

Jazz Weekly

Creative Music and other forms of Avant Garde

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JAZZ FROM THE TRIBE

by [George W. Harris](#) • August 30, 2013

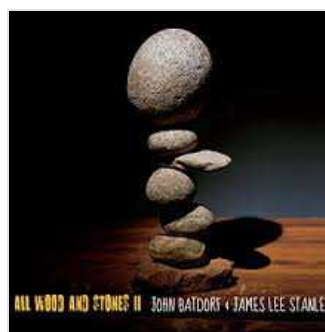
We've previously had an article about the roots of jazz coming from the Christian Church, but this time we're going to get into the "root of the root," namely Judaism. Not only did these chosen people give the world Montheism, the...

REVIEWS

POWER OF THE SONG Elsten Torres: Waiting For Clouds, John Batdorf & James Lee Stanley: All Wood and Stones II

by [George W. Harris](#) • July 18, 2013 • [0 Comments](#)

You've got to start with a good composition. After that it's up to the musicians and arrangers. Here are two cases in point.



Singer/songwriter/guitarist Elsten Torres fronts a stripped down band with Brendan Buckley/perk/vibes/key/g and Joe Ayoub/b along with a plethora of various guests on this

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JUST A HEADS UP...

THE BROAD STAGE IN SANTA MONICA HAS JUST ANNOUNCED ITS NEW JAZZ SERIES, AND IT'S A GOOD ONE! ARTURO SANDOVAL'S ORCHESTRA A NOV 15, 2013, AND THEN 2014 SHOWS WITH BETTY LAVELLE FEB 15, HIROMI'S TRIO MAR 22 AND KURT ELLING MAY 4. GET A SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE BEST SEATS AT WWW.THEBROADSTAGE.COM OR CALL 310-434-3200

indie-sounding confessional. Torres' voice is earnest and earthy, and his vocals are vulnerable. The songs are reminiscent of the style of John Hiatt or Kenny Rankin from the 70s; unpretentious and natural, feeling more personal than musical.

Speaking of the 70s, disco era survivors and guitarists John Batdorf and James Lee Stanley came across a clever idea a couple years ago by putting out bluesy acoustic guitar versions of tunes made famous by The Rolling Stones. It came off amazingly well, and this one is just as good. If there is a weak link, it's the expected "popular" tunes by the Glimmer Twins, such as "Honky Tonk Woman" and "Sympathy for the Devil." What wins you over is the wonderfully hip take of "Get Off My Cloud" and the amazingly turn of disco into a back porch take of "Miss You." Both gents have voices and musical attitudes that make each song feel much more American than the British Invaders, making "Tumbling Dice" feel like something from the Cumberland Gap, while "Time Is On My Side" could have been from a fun night at McCabes. A thoroughly enjoyable guilty pleasure!

www.elsten.info

www.allwoodandstones.com

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