



Jason's Notes: Dec. 14, 2009

I was flattered to be asked to contribute to the **Village Voice Jazz Critics Poll** this year. (And thank you to the person who recommended me – you know who you are!) And while it's a bit insane to try to rank art, or to list just 10 of the many great recordings made in 2009, I still did it. You can see my list online:

<http://thejazzsession.com/2009/12/08/my-top-10-jazz-cds-of-2009/>

Jason Parker is a musician and blogger in Seattle. Earlier this week, he published a list of **10 jazz resources on Twitter**. Sadly, Jason significantly diminished the credibility of his list by including me, but the other nine are quite good:

<http://oneworkingmusician.com/10-jazz-resources-you-should-follow-on-twitter>

I'll be **posting a series of author interviews** early next year. Look for conversations with the authors of new books on Thelonious Monk, Louis Armstrong, Herbie Nichols and (tentatively) Scott LaFaro.

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

Next week: Von Babasin (TJS #125, Monday), Cooper-Moore (TJS #126, Wednesday) and James Shipp (TJS #127, Friday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

This week on *The Jazz Session*:



TJS #122: Rez Abbasi. Guitarist Rez Abbasi continues his rhythmic and harmonic explorations on *Things To Come* (Sunnyside, 2009). He's joined on this album by pianist Vijay Iyer, saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa, bassist Johannes Weidenmeuller, drummer Dan Weiss, cellist Mike Block and vocalist Kiran Ahluwalia. In this

interview, Abbasi discusses the Indian-Pakistani jazz scene in New York; how he incorporates Indian and Pakistani music into his compositions even without the use of traditional instruments; and why he feels his best compositions are combinations of craft and inspiration. **SHOW AVAILABLE NOW. LISTEN**



TJS #123: Willard Jenkins. Willard Jenkins is a jazz broadcaster and blogger, and a consultant to jazz artists and festivals. Jenkins' blog, The Independent Ear is a constant source of news and views about the jazz world. In this interview, Jenkins talks about the diminishing influence of jazz in people's home record collections and thus in the

lives of their children; why jazz is no longer an integral part of the black community experience; and that jazz isn't dead – but it does need to work on audience development.

SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 12/16/09.



TJS #124: Ted Sirota. Drummer Ted Sirota is using his powers for good. On his most recent album, *Seize The Time* (Naim, 2009), Sirota once again chooses to make a political statement with his song titles and choices. In this interview, Sirota talks about making political jazz, and the fine balance between delivering a message and having that message

overshadow the music. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 12/18/09.**