



The name says it all...

Just Jazz

March 2018

Hi Friends —

Have you ever noticed that, often, when an older person says something seemingly controversial, apparently outrageous, something that some people don't like, that person is said to be suffering from dementia? Well, in early February the website, *Vulture*, published [an interview with composer-arranger-bandleader-producer Quincy Jones](#) and, in many quarters, that was the knee-jerk reaction to much of what he had to say.

But not only is that ageist, it also ignores a simple fact of life: **If you live long enough, sooner or later you'll reach the point at which you no longer give a damn.** And in that interview, Quincy Jones told the truth — the truth, that is, according to Quincy Jones. **And on March 14 Q turns eighty-five. He's not demented. He just longer gives a damn.**

Here's what I mean:

- on **Michael Jackson**: "He stole a lot of songs. [Donna Summer's] 'State of Independence' and 'Billie Jean.' The notes don't lie, man. He was as Machiavellian as they come. ... Greedy, man. Greedy."
- on **the Beatles**: "... they were the worst musicians in the world. They were no-playing motherfuckers. Paul was the worst bass player I ever heard. And Ringo? Don't even talk about it."
- on **Jimi Hendrix**: "He was supposed to play on my album [*Gula Matari*] and he chickened out. ...The cats on my records were the baddest cats in the world and Hendrix didn't want to play with them."
- on **rock and roll**: "Rock ain't nothing but a white version of rhythm and blues."

(He also claimed to know who killed JFK — but so do a lot of people.)

Honest, yes. But "controversial?" That Michael wasn't the creative genius he seemed to be? That the Beatles' musicianship was weak? That Hendrix was intimidated by jazz masters like Toots Thielemans, Herbie Hancock, and Hubert Laws? Surprised? Well, whether or not these are even secrets, people don't like hearing the truth about their idols and icons. But you'll notice that **Q had nothing of this sort to say about Ray Charles, Dinah Washington, Count Basie, or Frank Sinatra.**

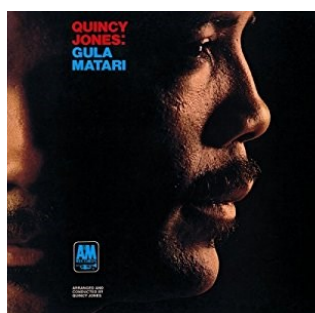
And that rock and roll thing? Look, anyone who has ears and is honest knows where rock came from. (Hell, I've been telling my Jazz Appreciation students for years that rock and roll is the music that white people stole from black people.) But oh my, **how white people do feel threatened when someone — especially a black person, no matter how eminent and qualified — confronts them with the simple, indisputable fact that what they thought was theirs really belongs to someone else.**

Sincerity matters, and it is clear from the entire interview that one thing — *the main thing* — Quincy Jones sincerely cares about is quality in music. He sets high standards and he holds everyone up to them, no one more than himself. **And so, in this world of overrated pleasures and underrated treasures, I'm glad there is Q.**

Stay cool, and keep list'nin' — and *Happy Birthday, Q!*
Bob

Quote of the Month

I think there is nothing in the world, probably since the beginning of time, that connects people in a stronger way than music. It's the only absolute outside of mathematics. It's the only thing that engages the left and right brain simultaneously, the emotional and the intellect.
— Quincy Jones



RECOMMENDED INTERNET JAZZ RADIO

Late Night Jazz with Rusty Hassan: a Hall of Fame jazz broadcaster. Thurs. 10:00-midnight ET

Café Latino: Singer-songwriter **Laura Fernandez** features two hours of Latin music. Sat. 4:00-6:00 p.m. ET on Toronto's Jazz FM91.

Jazz Lives hosted by Bob Dauber: "Classic jazz over the decades covering a variety of genres with one exception — Smooth." Now: Mon. 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Good Vibes: Gloria Krolak hosts the world's only radio show dedicated to the vibraphone. First Sun. of every month 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET.

