

MEL MARTIN 'S JAZZ AND SAXOPHONE NEWSLETTER



Fall, '07

Hello friends;

I'm very pleased to let you know that ["Just Friends" The Mel Martin/Benny Carter Quintet Live @ Yoshi's](#) on [Jazzed Media](#) Celebrating [BennyCarter's](#) 100th birthday is now available. It will be distributed by Allegro-Music and be available at [Jazzed Media's](#) web site and [mine](#), as well as many others and in your better record stores, hopefully, everywhere. I have been working with 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](#). They consist of actual performance clips from the Yoshi's date done by [JazzAlley TV](#) where ["Just Friends"](#) was recorded but with different, unreleased repertoire. The Conversation video was taken from a pre-concert interview at the [San Francisco Jazz Festival](#) and is a VERY rare event due to Benny Carter's well know resistance to interviews of any kind.



Special upcoming performances:

Saturday Evening, September 8, 2007 - MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND @ Sonoma State University - Warren Auditorium, 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, Ca, 94928, 707-664-2353 - featuring Roger Kellaway - piano, Andrew Speight - alto saxophone , Robb Fisher - bass, Jeff Marrs - drums and Jackie Ryan - vocals. \$12 , Students free.

Monday Evening, October 15, 2007 - MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND @ Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola featuring Andrew Speight - alto saxophone, George Cables - piano, Steve Laspina - bass, and Steve Johns - drums. Special guests include Jackie Ryan - vocals, Jerry Dodgion - alto saxophone and Craig Handy - tenor saxophone. Frederick P. Rose Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center Broadway at 60th Street, 5th Floor. Reservations. 212 258-9595 or -9795. Seating is available on a first-come first-served basis either at tables or at the bar.

This will be our very special New York presentation of the All-Star Benny Carter Centennial Tribute. Benny Carter will be inducted into the Jazz at Lincoln Center Hall of Fame on October 19-20. This will be a part of that celebration.

July and August were very busy months for me as the Summer Tour kept me hopping. I was in New York the first weekend in July to play at The Kitano for the ["Just Friends" CD release](#), a posh Park Ave. Hotel with a great, intimate Jazz room. The smokin' rhythm section was comprised of Don Friedman - piano, Steve Laspina - bass and Steve Johns - drums. The manager of the room, Gino Moratti and all the staff were wonderfully accomodating and a great time was had by all, especially me! Later that week I went out to the [D'Addario](#) plant in Farmingdale and talked products with the [Rico Reeds](#) folks. I was also able to get some great new [Evans](#) drumheads for my studio set and Zachy's set. We made some more [video tips](#) which will be posted soon.



Kitano Quartet



Don & Mel

After a few days at home, I hopped a jet to Maui, my favorite of the Hawaii Islands, this time for work (and a little play). I was invited to perform at the [Lahaina Film Festival](#) which was videotaped for [JazzAlley TV](#) by my good friend Kenneth Martinez Burgmaier. I played with the best resident trio on the island, with Gene Argel - keyboards, Shiro Mori - guitar and Mike Buono - drums. I was able to stay for a few days after the gig and got to swim with the turtles at the [Kuleana Resort](#). Not a bad gig.



In August, we did the California "Yo-Yo" tour which is where you get in the van and you go up and down the state like a yo-yo. I played at [Charlie O's](#) in Van Nuys at the beginning of the trip. It was my first appearance there with the help of the great Roy McCurdy on drums, old friend John Heard on - bass and another old friend from my Freddie Hubbard days, John Beasley on piano. Then we spent a day at the [Rico Reeds](#) factory in Sun Valley and I was brought up to speed on all of the newest reed manufacturing techniques by our guy Rory Mazella. Very interesting. We then checked in to the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for three nights to perform the 100th birthday tribute to [BennyCarter](#) at the Hollywood Bowl produced by Darlene Chan and the LA Philharmonic. We rehearsed on Tuesday with the Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra, James Moody, Russell Malone Roy Hargrove, Steve Laspina, Steve Johns, Chris Neville, Roberta Gambarini and Marlena Shaw and did the performance on Wednesday. Quincy Jones was Master of ceremony. You can read the LA Times review [here](#). For me, it was a great treat to be a part of the show which was unusual in that all of the artists stayed onstage through the entire performance with the guest artists seated at tables. This allowed us to be part of all the proceedings, cheering on others and being cheered in return. A very memorable evening.



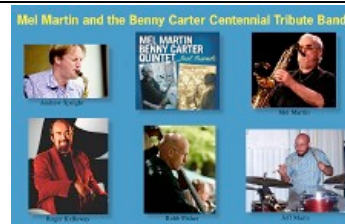
John Clayton conducts



The Orchestra



Marlena Shaw



The Benny Carter Tribute Band

[Roger Kellaway](#) joined me the next night for a quartet gig at The LAX Crowne Plaza presented by Merle Kreibich's [InHouse Music](#) with Chris Colangelo on bass and Fritz Wise on drums. We needed a day to get to Carmel for the [Benny Carter Tribute Band](#) gig at [The Jazz and Blues](#)

