

Eric Nemeyer's

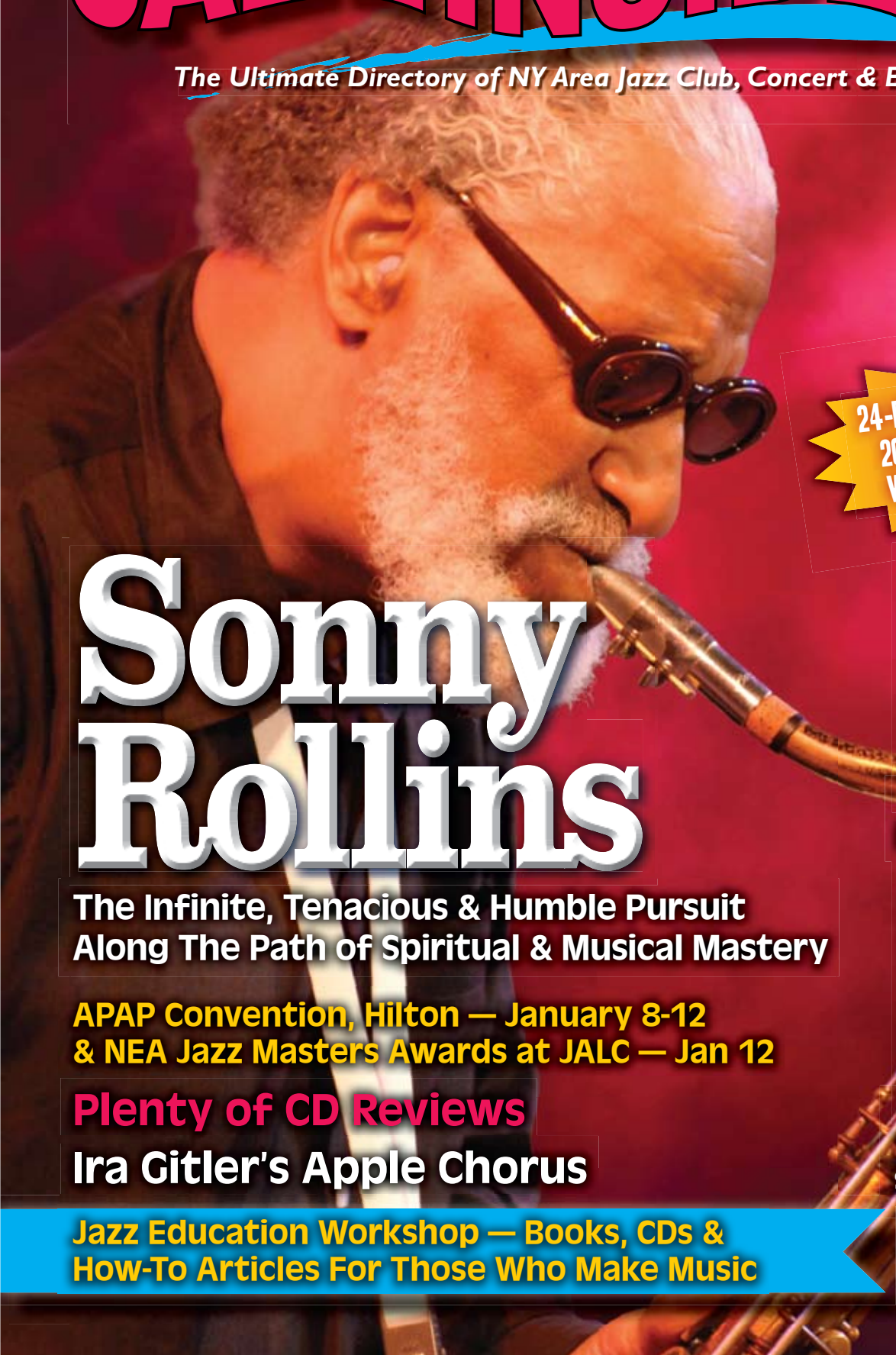
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# JAZZ INSIDE NY

The Ultimate Directory of NY Area Jazz Club, Concert & Event Listings



## Sonny Rollins

The Infinite, Tenacious & Humble Pursuit  
Along The Path of Spiritual & Musical Mastery

APAP Convention, Hilton — January 8-12  
& NEA Jazz Masters Awards at JALC — Jan 12

Plenty of CD Reviews

Ira Gitler's Apple Chorus

Jazz Education Workshop — Books, CDs &  
How-To Articles For Those Who Make Music



24-PAGE FULL-COLOR  
2010 JAZZ PHOTO  
WALL CALENDAR



Tommy Igoe  
Big Band at Birdland



Reggie Workman  
The Happening 2010  
St. Peter's, January 8

FREE

## Bradley Young

By Gary Heimbauer

**JI:** You have a very interesting musical history. For one, you began classical studies on piano at age five, but began to improvise naturally right away, leading to you performing improvisational compositions at the age of seven. What do you mean by improvisational compositions?

**Bradley Young:** I began improvising as a means to get away from the restriction of reading music. I didn't know how to write my music down at that age, I was only eight or nine at the time. Northwestern University School of Music invited me to play these compositions in my first recital.

**JI:** Can you talk about your experiences with Chet Baker and your insights into his mind and craft? What was this like?

**BY:** Chet was charming yet elusive. Apparently he liked me, and took me under his wing so to speak. He treated me like a kid brother in a way. We listened to his music together, and that was one of my favorite memories, as he reminisced about a particular recording session, or his early remembrances of growing up in Oklahoma. My perception was that his craft was 99% instinct, and he wasn't particularly articulate about it. He just played from a beautiful, innate, intuitive place in his heart. People warned me about him, telling me he somehow would take advantage of me. He never occurred for me that way, and I always felt he treated me with respect. He was warm and authentic.

**JI:** What's new and upcoming in your career? Feel free to talk about your film projects as well.

**BY:** I am currently arranging and producing my next

*"[my responsibility in our society is] To inspire. To lift the spirit. To create something beautiful that brings joy to people."*

recording project for Enja Records. It will be a trio recording, with several tracks featuring strings. I'm also producing and arranging a new CD for a singer in Los Angeles. I also continue to contract musicians for live performances and recording sessions.

**JI:** What is it about musical improvisation that you find so valuable? What does it offer to you, your band-mates, and the listeners?

**BY:** Spontaneity and Passion.

**JI:** What do you think about/visualize when you are playing?



**BY:** Depending on the moment, I think of different things. Sometimes I think about one of my favorite musicians, like Bill Evans, or Keith Jarrett, for ex-

modes, which I'm still doing! I also still like working on Stride Piano and Boogie Woogie techniques as well as the contemporary jazz vocabulary.

**JI:** As a musician, what do you feel your role or responsibility is in our society?

**BY:** To inspire. To lift the spirit. To create something beautiful that brings joy to people.

**JI:** What is the greatest compliment that you can receive as a musician?

**BY:** "I really dug your music"... or "I was touched, moved and/or inspired by what you played."

**JI:** What is the most rewarding facet of your life as an artist?

**BY:** The indescribable magic of having a musical conversation. The ongoing artistic growth that continues, as I keep listening and playing, and finally, hopefully having something timeless and beautiful to contribute to jazz history. ■

[www.bradleyyoung.com](http://www.bradleyyoung.com)