

## Jason's Notes: Jan. 18, 2010

For weeks now, I've been telling you about **The Respect Sextet's** gig at Le Poisson Rouge in New York. Well, the concert was this past Tuesday and it was incredible. The show began with a "cocktail piano" set from Ethan Iverson of The Bad Plus. He took requests from the audience and assembled them into a set list of warhorses to which he added new life and invention. Following his set, The Respect Sextet put on another in a string of captivating performances. A particular highlight for me was bassist **Malcolm Kirby's** tune "**Mad Money,**" which I'd put up against any track I've heard for sheer head-bobbing, ass-wiggling groove. Another highlight for me was the audience, which included my friends vocalist Jo Lawry, percussionist James Shipp, trumpeter Satoru Ohashi, music promoter Matt Merewitz ... and my mom, who is fast becoming a regular on the New York jazz scene.

This week I dug into **my vault of purposefully unreleased music** and found a poem of W.H. Auden's that I set to music about 10 years ago. The poem is his arresting "A Walk After Dark," and I turned it into the song "Cloudless." Listen, if you dare:

<http://jasoncrane.org/audio/cloudless.mp3>

**Concert reminder:** Amy Cervini, who is on Monday's show, has two gigs coming up with two different projects. Jazz Country performs at The Bar Next Door at La Lanterna on Jan. 25, and Couples Therapy (featuring the aforementioned Jo Lawry and James Shipp) will be at The Stone on Jan. 27. Details are at <http://www.amycervini.com/shows/>.

**This week on the show:** Amy Cervini (TJS #135, Monday) and James Weidman (TJS #136, Thursday).

**Next week:** Matthew Shipp (TJS #137, Monday) and Mike Reed (TJS #138, Thursday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

## This week on *The Jazz Session*:



**TJS #135: Amy Cervini.** Vocalist Amy Cervini is one of a handful of jazz singers who are successfully taking their repertoire from outside the Great American Songbook. On Cervini's new album, *Lovefool* (Anzic Records, 2009), she tackles everything from the Cardigans to Depeche Mode to Nellie McKay and makes it all work. In this interview, Cervini talks about how she chooses her repertoire; the response of jazz and pop fans to the music she sings; and how she's managed to build both performing and artist management careers. Oh, and she's having a baby, too. **SHOW AVAILABLE NOW. [LISTEN](#)**



**TJS #136: James Weidman.** Pianist James Weidman is well known as an accompanist to some of the most heralded singers of our time, from Abbey Lincoln to Cassandra Wilson. In recent years he's traveled the world as a member of Joe Lovano's band. On his new CD, *Three Worlds*, Weidman leads an eclectic ensemble of improvisers through his own creative compositions. In this interview, Weidman talks about his varied career; his early decision not to be pigeonholed; and his approach to composition. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 1/21/10.**

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