

Jason's Notes: Dec. 28, 2009

Well, well, well. Here we are at the last newsletter of 2009. It seems fitting to end a year such as this with an **eclectic mix of shows**. This week, you'll hear from a filmmaker talking about a saxophone master once thought lost; from a current saxophone stalwart on his singular vision; and from a basketball writer on the "basketball=jazz" meme. How's that for a week?

Next week, *The Jazz Session* returns to a much more manageable **two days per week** with saxophonist Chris Potter and drummer Kobie Watkins. Coming up in the weeks ahead, you'll hear from Sonny Rollins (again!), Marty Ehrlich, Amy Cervini, Matthew Shipp, Lee Shaw and many more.

I contributed to this year's **Village Voice Jazz Critics' Poll**. It's available in this week's issue (Dec. 30) and should be [posted online](#) by Tuesday night.

I just finished writing a year-end wrap-up piece for All About Jazz. It's a look at some of the **interesting locations in which I recorded episodes of the show**. You'll hear about the lobby of Vijay Iyer's apartment; a minivan parked in front of a pub; my parents' dining room table; and other fun locales. Stay tuned for a link as soon as it's published.

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: Dan Scofield on Sonny Simmons (TJS #128, Monday), Erik Alexander (TJS #129, Wednesday) and Nathaniel Friedman on jazz and basketball (TJS #130, Friday).

Next week: Chris Potter (TJS #131, Monday) and Kobie Watkins (TJS #132, Thursday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

This week on *The Jazz Session*:

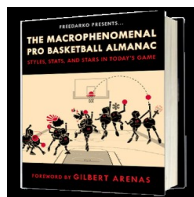


TJS #128: Dan Scofield on Sonny Simmons. Saxophonist Sonny Simmons is the subject of a new documentary now in production called *Just A Guy Who Knows*. The filmmakers, Dan Scofield and Mike Ercolini, have so far produced a 20-minute trailer and are raising funds to finish a 45-minute short film on Simmons. The saxophonist has lived a remarkable life, moving from his days as a colleague of John Coltrane and Sonny Rollins to near anonymity as a musician on the streets of San Francisco. He's now back in action again, and his wisdom and intelligence shine through in the documentary. **SHOW AVAILABLE NOW. [LISTEN](#)**



TJS #129: Eric Alexander. Saxophonist Eric Alexander has forged a multi-decade career out of one simple concept: "To thine own self be true." In this interview, recorded before his September 2009 performance in Schenectady, NY, Alexander talks about his musical vision; his experience as a teacher at SUNY Purchase; and why he thinks it's possible

to point to one particular period of jazz as the greatest in the music's history. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 12/30/09.**



TJS #130: Nathaniel Friedman. Before he began writing about basketball at freedarko.com and in "FreeDarko presents The Macrophenomenal Pro Basketball Almanac: Styles, Stats, and Stars in Today's Game," Nathaniel Friedman wrote about jazz. In this interview, he discusses the

"basketball=jazz" meme; a popular jazz album that many people lost their virginity to; and the need to turn sports into art. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 1/1/10.**