Subject: Jazz Lovers
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 14 Jan 2006 15:23:04 GMT
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Any Jazz lovers out there I have been buying a few new releases; Sonny Rollins and Keith Jarrett as well as the group of Prestige re-releases.I would offer some opinions if there was any interest.Here's the list of the samples I recommend;Sonny Rollins, Without A Song. Live and gorgeous. This merritts a complete review it is that good. Best live recording I have ever heard in audio terms.Keith Jarrett, Radiance. Free Form live recording solo Some excruciatingly beautifull/some atonal stuff.Ahmad Jamal, Live in Paris 1996. Lively perfectly recorded Jazz from a true master.Charlie Haden,Land Of The Sun; with Gonzalo Rubacalda. Slow Latino flavored ballads very smooth and gentle stuff.Liciana Souza; Neruda. Bunch of Pablo's poetry put to music. It captivates but takes some time. Real singing voice.Paquito D'Rivera. The Clarinetist. This is really a modern classical recording with jazz influences. I am still assimilating this one but it has some wonderfull arrangements.

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'be been trying to get my local library to buy isthe dvd of _Calle 54_. This is all the things that the Buena Vista Social Club isn't. I've only heard the vhsof this documentary on modern Cuban jazz masters. The dvd should give a better sound representation for includedworks by Chu Chu Valdez in an amazing duo with... name I forgotplus Tito Puente and Chico O'Farrill. Gato Barbeiri is on theretoo, 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 printstuff from his discongraphy going back to 1974.The premiere artists in the combo field such as Oscar Petersonfit in here plus Gene Harris and others I've become acquaited withfrom listening to the Jazz With Bob Parlocha radio program availablefrom 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 workEllington did and its variety and complexity, I consider himlike Beethoven whose collected body of work will last for all time.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 14 Jan 2006 22:26:56 GMT
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What do you do when your mood is less exhilarating than the sound of a large band in full swing? I like big bands; Maria Schneider comes to mind as an example of newer work of that idiom. Also I have always been a big fan of Carla Bley. The Sonny Rollins and Ahmad Jamal CD's are very lively; good bop arrangements.Roy Hargrove's large orchestra stuff is good also. Chico O'Farrill live is a sight to behold.I am not young enough anymore to dance the night away all the time. But in my day....

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 Gordonmore 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 usethose mp3's to test my speaker builds. I'm most familiarwith 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 Dickenswould qualify as mood pieces. Claire Fisher and Lenny Niehouse arewell known for extended works as well.Zodiac Variations is an example of 'classical big band music'in that Dankworth gives notes on the compositional techniqueused 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 playswith melodies by Ellington from his Shakespeare work andDankworth originals.There are a jillion things to remember for someone who haslistened this music a whole life. But I always return tothese.Most of this is from the early 60's.Recently I've been catching up on dvd those episodes ofthe Star Trek spinoff Deep Space Nine which I had not seen.I was amazed and delighted to find they had incorprated a character called Vic Fontaine played and sung by James Darren (yes, the onefrom the Gidget movies.) The character is a holographic fantasyreplete with tuxedo, slot machines and the whole look of 1962 Vegas. This is a way to communicate those pop tunesto several new generations.That said, the best thing in the current market has been the rip it up style of The Brian Setzer Orchestra.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 15 Jan 2006 14:47:13 GMT
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I know you like Brian Setzer but there has to be some new stuff that grabs your attention; no?When you say Dexter Gordon of course thats like comparing Frank Loyd Wright and I.M. Pei. Sonny/Dexter/Webster/Coltrane/Hodges, that list is pretty long, each in his own way.Martin Taylor; all those British Guitar Wizards; John Martyn/John Renbourn/Richard Thompson/Martin Sexton, I

