

DENNY ZEITLIN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER #1 10/9/05

Hi—My thanks to all of you for signing up so we can keep in contact. I hope you will check out the new, greatly expanded website at www.dennyzeitlin.com But, first, just so I don't forget, an upcoming concert for those of you in the San Francisco Bay Area:

The San Francisco Jazz Festival Presents

THE DENNY ZEITLIN TRIO
Featuring Buster Williams, bass &
Lenny White, drums
(on a double bill with the
Bill Charlap Trio)

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 PM

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness, San Francisco

Tickets: \$24/30/38 415-776-1999 or www.sfjazz.org

This should be a super night. Matt Wilson wasn't able to make the gig on drums, so I called Lenny, a long-time favorite drummer with whom I've never played. Whitney Balliett, the New Yorker jazz critic wrote some years back that "jazz is the sound of surprise." I'm hoping for a lot of them that night, and Herbst Theatre is a great venue for playing and listening. Bill Charlap's trio should be superb.

And for those of you in the Southeast: I'll be doing a trio performance with Buster and Matt at the **South Florida Jazz Festival** in Hollywood, Florida, Friday, Nov. 18. Their website: <http://southfloridajazz.org/jazz/> but they haven't posted schedule/venue particulars yet. For tickets/info call: 954-424-4440.

I had some wonderful trio adventures with Buster and Matt this summer. We did the **Litchfield Jazz Festival** in August. Buster and I got ourselves lost a few times wending our way to this little Connecticut town from NYC, and separated on the day of the concert, with Buster waiting for the all-too-familiar *van that never comes*. Despite the logistical bumps, the outdoor tented venue had superb sound equipment and an outstanding Steinway concert grand. The audience was really into the music, and we had a ball. I've mentioned in the "Wine" section of the website that Buster and Matt have developed very discerning palates, and after our set, we segued into a 1990 Les Cailloux, Cuvee Centenaire, Chateaneuf du Pape. I had brought this bottle from my cellar, having purchased it on release in 1992. Totally mature, but in no way tottering, a virtually perfect wine, it had layers of complexity in the bouquet and on the palate, with an endless finish that thoroughly knocked us out. I was also very happy to get a chance to hang with Paul Winter, who lives in Litchfield. I recorded "Homecoming" for Paul's label back in the mid 80s, and it felt very good to re-connect.

On Labor Day week-end, we performed in the big Petrillo bandshell in Grant Park at the **Chicago Jazz Festival**. It was a thrill to be part of this great festival in my old home town. Feeling the vibe of thousands of dedicated jazz fans and looking out at the Chicago Skyline was very special. After our set, I went over to the Jazz Showcase, Chicago's premier jazz club, where I had been invited by Joe Segal, the owner, to sit-in.

Back in the '50s when I first started to play at jam sessions in Chicago, Ira Sullivan, the legendary sax and trumpet player was the "main cat", a force of nature that was at the hub of the music in the city. He was very encouraging to me back then, and it was an honor to sit in with his quartet after almost 50 years. He sounded, of course, spectacular.

A couple weeks later, we played three sets in the Coffee Gallery venue at the **Monterey Jazz Festival**. I find it a treat to have several sets to really explore the music, and I think the trio reached another level that night. At one point, when Buster was playing an unaccompanied introduction, Pat Metheny's guitar began to leak into our venue. Buster appeared totally unruffled, and continued, at times playing with it, at times against it, and mostly in spite of it.

We couldn't have asked for a better audience or reviews in Chicago and Monterey, which you can check out at: www.dennyzeitlin.com/DZ_News.php

And speaking of reviews, I have been pleased that my new solo CD, "Solo Voyage" has been receiving critical acclaim, including a very sensitive review in JazzTimes. You can check these out at: www.dennyzeitlin.com/DZ_Solovoyage.php

Being on the road, plus the demands of my psychiatric life, have delayed the final tweaking of the web site. There are a few typos here and there, and I am in process of working out with Pay Pal how music can be purchased at the site. For those of you who have written me with specific requests, please be patient a bit longer, and I'll be back in touch. My plan is for virtually all the albums I have recorded as a leader or co-leader to be available on the site.

I hope you will enjoy the audio clips from all my albums, and take a look at the videos in my various areas of interest. Bret Primack (bret@planetbret.com), my webmaster and web designer, is also the superb videographer. In the next few days, a three part video on fly fishing will be posted.

I welcome your comments and feedback. I urge you to share your perspectives with others by using the Guestbook. I read every entry with great interest, but due to time constraints can't promise to respond to each individually. I will post remarks periodically.

For specific questions you can contact me directly at dennyzeitlin@dennyzeitlin.com, but please be patient with delays. For any problems with the web site please contact: webmaster@dennyzeitlin.com

Until next time, I hope you all stay healthy and that music continues to enrich your lives.

All the best,

Denny