Jazz Spotlight on Sinatra: Nancy Barell presents Frank Sinatra's music through the decades, along with jazz instrumentalists and singers performing songs he recorded plus other beloved standards. Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Tues 11:00 a.m.-noon.

And **every Sunday after Just Jazz** stay tuned to WRNJ and tunein.com/radio/WRNJ for **The Tail-Finned Turntable** from 1:00 to 2:00 and **Still Rockin'** from 2:00 to 3:00, both hosted by "the Golden Gup," Gup Gascoigne.

NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

The Heavyweights Brass Band: This City ([Lulaworld](#)): Brass bands are a staple of the venerable New Orleans tradition, and the Heavyweights Brass Band from Toronto, now with its third CD, has been keeping that life-affirming legacy alive. But don't be mistaken, the only things "old-fashioned" about this tight ensemble are its musicianship and obvious sense of fun. This is irresistible "gold ol', good-time music," but with modern colors and a contemporary vibe.

Scott Reeves Jazz Orchestra: Without a Trace ([Origin](#)): There are those who say big band jazz died in the 1940s. But it's not dead (wounded maybe, but not dead). And composer-arranger-trombonist Scott Reeves' latest release proves how much life it still has, with four engaging originals, new takes on standards — "Speak Low," "All or Nothing at All," and Wayne Shorter's "Juju" — and strong contributions by saxophonist Steve Wilson, trumpeter Chris Rogers, trombonists Tim Sessions and Matt Haviland, and company.

Kenny Shanker: The Witching Hour ([Wise Cat](#)): Alto and soprano saxophonist Kenny Shanker applies his bright tone, solid chops, and rich imagination to a set of one dozen original tunes. Shanker has selected an exceptional and supportive group of players to join him in this diverse showcase: pianist Mike Eckroth, guitarist Daisuke Abe, bassist Yoshi Waki, and drummer Brian Fisher. His is a strong voice that definitely deserves to be heard.

UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

Fri.-Sun., March 9-11: Washington Heights Jazz Festival

Three days, twelve bands, three upper Manhattan venues!: **Kismet Bar**, 603 Ft. Washington Ave. (at W. 187th St.); **Le Cheile**, 839 W. 181st St. (at Cabrini Blvd.); **Las Tapas**, 808 W. 187th St. (at Ft. Washington Ave.) Click [HERE](#) for the full schedule and ticket information.

Sun., March 25, 3:00: harmonica-vibraphonist Hendrik Muerkins Quartet (**David Berkman**, piano; **Chris Berger**, bass; **Peter Van Nostrand**, drums)

\$25 advance / \$30 at the door.
Rutherford Hall, 1686 Rt.517, Allamuchy, NJ; 908-852-1894 ext. 338 or 908-637-8461

The **New Brunswick Jazz Project** — "*bringing great Jazz to Central Jersey*" — regularly offers jazz events at numerous venues throughout New Brunswick, NJ. Click [HERE](#) for their monthly schedule.

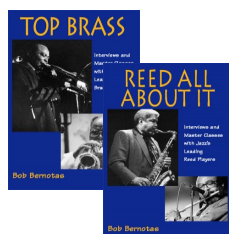
Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

Top Brass: Interviews and Master Classes with Jazz's Leading Brass Players

Reed All About It: Interviews and Master Classes with Jazz's Leading Reed Players

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Special Sinatra Hour Segments

(presented during Hour 2, 11-noon ET)



Frank and Jimmy Van Heusen

Frank & His Friends sing the songs of:

- 3/4: Harold Arlen
- 3/11: Jimmy Van Heusen
- 3/18: Sammy Cahn
- 3/25: Van Heusen & Cahn



Sammy Cahn

Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour is heard every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern Time (US) over WRNJ 104.7 & 92.7 FM and 1510 AM and streaming worldwide at tunein.com/radio/WRNJ

Bob Bernotas • host of *Just Jazz featuring The Sinatra Hour*

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

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