



JAZZ EDUCATION JOURNAL



Jazz Perspectives: Herb Wong's Blue Chip Jazz CD Awards By Dr. Herb Wong, April 2008



Dr. Herb Wong

This 13th annual recognition trip via the Blue Chip Jazz CD Awards reflects a sampling of CDs that grabbed my notice as they worthy educational resources for jazz studies reference librarians despite stiff competition from alternative technologies, the CD is still a convenient, more complete musical entity. I reiterate that my selections express a rationale that's not unlike the traditional format vis-à-vis "the best of" genre popular jazz magazine field. The unranked recommended CDs drawn entirely from the previous calendar year, so the citations are copyrighted in 2007. Once again, the listings are articulate sidebar subtext for curricular implementations. From this perspective, I hope it carries a good potential of helpfulness.

Bonanza of Historical Gems

While the sales doldrums of CDs at large continue to accelerate with rampant acceleration at no cost, some radiantly exciting historical recordings have given cause to shout. Much glee welcomed the second series (2007) of the *Jazz Icons* DVDs following the initial nine debut titles released in 2006 featuring legendary performing jazz artists: concerts and studio appearances between 1950s-1970s (60-90 minutes).

These previously unseen material from Europe featured Quincy Jones, Art Blakey, Gillespie, Buddy Rich, Chet Baker, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Count Basie and visual quality plus dynamite performances are first rate. I trust some of the titles acquired them by now. They are to be dug! Seven more titles in 2007 add to this list.

Special Historical CDs 2007

Jazz Icons. The second series of DVDs were filmed in Europe during the 1950s-1960s Era of Jazz. Reelin' in the Years Production/Naxos. Seven titles featuring Duke Ellington, Duke Gordon, Wes Montgomery, Sarah Vaughan, Dave Brubeck, Charles Mingus and J

Live at the Monterey Jazz Festival. MJF Records. Initial series drawn from the archival tapes and more than 2000 hours of MJF performances. The first titles in addition to "highlights" compilation CD, the five discs include Louis Armstrong 1958, Miles Davis 1963, Thelonious Monk 1964, Dizzy Gillespie 1965, and Sarah Vaughan 1971.

Charles Mingus/Eric Dolphy "Cornell 1964." Blue Note. Frank Rosolino-Carl Fontana. Heaven. Vancouver, 1978. Uptown.

Herb Wong's Blue Chip Jazz CD Awards

Top Instrumentalists of 2007 (not in rank order)

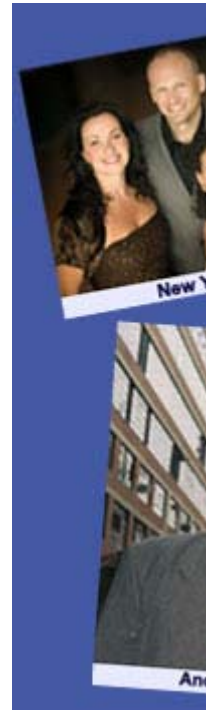
Jimmy Amadio. *The Philadelphia Story*. TPR

Mike Barone Big Band. *By Request*. Rhubarb
 Alvin Batiste. *Marsalis Music Honors Alvin Batiste*. Marsalis Music
 Chris Botti. *Italia*. Columbia
 Michael Brecker. *Pyramid*. Heads Up
 Ted Brown. *Shades of Brown*. SteepleChase
 Kenny Burrell. *75th Birthday Bash "Live"*. Blue Note
 Mark Buselli/Brent Wallarab Jazz Orchestra. *Basically David Baker*. GM
 Ron Carter. *Dear Miles*. Blue Note
 Jimmy Cobb. *Cobb's Corner*. Chesky
 Avishai Cohen. *As is...Live at the Blue Note CD/DVD*. Half Note
 Kenny Davern/Ken Peplowski. *Dialogues*. Arbors
 John Fedchock New York Big Band. *Up and Running*. Reservoir
 Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau Band. *The One & Only*. Contemporary Productions
 David Finck Quartet. *Future Day*. Sound Brush
 Bob Florence Limited Edition Big Band. *Eternal Licks & Grooves*. Mama
 Dizzy Gillespie Big Band. *Live 1957 – Cool Breeze*. Hindsight
 Dizzy Gillespie Big Band. *Live 1957 – A Night in Tunisia*. Hindsight
 Darrell Grant. *Reconciliation*. (2 CDs) Origin
 Tigran Hamasyan Trio. *New Era*. Nocturne
 Herbie Hancock. *River: The Join Letters*. Verve
 Bill Holman Big Band. *Hommage*. Jazzed Media
 Bobby Hutcherson. *For Sentimental Reasons*. Kind of Blue
 Keith Jarrett Trio. *My Foolish Heart*. ECM
 Steve Kuhn. *Live at Birdland*. Blue Note
 Joe Lovano/Hank Jones. *Kids: Live at Dizzy's Club Coca Cola*. Blue Note
 Mel Martin-Benny Carter Quintet. *Just Friends*. Jazzed Media
 Bill Mays/The Inventions Trio. *Fantasy*. Palmetto
 Bill McHenry. *Roses*. Sunnyside
 Rob Parton Jazztech Big Band. *Just One of Those Things*. Sea Breeze
 Jeremy Pelt & Wired. *Shock Value & Live at Smoke*. MaxJazz
 Jean-Michel Pilc. *New Dreams*. Dreyfus
 Christian Scott. *Rewind That*. Concord
 Maria Schneider Orchestra. *Sky Blue*. ArtistShare
 Jack Sheldon – California Cool Cat Quartet. *It's What I Do*. Butterfly
 McCoy Tyner Quartet. *McCoy Tyner Music*. MTM
 Kenny Werner. *Lawn Chair Society*. Blue Note
 Jim Widner Big Band. *Out of this World*. Chase
 Gerald Wilson Orchestra. *Monterey Moods*. Mack Avenue
 Matt Wilson. *Scenic Route*. Palmetto
 Phil Woods Quintet. *American Songbook II*. Kind of Blue