like all of them. I am a closet fan of English Folk-Rock.Pentangle, Steeleye Span. I like the women that sing that stuff like Maddy Prior and Sandy Denny.My point in rattling off all these names is there is a pretty rich repository of music that really does not get discussed at all.Your thoughts on music are appreciated and we had a really good discussion going in the High Efficiency Forum with Brines and Dave. But there are no posts dealing with current picks available that might help expose others to stuff you know and vice-versa.You have to wonder at the point of discussing how to play the sound without talking about the music.The TV I watch outside of games and news is mostly the shows on pay channells simply because I cannot abide commercials. Constant battle in my home since I will not watch shows that have them.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by lon on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 04:14:41 GMT
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With Jazz and even Folk it takes a long time and amount ofexposure to single out new artists. The Parlocha show ispretty good at new releases and occassionally a new namelike Hod O'Brian or Diane Hubka will be played that knockme out. He also plays some fairly new work (2002) by Rob McConnell and his Tentet.Most jazz musicians make their living as session mendoing the swing music in Walt Disney cartoons (the best sourceof swing music there is these days, or those Deep Space Nineepisodes i referred to which has full band original arrangmentsfor at least one of the Vic Fontaine shows.) New artitstsand groups that I can think of like The New York Voiceseven have a few years on them now.Most if not all high school music programs are teachingdance band music in the classical Glenn Miller and TommyDorsey style with excursions into the works of otherarrangers who do charts specifically for teachers.Through high school band and college band and with all the special music programs such as the one at Lawrence college here hasand the North Texas State Jazz Ensemble and others, I've always wondered why there wasn't more of a market for local concertsof jazz bands in all sorts of venues. But there isn't.And the radio doesn't play much but country and other stuff.What saddens me is the fact that women in high school andcollege do a lot of the playing in these bands. And yet thereseems to be no place in the professional world for baritone sax players whose instrument is as tall as they are.There are 2 or three "all girl bands" in the whole of the United States which as 300 million people. One of these is the Kit McClure Band. They do a tribute toThe International Sweethearts of Rhythm. They call itthe Sweethearts Project about the only all girl band todo a European USO tour in World War II.Every year an NPR Show called Riverwalk--Live From The Landings doesa special tribute to the Sweethearts usually in March duringwomen's history month. Look it up. You can stream the audioon the week of the broadcast.The new performers are out there. Some 'age out' afterhigh school and college because there's no place for them...sort of like what happens to those who are in drum corps.New material to watch for by seasoned performers that I'vebeen watching for after tour is by Kurt Elling, Mark Murphy,Kevin Mahogony and Jon Hendricks. You've heard of the Three Tenors. These are The Four Brothers that Elling put together with inspiration from Woody Herman to spotlight male vocals in concert. I've seen no info on a recording date for this group. Where's the Brines and Dave thread?
Riverwalk-- previous broadcast of The Sweethearts Project

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 15:03:32 GMT
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Bob and Dave have the thread on the High Efficiency Forum. Good stuff.My son plays high school Band/Jazz/Wind Ensemble but I don't see any of the swing bands represented as of yet. Mostly eclectic stuff although this year in the jazz band they are doing one Count Basie a Miles Davis off of Kind of Blue arranged for band and Green Onions from, I think Ramsey Lewis??I think the big band is too expensive to promote. I know Charlie Haden dissolved the Liberation Orchestra due to transportation costs.Ever listen to Fela Anikipulta Kuti? Man that was a big band. over one hundred members. It would be nice if the powers that be could re-surrect the concerts in the park where local talent used to perform in large bands. Insurance costs killed that one.Like the insurance companies are destroying everything of value and blaming lawsuits as a bogus excuse for their rapacious habits.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Leland Crooks on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 18:50:33 GMT
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Ah the beauty of small towns. Every thursday during the summer we have concerts in the park. Polka, Big band, blues, rock, country. They pretty much cover the spectrum. All local talent, some of it really good. Lots of fun. I'm thinking I need to put a jazz band together to cover that end, except it's a bitch to play.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 16 Jan 2006 19:20:54 GMT
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Sounds like Eden to me. What did you mean by "It's a bitch to play?",you mean the music or finding the time?I have a story about small town music but it's long.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Leland Crooks on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 12:56:14 GMT
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Both. I picked up the guitar about 6yrs ago after a 25 yr hiatus. After finding my rock chops pretty easily again I wanted to learn jazz. Been at it since. You need theory, ear, speed and creativity to

