a recording called "Shakespeare And All That Jazz: lyrics from Shakespeare plays with melodies by Ellington from his Shakespeare work and Dankworth originals. There are a jillion things to remember for someone who has listened to this music a whole life. But I always return to these. Most of this is from the early 60's. Recently I've been catching up on dvd those episodes of the Star Trek spinoff Deep Space Nine which I had not seen. I was amazed and delighted to find they had incorporated a character called Vic Fontaine played and sung by James Darren (yes, the one from the Gidget movies.) The character is a holographic fantasy replete with tuxedo, slot machines and the whole look of 1962 Vegas. This is a way to communicate those pop tunes to several new generations. That said, the best thing in the current market has been the rip it up style of The Brian Setzer Orchestra.

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