

Jason's Notes: Dec. 7, 2009

This year is drawing to a close. And what a year it's been! I never could have imagined that *The Jazz Session* would develop as it has – particularly given its less-than-multi-million-dollar budget and the recent news that jazz has, in fact, died.

However, against all odds, *TJS* soldiers on episode after episode – 129 of them, by the end of 2009. And 2010 will be starting strong, featuring interviews with Eric Alexander, Chris Potter, Hiromi, Mike Reed, James Shipp, Linda Oh, Harris Eisenstadt, Roger Kellaway, Matthew Shipp, Chris Kelsey and many others. (And here's a friendly reminder: Starting in January, *TJS* will go back to two episodes a week, one on Monday and one on Thursday.)

Around Halloween this year, I spent time at Dom Minasi's upstate retreat in the Hudson Valley. He's on the show today, and his string quartet with Jason Kao Hwang, Thomas Ulrich and Ken Filliano plays at [Roulette in NYC](#) this Thursday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. If you go see Dom, tell him *The Jazz Session* sent you.

Speaking of people to see, my good friends in [The Respect Sextet](#) are playing quite a bit these days. I'll be at their gig on January 12 at Le Poisson Rouge in New York. Opening for the guys will be pianist Ethan Iverson of The Bad Plus. Don't miss it.

This week on the show: Dom Minasi (TJS #119, Monday), Sam Rivers (TJS #120, Wednesday) and Darcy James Argue (TJS #121, Friday).

Next week: Rez Abbasi (TJS #122, Monday), Willard Jenkins (TJS #123, Wednesday) and Ted Sirota (TJS #124, Friday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

This week on *The Jazz Session*:



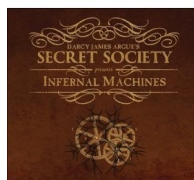
TJS #119: Dom Minasi. Guitarist Dom Minasi's most recent recording, *Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder* (Konnex, 2009), features his string quartet in a program of adventurous composition and improvisation. In this interview, Minasi

talks about how he spent the 20 years between his last Blue Note recording and his re-emergence as a leader; why Johnny Smith was a big influence on him, and why he let that influence go; and how a lifetime of playing, teaching and practicing has brought him to this prolific period. The Dom Minasi String Quartet plays on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009 at Roulette in NYC. **SHOW AVAILABLE NOW. [LISTEN](#)**



TJS #120: Sam Rivers. Sam Rivers is a musical renaissance man. He's performed in big bands, bop bands, R&B groups, blues bands and free-jazz ensembles. Rivers is currently composing adventurous large-ensemble music (such as is found on his 2006 CD *Aurora*) in an unlikely location: Orlando, Florida. In this

interview, Rivers talks about his early days in Boston; how he was recruited by Jimi Hendrix while playing with Cecil Taylor; and how a tour with Dizzy Gillespie led to his relocation to Florida. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 12/09/09.**



TJS #121: Darcy James Argue.

Composer Darcy James Argue has embarked on a musical mission that looks a bit crazy – namely, writing smart music for a big band that will appeal to a wide audience, including younger listeners. Argue's mission is going quite well so far. His new album with his band Secret Society, *Infernal Machines*, is a tour-de-

force of engaging and exciting writing coupled with edgy improvisation. In this interview, Argue talks about why he chose this path; his band's "steampunk" aesthetic; and what kind of people come to a Secret Society show. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 12/11/09.**