[Company's](#) new venue. It was a good thing as, due to traffic, it was a grueling eight hour drive from LAX to Carmel! Thanks to my wife Catey for doing all of the driving, particularly that day. The next night, Roger and I were joined by [Andrew Speight](#) on alto saxophone, Robb Fisher on bass and [Sylvia Quenca](#) on drums. The performance was sold out and a lot of fun. The next morning we had to get back down to Cambria, which is near Hearst Castle to make a 4PM hit at [The Hamlet](#) where we were joined by the great vibist Charlie Shomake and his lovely wife Sandi. We performed more Benny Carter music for that sold out crowd. Sylvia's special friend, the great New York bassist [Essiet Okun Essiet](#), sat in for a couple of numbers which was fun. It's always inspiring to perform right on the ocean and this gig was no exception. The next day we headed home, got Roger checked in to his hotel and proceeded to rehearse with the wonderfully popular vocalist [Jackie Ryan](#), another Marin Resident, for our upcoming gig at Yoshi's. On Tuesday, Roger and I headed south to the studios of [KCSM](#) where we did a nice interview with old friend Chuy Varella. You can hear it [here](#).

Playing [Yoshi's](#) is always a special treat but this one was particularly meaningful as I was asked to produce a full scale Centennial Tribute to Benny Carter as well as a CD release event. It featured the [Benny Carter Tribute Band](#) with special guests drummer [Winard Harper](#), vocalist [Jackie Ryan](#), and saxophonists [Harvey Wainapel](#) and [Charles McNeal](#) playing some of Benny Carter's saxophone ensemble music. The near full house seemed to really enjoy the structure of the show. [Roger Kellaway](#) and I started out with a flute and piano duet on "People Time" from the Just Friends CD. Then we were joined by the [Benny Carter Tribute Band](#) for "Hello". Wynard and Roger who had never played together really hooked up and the sparks started flying, especially in the exchanges with Winard. The audience was actually applauding after EVERY exchange. That was new one! After one more instrumental, we were joined by vocalist extraordinaire [Jackie Ryan](#) who did "Only Trust Your Heart" and Benny Carter's rarely heard "Rain" in duo with Roger. Then we were joined by the additional saxes for Benny's wonderful arrangements of "Honeysuckle Rose", "Evening Star" and the finale, "Doozy" were everyone stretched out and Jackie added some great scat. It was a great finish to an exciting and rewarding tour. The [Benny Carter Tribute Band](#) will be doing more shows as list below in on my [events page](#). We hope to see you there.



Upcoming Fall events. We hope to see you there.

Friday Evening, September 7, 2007 - The MEL MARTIN Trio at The Lodge at Sonoma, w/ Roger Kellaway - piano and Robb Fisher - bass. 7-10PM. 1325 Broadway at Leveroni & Napa Roads, Sonoma, California 95476 Phone: 1-707-935-6600 No cover.

An intimate new jazz lounge at a hip Sonoma Hotel.

Saturday Evening, September 8, 2007 - MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND @ Sonoma State University - Warren Auditorium, 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, Ca, 94928, 707-664-2353 - featuring Roger Kellaway - piano, Andrew Speight - alto saxophone, Robb Fisher - bass, Jeff Marrs - drums and Jackie Ryan - vocals. \$12, Students free.

Another special Centennial Tribute to the great Benny Carter.

Saturday Evening, September 15, 2007 - The MEL MARTIN QUARTET @ The No Name Bar, 757 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (415) 332-1392, w/ Brad Buethe - guitar, Robb Fisher- bass and Sly Randolph - drums.

Saturday Evening, October 6, 2007 - The MEL MARTIN QUARTET @ The No Name Bar, 757 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (415) 332-1392, w/ Brad Buethe - guitar, Robb Fisher- bass and Jeff Marrs - drums.

Monday Evening, October 15, 2007 - MEL MARTIN and the BENNY CARTER CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE BAND @ Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola featuring Andrew Speight - alto saxophone, George Cables - piano, Steve Laspina - bass, and Steve Johns - drums. Special guests include Jackie Ryan - vocals, Jerry Dodgion - alto saxophone and Craig Handy - tenor saxophone. Frederick P. Rose Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center Broadway at 60th Street, 5th Floor. Reservations. 212 258-9595 or -9795. Seating is available on a first-come first-served basis either at tables or at the bar.

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Saturday Evening, October 27, 2007 - MEL MARTIN w/ Into the New, a cross-pollination of musical styles from different cultures, composed and led by jazz bassist and composer Mel Graves. The complex, two-hour, five-movement composition, featuring ten musicians, crosses musical borders by incorporating influences from Africa, the Arab world and Latin America. Graves has been writing and performing jazz, contemporary classical, and world-influenced music for over forty years and has led the Jazz program at Sonoma State University for the past twenty five years.

This performance will take place October 27 at the Raven Theater in Healdsburg as part of The Healdsburg Jazz Festival. 415 Center Street, Healdsburg, California 707.433.5448

Coming in November - Colorado dates.

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

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

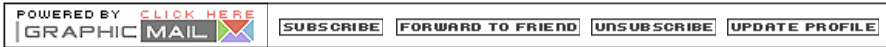
For updates on upcoming events, please check out my [events page](#).

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