



Winter '08

Hello friends;

Here we go into the New Year 2008. I hope that your holidays were fun and relaxing for you and yours. 2007 was a great year for the Benny Carter Centennial Tribute Projects with the release of **"Just Friends" The Mel Martin/Benny Carter Quintet Live @ Yoshi's** (Downbeat ****) on [Jazzed Media](#) celebrating [BennyCarter's](#) 100th birthday. There were many wonderful gigs many of which were mentioned in the [previous newsletter](#). We released several popular videos produced by the [Jazz Video Guy, Bret Primack](#), to post a number of short videos to [my web site](#) as well as his and others. They are also posted at [YouTube](#). The three videos are 1. [A Conversation with Benny Carter](#) , 2. [Just Friends](#) and 3. [Isn't It Grand](#).



On Saturday Evening, September 8 [MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND](#) performed a great, well received concert at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, Ca. Mel Martin, Andrew Speight, Roger Kellawy, Robb Fisher and Jeff Marrs thrilled the crowd with stunning renditions of many Benny Carter compositions. In addition they were joined by the great vocalist Jackie Ryan who also sang some of her new-found Benny Carter favorites.



On Monday Evening, October 15, 2007 - [MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND](#) performed a sold out concert at [Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola](#) featuring Andrew Speight - alto saxophone, Don Friedman - piano, Steve Laspina - bass, and Victor Lewis - drums. Special guests include Jackie Ryan - vocals, Jerry Dodgion - alto saxophone and Craig Handy - tenor saxophone. The concert was recorded by XM Sattelite radio for delayed broadcast. George Cables was originally scheduled to perform with us but had his kidney/liver transplant number come up so was unable to attend. In December, I performed at a benefit concert for him at Yoshi's put together by Jessica Felix and the Healdsburg Jazz Festival.



Upon my return from New York, I jumped into rehearsal for Mel Graves' long awaited piece [From the Past - Into the New](#), a two-hour juggernaut of a composition featuring:

- * Bob Afifi on flute and piccolo;
- * Pete Estabrook on trumpet and flugelhorn;
- * Charlie McCarthy on alto sax;
- * Mel Martin on clarinet, tenor, and soprano saxophones;
- * Jason Robinson on tenor sax;
- * Randy Vincent on guitar;
- * Dave McNab on guitar;
- * John Simon on piano;
- * Miles Wick on bass;
- * Babatunde Lea on drums and percussion.

The audience reception was incredible with a standing ovations and folks shouting and screaming encouragement. It was presented in conjunction with the [Healdsburg Jazz Festival](#). MP3 files of the concert are available to hear [here](#). Look for more performances in the future.

The following week, I returned with my trio to perform at the [Pallatte Art Cafe](#) in Healdsburg also presented by Jessica Felix and the [Healdsburg Jazz Festival](#).

In November, I flew to Denver to do two clinics and a night at [Dazzle](#), Denver's great new jazz club.





DU@Boulder



John Davis, Max Wagner, Brad Goode



Dazzle Jazz Club

The first clinic was at [The Lamont School of Music](#) at DU@Denver, the program run by fellow saxophonist and liberal, [Lynn Baker](#). I had done clinics at the previous campus but wasn't prepared for the beautiful new music department of the last five years. It was seriously impressive. I hope to return to do a residency. The second clinic was at the tranquil setting of [The University of Colorado at Boulder](#) run by my old friend John Davis who used to be up at DU Greeley. The gig at [Dazzle](#) went very well with a nearly sold out audience and a great Denver rhythm section of Jeff Jenkins - piano, Mark Simon - bass and Paul Romaine - drums. These guys are the equal of any rhythm section anywhere on the planet and people I have played with many times so it was kind of a homecoming. They also were familiar with much of my music so we were able to do two great sets of standards and originals.

December was spent at home with a few choice gigs and some happy times with my family and my fabulous grandson Zachy who's musical prowess continues to grow.



In 2008, I will be updating my [web site](#) and [MySpace page](#) with more videos and streaming audio tracks from select live performances. There will be more performances by the [Benny Carter Tribute Band](#). The [Mel Martin Quartet](#) will be working on a new recording beginning in March. Please stay tuned for more developments.

Upcoming Winter events. Hope to see you there.

Saturday Afternoon, January 19, 2008 - MEL MARTIN @ [The CONN-SELMER](#) Booth at the [NAMM SHOW](#), Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim CA. Booth 4600, Hall C, 2PM.
["The Art of Tone"](#). A special demonstration/clinic on the artistic application and development of tone.

Saturday Evening, January 19, 2008 - MEL MARTIN @ [Charlie O's](#) w/ Jon Mayer - piano, Chris Connor - bass and Kenny Elliot - drums. 8PM 13725 Victory Boulevard (just West of Woodman Avenue) in Valley Glen. Call 818.994.3058 for reservations and information.

Thursday, Evening, January 24, 2007 - MEL MARTIN w/ [The David K. Mathews](#) Organ Quartet @ [Jazz at Pearl's](#) featuring [Carl Lockett](#) - guitar and [Akira Tana](#) - drums. Shows at 8 & 10PM, 256 Columbus Ave (Pacific) San Francisco, CA 94133, 415-291 8255, \$10

Friday Evening, February 1, 2008 -MEL MARTIN w/ the [Peter Welker](#) Band @ [Graziano's](#), 6-8PM, 170 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, California 94952 Tel: (707) 762-5997

Saturday Evenings - February 9 + March 8, 2008 - [The MEL MARTIN QUARTET](#) @ [The No Name Bar](#), 757 Bridgeway Sausalito, CA 94965 Phone: (415) 332-1392 w/ Brad Buethe - guitar, Robb Fisher - bass and Jeff Marrs - drums.

Thursday Afternoon, March 13, 2008 - MEL MARTIN CLINIC/MASTERCLASS - ["The Art of Tone"](#) @ The [CMEA Statewide Conference](#), The Sacramento Convention Center, 13th & J Streets, Sacramento, CA. 2:15PM.

Sponsored by [Conn/Selmer](#) and [Rico Reeds](#)

These recordings are available at my [web site](#).

["Just Friends" The Mel Martin/Benny Carter Quintet Live @ Yoshi's](#)(Also available at [iTunes](#))

[Mel Martin and Bebop and Beyond CD-5006](#)

"Friends and Mentors" - Bebop and Beyond Plays the Music of Mel Martin (Also available at [iTunes](#))

[Mel Martin Plays Benny Carter featuring Benny Carter CD-9041 2](#)

Mel Martin is a [Rico Reeds](#) (J'Daddario Corp.) and [Yanagisawa](#) (Conn-Selmer) artist.

Mel Martin plays [Peter Ponzol Mouthpieces](#) exclusively.

For updates on upcoming events, please check out my [events page](#).


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