

# RIFFTIDES

Doug Ramsey on jazz and other matters...

[« Book](#) | [Main](#) | [CD »](#)

December 23, 2006

## DVD

Rufus Reid, *Live In Vienna* (MVD Visual). With Austrian pianist Fritz Pauer and fellow American John Hollenbeck on drums, Reid steps into the role of leader in this concert at the Vienna club Porgy And Bess. One of the most experienced and dependable sidemen in jazz, Reid demonstrates the musical wisdom and taste he has accumulated in decades with Art Farmer, Dexter Gordon, Stan Getz, Thad Jones-Mel Lewis and Freddie Hubbard, among others. Pauer, one of Europe's best jazz musicians, is likely to be a revelation to listeners elsewhere. Hollenbeck's balance of strength, speed and delicacy is on full display. Sound and visual quality are top notch. It is instructive to watch Reid use eye movements to cue his colleagues in this set of satisfying music.

Posted by dramsey at December 23, 2006 1:02 AM

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## ABOUT . . .

### ...Rifftides

This blog is founded on Doug's conviction that musicians and listeners who embrace and understand jazz have interests that run deep, wide and beyond jazz. Music is its principal concern, but it reaches past... [more](#)

### ...Doug Ramsey

Doug lives in the Pacific Northwest, where he settled following a career in print and broadcast journalism in cities including New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, San Antonio, Cleveland and Washington, DC. His writing about jazz has paralleled his life in journalism. [more](#)

### ...Doug's Books

Doug's most recent book is *Take Five: The Public and Private Lives of Paul Desmond*. He is also the author of *Jazz Matters: Reflections on the Music and Some of its Makers*. He contributed to *The Oxford Companion to Jazz* and co-edited *Journalism Ethics: Why Change?* His next book is a novel that has almost nothing to do with music.

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#### CD

Steve Turre, Steve Turre, *Keep Searchin'* (High Note). The prolific trombonist in the J.J. Johnson tradition in yet another stimulating collection. He features two brilliant soloists, vibraharpist Stefon Harris and pianist Xavier Davis, and the fine drummer Dion Parson. Gerald Cannon and Peter Washington trade bass duties. Turre's "Reconciliation" with its satisfying harmonic resolution, is a highlight, and he proves that there is always room for one more "My Funny Valentine" in the hands of an inventive player.

#### CD

Kristin Korb, *Why Can't You Behave* (Double K). Korb sings even better than on her previous CD and does it while playing the bass superbly. The Ray Brown protégé's power and note choices would make the late master proud. Her treatment of Cole Porter's title tune is appropriately wry and saucy, her minor key approach to "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" deep and reflective, with a penetratingly bluesy bass solo. Lew Matthews is Korb's spare, harmonically resourceful pianist, Steve Barnes her discreet drummer. Trombonist Andy Martin and guitarist Larry Koonse shine as guest soloists.

#### CD

Lee Wiley, *West Of The Moon* (Mosaic). One of the most tasteful, distinctive and emotionally profound singers of the 1930s and '40s, Wiley was less active in the '50s. By the time she died in 1975, she was all but forgotten by the public. Her admirers never forgot her, though. Fortunately, one of them is Mosaic's Michael Cuscuna, who saw to the reissue of this 1956 masterpiece. Wiley's collaboration with arranger Ralph Burns came fairly late in her career, but it's one of her best albums. There are no more effective versions than Wiley's of "This is New" and "Can't Get Out of This Mood."

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### Book

Louis Armstrong, *Satchmo: My Life In New Orleans* (Da Capo). A friend asked me recently, "What's the best book about Louis Armstrong?" It may turn out to be the one Terry Teachout is writing, I said. I told him about Armstrong biographies by Gary Giddins, Laurence Bergreen, James Lincoln Collier, Max Jones-John Chilton and others, all with their strengths. But I suggested that if he had not read Armstrong's own account of his youth, that would be the place to start. This modest little autobiography is honest, conversational and true to the man's style as one of the positive, uplifting figures of our time.

### OTHER PLACES

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