



Jason's Notes: March 22, 2010

I edited this week's interviews with Frank Kimbrough and John Ellis on the same day, and I noticed a common theme. Both men talked about their preference for **freedom and openness** during recording sessions and performances (although both recognized that more control is sometimes needed, particularly with large ensembles). I've been thinking a lot about that philosophy in my own life. I don't think I've hit on a profound realization yet, but I'm certainly inspired by the examples set by many of the musicians I've spoken with.

Perhaps, though, the thing I find most inspiring is a life dedicated to the arts. I feel like **I've moved quite far from that** in my own life, especially in light of where I started, playing saxophone every day to earn my living. I know, I know: I host a show about music and I'm writing piles of poems these days, but that's not quite the same thing. I mean a life whose purpose is the creation of beauty.

So maybe my new goal is figuring out how to make beauty my new goal. I'll keep you updated.

I posted a new poem today called "Rain," inspired by a prose poem from Jack Spicer. You'll find it here:
<http://jasoncrane.org/2010/03/22/poem-rain/>

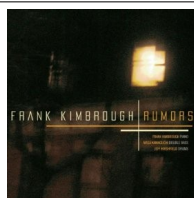
This week on the show: Frank Kimbrough (TJS #153, Monday) and John Ellis (TJS #154, Thursday).

Next week: Orrin Evans (TJS #155, Monday) and Joe Locke (TJS #156, Thursday).

Peace, love and jazz,

Jason

This week on *The Jazz Session*:



TJS #153: Frank Kimbrough. Pianist Frank Kimbrough's latest CD, *Rumors* (Palmetto, 2010), comes out on March 30, 2010. It's a trio session with bassist Masa Kamaguchi and drummer Jeff Hirschfield. In this interview, Kimbrough talks about the album's uncommon recording method; how Andrew Hill impacted his early musical life and the lifelong friendship that resulted; and why being ready to fail is a crucial component of musical success. **SHOW AVAILABLE NOW. [LISTEN](#)**



TJS #154: John Ellis. Saxophonist John Ellis & Double-Wide return with an expanded instrumental line-up on their new CD, *Puppet Mischief* (Obliqu Sound, 2010). This interview was recorded in Albany, NY, right before Ellis's show at Red Square. In this interview, Ellis talks about the addition of harmonica and trombone to the band; how he approaches recording sessions; and Ice Siren, his hour-long, song-based narrative collaboration with writer Andy Bragen. **SHOW AVAILABLE STARTING 3/25/10.**

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