

MEL MARTIN 'S JAZZ AND SAXOPHONE NEWSLETTER



Spring '08

Hello friends;

2008 is almost half over and it's been a varied and interesting year so far with many good things coming up. January brought the annual [NAMM SHOW](#) at the Anaheim Convention Center where I did my "[The Art of Tone](#)" demonstration/clinic on the artistic application and development of tone at the [The CONN-SELMER](#) Booth. I also did a gig at [Charlie O's](#) in Van Nuys, an LA jazz institution. Back on the home front, I did gigs with [The David K. Mathews](#) Organ Quartet and [The MEL MARTIN QUARTET](#).



February found Catey and I returning to the [Kuleana Resort](#) on the island of Maui. Ostensibly a wonderful two-week vacation on the water across from the island of Lanai'i, I did play a bit at [Canoes](#) and at the Barryfest, a fundraiser for [Manoa Radio](#), the free form FM radio station. My main occupation, hopwever, was whale watching which, in February is nothing short of spectacular. Here's a shot I took from the [Pacific Whale Foundation](#) ship.



In April, I ventured to my home town of Sacramento to attend the [CMEA](#) conference and perform "[The Art of Tone](#)" demonstration/clinic. It was held at the Sacramento Convention Center at 14th and J Street which was literally across from the auditorium where I graduated high school and heard many great jazz concerts including the Count Basie Band, Benny Goodman and Jazz at the Philharmonic. A block away was the garage where I rehearsed my first professional band. One block in the other direction was what was once called the Public Market where I bought my first clarinet and took my first lessons. A truly sentimental journey.



Sacramento Memorial Auditorium



Me and Tamara Mauro from Conn-Selmer

April brought several opportunities to hear a lot of live jazz including Freddie Hubbard's 70th Birthday celebration at the new [San Francisco Yoshi's](#), Billy Cobham with Randy Brecker and Kenny Barron at [Yoshi's Oakland](#) and the great James Moody at [SF Jazz](#). Always great to hear and greet many of my colleagues. I played a couple of interesting gigs reuniting with [Larry Vuckovich](#), my college buddy from San Francisco State and Warren Gale, the original trumpeter in Bebop and Beyond. Warren and I played with another old friend, drummer Bob Belanski at the [Orinda House](#) in a warm-up gig for the [Joe Henderson](#) Memorial Big Band Concert coming up at [San Francisco Yoshi's](#). At the end of April, I played alto with the [Mingus Big Band](#) from New York at [Yoshi's Oakland](#), subbing for my friend Craig Handy. It's always a challenge to play with the band and this gig was no exception.

Last but not least, jamming with my grandson Zachy has become a regular event and is always an absolute joy.





[Here's a video of Zach wailing away at the MakeFaire event.](#)

Recently, "[Just Friends](#)" [The Mel Martin/Benny Carter Quintet Live @ Yoshi's](#) received a great review in [Downbeat \\*\\*\\*\\*](#). We also released several popular videos produced by the [Jazz Video Guy, Bret Primack](#), who posted them 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](#). In addition, I have added two more videos [Mel Martin w/ Akiko Tsuruga](#) at [Jazz at Pearl's](#) and "[Pinball Number Count](#)" from Sesame Street. Apparently, I helped teach several generations to count to 12.



[Purchase](#)

**Upcoming Spring and Summer events. Hope to see you there.**

Monday Evening, May 12, 2008 - MEL MARTIN w/ Warren Gale and the [Joe Henderson Memorial Big Band](#) at [Yoshi's - San Francisco](#), 1330 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415)655-5600 [Buy Tickets](#)

A very special evening of the big band music of Joe Henderson. Warren Gale and I will be the front line. The big band, along with several original members, will be playing many of Joe's original charts as well as newly arranged Joe Henderson compositions. **NOT TO BE MISSED!**

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Tuesday Evening, May 20, 2008 - MEL MARTIN with the [David K. Mathews](#) Organ Quartet @ [Yoshi's](#) - Oakland, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 238-9200 \$14 - w Carl Lockett - guitar and Akira Tana - drums. [Buy Tickets](#)

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Thursday Evening, June 5, 2008 - MEL MARTIN w/ The [Barry Finnerty](#) Quartet at [The Shoreline Restaurant](#) - 127 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510 (707) 745-3364 5-8PM

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Saturday Evening, June 21, 2008 - [The MEL MARTIN QUARTET](#) @ [The No Name Bar](#), 757 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965 Phone: (415) 332-1392 w/ Bob Brumeloe - guitar, Robb Fisher - bass and Jeff Marrs - drums.

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Coming July 12-20 ...The Summer Tour featuring NY piano great [Don Friedman](#) including gigs at [The Lodge at Sonoma](#), [Stanford Jazz Festival](#), [The Crowne Plaza](#) and [Vibrato](#) in Los Angeles Angeles and the [Hamlet](#) in Cambria. In addition we will be recording a new CD with [The MEL MARTIN QUARTET](#) and special guest [Don Friedman](#). Stay tuned!

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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