play it well. Old saw "Need the guitar player to turn it down? Put sheet music in front of him" Except for the real geniuses, you need to read music and internalize theory to play jazz well. I envy piano players, what's on the page tells them where to do what. On th guitar, there's at least 7 places to play a c7 chord, all slightly different in sound and fingering. You have to choose voicings, modalities and tonal centers on the fly. It ain't easy, but really rewarding when it works. And my choice of styles is fingerstyle, where I carry bass line, melody and lead. I need to try with a band. Single note leading and comping are much easier. Finding players is a problem however.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 15:59:51 GMT
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I find that after putting down the sticks when my son was born I needed a solid year to get back into playing mode. Age really slows you down. I had to resort to all kinds of tricks to ressurect my abilities. I play one day a week for about 5/6 hours then I don't touch them for 24 hrs. Then practice a normal schedule. That was taught to me by a guy who knows and it works. I also have a pair of sticks in the car and I constantly do parradiddles and rolls on the dashboard. Embarrasses my son to death but it really sharpened and strengthened my wrists.On guitar I imagine that doing transcriptions for scales in different keys might help? Do you tape your stuff then play over the tape like a duet? I use a sony reel-to-reel with sound on sound for that and it helps.One thing that is very helpfull is videos. I use them now and they seem to work; I get one or two every couple months then learn them.It's hard to find players at this level but they are around; any jam nights in local pubs around by you?

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Leland Crooks on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 21:12:09 GMT
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No jam nites that I know of. My teacher (up til he moved about 2 yrs ago) used to suggest the same thing with the tape player. Thanks for the reminder. Now that I'm feeling the fire again I'll do that. But my son has connected with the local guitar god. The only reason this guy isn't famous was his ego when he was younger. Couldn't hold a band togther. Amazing musician, multiple instruments. He can sight read piano music onto to his axe faster than most piano players can play it. He's invited my son to jam, and I may just "tag along". Practice in the car is a little harder on guitar

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Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff

Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 21:20:34 GMT
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True; it is a little harder but don't let that stop you!Say; don't they have these little travel guitars guys use when they can't get to their regular axe?

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Leland Crooks on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 21:26:03 GMT
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Yea, but I just find a Guitar Center and go practice there. Cheaper. The salesmen see this old guy come in and their eyes lite up and out come the Les Pauls, PRS's and Taylors. The kids don't get to play those, what they don't know is I don't have any more money than the kids.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 23:37:26 GMT
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How are Martin Guitars these days? Saw a beautifull Gibson Hummingbird at Sam Ash the other day; they were asking 1300$.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Leland Crooks on Wed, 18 Jan 2006 12:03:48 GMT
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I think I'm odd. I've never played a Martin I liked very much. But I've also never played an old one. Most of the Taylors I like, some of the smaller boutique guys build guitars to die for. Martins and Taylors are pretty much the peak in acoustic. I have an Alvarez that I call the rose. It has a rose inlaid in the neck. The small music store where I took lessons had it for about a year. My teacher said "You need to buy this guitar". It's the one he and the other teacher used all the time. It was only about $700,regular 1k. It plays and sounds better than anything I've played. A 3.5k taylor tempted me a while back, til I came home and played the rose again. Never seen or heard of another one.

Subject: Re: Jazz Lovers... new stuff
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 18 Jan 2006 12:42:09 GMT
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Same with drums. The old Gretsch, Ludwig, Slingerland were three ply shells and 9 ply rims. That made a nice tone with good resonance. Now all the hot-shots have these straight 9 ply shells of birch and composite woods that sound like big thuds when you play them.The reason why maybe the music is all one dimensional now. Absolutely no subtlety.I always liked the sound of the big Gibson Dreadnoughts. And Gretsch Electric Guitars. Or maybe a nice 1956 Tele.

Subject: Have you seen this
Posted by Leland Crooks on Wed, 18 Jan 2006 13:26:03 GMT
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Ran across this the other day. I don't know squat about drums, but it looks
http://www.resotune.com

Subject: Re: Have you seen this
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 18 Jan 2006 17:43:17 GMT
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Hey; Nice of you to think of it! Tuning is an art developed over many years of playing. The Resotune is proceeded by several tuning aids using the same or similar concept. Do they work? Well; yes and no. The thing is there are sounds that you get by mis-tuning or unequal tensioning that symbolise your personal preference and style. Tensioning the heads becomes second nature after a while so that you can probably go faster than most devices. However they are great learnig aids in that you get a good tune and consequently you can work off that and learn what you like much more quickly. Most of the tricks they outline are standard practice like muting the center of the head with the tip of your fimnger to cut the ringing and tapping mid-way between the tip and rim.However; this website lead me to a site called Cymbalholics; exactly what I needed. Perfect and I never would have thought about searching for it. Good Show; thanks.