Top Vocals of 2007 (not in rank order)

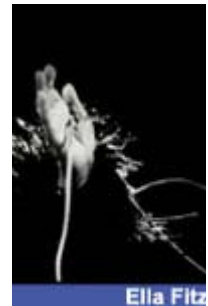
Andy Bey. *Ain't Necessarily So*. 12th Street
 Dee Daniels. *Jazzinit*. Origin
 Dena DeRose. *Live at Jazz Standard, Vol. 1*. MaxJazz
 Kurt Elling. *Night Moves*. Concord
 Calabria Foti. *A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening*. Moco
 Giacomo Gates. *Luminosity*. DoubleDaveMusic DVD
 Diana Krall. *The Very Best of Diana Krall*. Verve
 Abbey Lincoln. *Abbey Sings Abbey*. Verve
 Sophie Milman. *Make Someone Happy*. Linus

Mark Murphy. *Love is What Stays*. Verve
 New York Voices. *A Day Like This*. MCG
 Ed Reed. *Sings Love Stories*. EP
 Jackie Ryan. *You and the Night and the Music*. OpenArt
 Judy Silvano. *Women's Work ‐ Live at Sweet Rhythm NYC*. JSL
 Carol Sloane. *Dearest Duke*. Arbors Jazz



Top Boxed Sets And/or Reissues of 2007 (not in rank order)

John Coltrane. *Interplay*. (5 CDs) Prestige
 Tadd Dameron/John Coltrane. *Mating Call*. Prestige
 Ella Fitzgerald. *The Very Best of the Harold Arlen Songbook*. Verve
 Ella Fitzgerald. *The Very Best of the Duke Ellington Songbook*. Verve
 Ella Fitzgerald. *Live at Mister Kelly's*. Verve
 Roy Haynes. *A Life in Time ‐ The Roy Haynes Story*. (4 CDs/DVD) Dreyfus
 Quincy Jones *ABC/Mercury Big Band Jazz Sessions*. (7 CDs) Mosaic
 Roy Haynes/Phineas Newborn/Paul Chambers. *We Three*. New Jazz
 Billie Holiday. *Lady Day ‐ The Master Takes and Singles*. (4 CDs) Columbia Legacy
 Keith Jarrett Trio. *Setting Standards*. (3 CDs) ECM
 Thelonious Monk Trio. *Prestige*
 Oliver Nelson. *The Argo, Verve and Impulse Big Band Studio Sessions*. (5 CDs) Mosaic
 Clark Terry. *The Chicago Sessions 1995-96 with DePaul University Big Band*. Bob Lark, Director. Reference Recordings



Top Campus CDs of 2007 (not in rank order)

Phil Woods with DePaul University Jazz Ensemble ‐ Bob Lark, Director. *Swingchronicity*. Sea Breeze
 Stanford University Jazz Ensemble featuring Jon Faddis. 2005-2007 ‐ Fred Berry, Director
 University of North Texas One O'Clock Lab Band. Lab 2007 ‐ Neil

Slater, Director



Your connection to me:
Dr. Herb Wong
961 Peninsula Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA