



The name says it all...

# Just Jazz

June-July 2019

*The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils; The motions of his spirit are dull as night ... Let no such man be trusted.*  
— William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

Hi Friends —

That meme in the column to the right is a true and virtually complete catalogue of Trump's many defects as a human being. **But to me the "no music" line is especially telling.**

During my lifetime music in the White House has been a bipartisan tradition. The eminent cellist, Pablo Casals, performed there for John Kennedy. Richard Nixon hosted an all-star 70th birthday gala for Duke Ellington, and presented the Modern Jazz Quartet at a dinner for the Shah of Iran. The Billy Taylor Trio played for Gerald Ford. (My Rutgers professor, Larry Ridley, was Billy's bassist.) Jimmy Carter presided over a day of jazz that featured such masters as Dizzy Gillespie and Max Roach. Barack Obama offered an entire series of diverse musical events.

And some presidents even had a personal connection with music. Harry Truman and Nixon both played piano — it doesn't matter how well or badly — and Bill Clinton played the saxophone. (On TV, yet!) You can bet that Ronald Reagan, despite his flaws and failings, enjoyed big band swing, as did practically everyone of his generation, especially someone with a show biz background. And Obama could sing like Al Green.

But in nearly two and a half years of the Trump administration *not a single note of music of any kind has been heard at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* (not counting the National Anthem or "Hail to the Chief"). I can't say that about any other presidency in my memory.

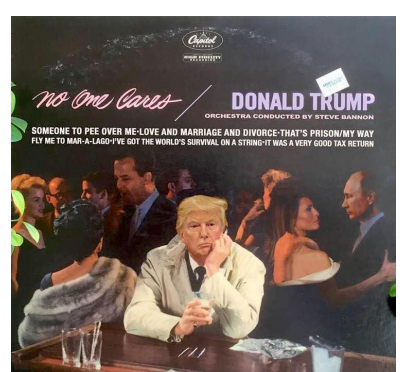
So what does this tell you about the current inhabitant of the "people's house?" We already know that he is brainless and heartless. But along with that, **the absence of music in his life declares that Trump also is soulless — utterly and absolutely lacking in sensitivity, warmth, any human feeling.** A person like that, as the Bard of Avon understood, is prone to all variety of corrupt and nefarious acts. **He is someone not to be trusted.**

So maybe, just maybe, when evaluating candidates for the highest of all our political offices, after examining their positions on health care, income inequality, climate change, public education, war and peace, etc., **it might not be a bad idea to ask whether they like music — and what sort of music they like.**

Stay cool, hang loose, admit nothing,  
Bob



"He ain't got rhythm  
Every night he sits in the house alone  
'Cause he ain't got rhythm  
Every night he sits there and wears a frown  
...  
He ain't got rhythm so no one's with him, the  
loneliest man in town."  
— Irving Berlin



Sacrilegious, I admit, but Frank didn't like him either. [See the box below]

## 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 great 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." Mon. 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

**Friday Night Jazz:** Hosted by renowned trumpeter-educator **Ray Vega**. Fri. 8:00-11:00 p.m. ET on Vermont Public Radio.

**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 ET.

**The Tail-Finned Turntable** and **Still Rockin'** hosted by my buddy, "the Golden Gup," Gup Gascoigne. Sun. noon-2:00 ET on [wnti.org](http://wnti.org).

## NEW & RECOMMENDED CDS

**Coalescence: Coalescence 2 (Wise Cat):** For over two decades the quintet of New York-based musicians and friends known as Coalescence — Kenny Shanker, saxophones; Mike Eckroth, piano; Daisuke Abe, guitar; Yoshi Waki, bass; Brian Fishler, drums — has been dedicated to collective creativity, and their latest release follows that path. Comprised of eleven solid originals ranging from hard bop to soft ballads, it is, as proclaimed by saxophonist Shanker, in every way collaborative: "the compositions, the mixing, the mastering, the cover art, and even the song order." And in every way on every track, it shows.

**Nick Grinder: Farallon (Outside In Music):** It's free (at times) and it swings (always). A difficult combination to pull off, but this new release by trombonist-composer Nick Grinder does it, and does it with a flair. Grinder's timbre is rich, his playing is expressive, his original pieces combine introspection and excitement. This is the sort of music that — unfortunately — you rarely hear, but when you do it demands and deserves both your attention and respect because not only it is highly imaginative, it is genuinely sincere.

**Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet: The Rhythm of Invention (Patois):** In his latest creative endeavor prolific trombonist Wayne Wallace has augmented his four-time Grammy nominated Latin jazz quartet with a diverse array of guest artists. A string ensemble transforms "All the Things You Are" into a rich chamber work and reveals the impressionist essence of Bix Beiderbecke's "In a Mist," the voice of master jazz educator David Baker enlivens the title track, "Take Five" is energized with a clave beat (in 5/8), and the captivating program closes appropriately with a classic descarga. (And that's only half of it!)

## UPCOMING AREA JAZZ EVENTS

**Fri., May 31-Sun., June 9: Jersey City Jazz Festival**

Click [Here](#) for complete schedule of events and venues

**Thurs., June 21, 5:30-8:30: 4th Annual Summer Solstice Jazz & Wine**

**Swingadelic big band outdoor dance party!**

Roy DeBoer Evergreen Garden, 140 Log Cabin Road, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Bring a blanket or chair. Wine from [Unionville Vineyards](#) will be available to purchase by the glass. [Due Mari](#) restaurant will be offering some of their most popular menu items. *No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed.*  
\$10 / free to members; 732-932-8451

**Mason Gross Summer Series:**

**Mon., July 15, 7:00: drummer Tommy Campbell Quartet** featuring saxophonist **Abraham Burton**

**Wed., July 17, 7:00: Mason Gross Jazz Faculty** (trombonist **Conrad Herwig** leads an all-star ensemble performing straight-ahead jazz)

[Nicholas Music Center](#), Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

**Free!**

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.

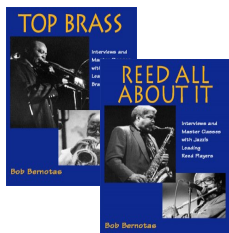
## Acclaimed Jazz Books by Bob

*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*

[temporarily out of print]

**\$20, plus shipping**  
[jazzbob.com](http://jazzbob.com)



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