

Jason's Notes: Nov. 23, 2009

If you've read, watched or listened to any jazz commentary over the last several years, you've probably heard somebody **liken jazz to basketball**. (And vice versa if you've listened to much sports talk radio.) Earlier this week, I had a fascinating conversation with Nathaniel Friedman of freedarko.com about this meme. He said some things which surprised me, and I think you'll find the show interesting when it airs in several weeks.

This week features three shows recorded at the 2009 **Tanglewood Jazz Festival**. I've still got quite a few other interviews from that festival in the queue, including members of the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Chris Potter and Benny Powell.

The week of Dec. 14 will be **Guitar Week** on The Jazz Session, featuring interviews with Rez Abassi, Dom Minasi and Pete McCann.

Sometime Monday afternoon you'll be able to read my newest piece for Popdose.com. It's an essay titled, "Dr. Flugel, or, How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love Chuck Mangione." And it's about exactly what it sounds like it's about.

This week on the show: Three shows recorded at the 2009 Tanglewood Jazz Festival. Benny Reid (TJS #113, Monday), Edmar Casteneda (TJS #114, Wednesday) and Paquito D'Rivera (TJS #115, Friday).

Next week: Wayne Wallace (TJS #116, Monday), Eldar (TJS #117, Wednesday) and Luis Bonilla (TJS #118, Friday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

This week on *The Jazz Session*:



TJS #113: Benny Reid. On his second album, *Escaping Shadows* (Concord, 2009), saxophonist Benny Reid continues to explore the musical path first laid down by Pat Metheny. In this interview, recorded just after Reid's performance at the 2009 Tanglewood Jazz Festival, Reid talks about the influence of Metheny; why he chooses to compose everything from

the melodies to the bass lines of his tunes; and how he navigates both the artistic and business sides of music.

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TJS #114: Edmar Casteneda. Harpist Edmar Casteneda combines folkloric music from his native Colombia with jazz and other latin influences on his new album, *Entre Cuerdas* (ArtistShare, 2009). In this interview, Casteneda talks about his discovery of jazz as a teenager; his first attempts to sit in at *descarga* jam session ... on the harp; and how he

ended up with what is probably the only harp-trombone-percussion trio in the world. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 11/25/09.**



TJS #115: Paquito D'Rivera. Paquito D'Rivera is equally at home in the jazz and classical worlds, a fact he showcased during his performance at the 2009 Tanglewood Jazz Festival. In this interview, D'Rivera talks about several of the pieces he performed that night: "Conversations With Cachao" and "The Panamericana Suite." He also discusses

"Fiddle Dreams," a rare commission from the Library of Congress; and why he thinks the jazz and classical worlds can learn from one another. The music in this program is taken from his album *Jazz Clazz* (Termidor Music, 2009).

SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 11/27/09.