

E-SUETERRY-C

October 19, 2009

MUSIC
SAXOPHONE
INTELLIGENCE
JAZZ
TAIJI QUAN
HUMOR
INSPIRATION
IDEAS



HOW
THE HAM
FAT DO YOU SAY
THIS?
'ESOTERIC'
'E-SOOTERIC'
WHATEVER

RETURNING TO THE OLD WAYS

Let's whip out the old cellphone camera and take a snapshot of the Zeitgeist--shall we? What's going to be in that shot? For starters: Biohazards, terrorism, genetic alteration. The economy, health care, war. Alternative energy, robots, nano-particles, RFID. Currency control and manipulation. Foreclosures, unemployment, climate change. Digital everything. And where the heck are we going to put all the trash?

Never mind the cellphone camera--I think we need the wide angle lens.

Since the days when we thought the Earth was the center of the universe, we've acquired a bit of objectivity. No longer tethered to the surface of this bulbous, heavy planet, we fly over it in airplanes, in spacecraft. We go to the bottom of the sea, and burrow inside its crust with quantum measuring devices. We probe every probability with lines of computer code that bind us, Matrix-like, to the busy-bee mentality that keeps us churning out the honey.

A lot of people have been saying, "Hey, did I sign up for this course? And is it required to graduate?" Folks are quitting their jobs, starting their own businesses. They're forming communes and communities; they're riding bicycles and growing their own vegetables. They're making biofuel for their cars (sign me up for that!) and getting off the grid with windmills, solar panels and geothermal power. Retro vs Metro.

Heaven knows why there's been a shift toward living simpler, in the midst of this amazing era of technological advancement. Maybe in the background of our minds, we're a bit worried about that 2012 business. We could be wondering--why did the ancient Mayan calendar end there? What about those heavy duty [solar flares](#) scientists say will happen at that time? What about the pseudo-scientific chatter about a Planet X collision with Earth, or a reversal of the magnetic poles? Will New York become the new New Mexico? In any case, the [remaining days leading up to Dec. 21, 2012](#) (3 years, 2 months & 2 days from today) will surely be increasingly saturated with media attempts to entertain, frighten and inform--in that order.

GIVE ME THE SIMPLE LIFE

7 CATEGORIES OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR

The Basics

In this category we see a search for purity. Natural foods and clean air and water are increasingly demanded by citizen/consumers. The choices are tantalizing--which bottled water should I purchase! Do I see myself drinking from a spring in Poland, a park full of bounding white tail deer, a South Pacific island--or do I put my trust in Science, and avail myself of the brand that has presumably filtered out every possible impurity from its H2O? As for shelter--Type "[build a yurt](#)" into the Google search window if you don't believe there are actually people who don't care for a 3BR 2BA with a white picket fence.

Health

A highly topical subject, considering the frenzied and vociferous debates on health care occurring as we speak. Time will reveal whether ancient modalities like acupuncture, Yoga, moxibustion and Reiki (a modern version of "laying on of hands") will become an integral part of whatever national health system we end up with. In the area of nutritional supplements and pharmaceuticals, many contain the same plants and herbs that our ancestors used to dig up from the ground or extract from leaves or [squeeze out of reptiles](#). Hospitals now use [maggots](#) to debride wounds, and [leeches](#) to cleanse blood. [Bee sting therapy](#) is used for arthritis and even Multiple Sclerosis. The popularity of "Grandma remedies" is also an indicator of a desire to return to our roots. Chickens always come home to roost, and as Louis Jordan said, ain't nobody here but us chickens.

Money

There have been a couple of particularly interesting developments in this decade. The first is the re-emergence of barter--see sites like Craig's List and [Barter Depot](#). The other is found in the increasing use of regional currencies, like the [BerkShare](#) in the Berkshire region of Massachusetts, or the [Chiemgauer](#) in Germany. There are regional currencies in several European countries, as well as Canada. So now, whenever I go walking on the beach, I make sure to collect some pretty shells just in case wampum comes back.



Love/Relationships/Family

Society's re-evaluation of relationships that differ from Barbie & Ken points the way toward a much more inclusive future society. More hugs all around! As is often the case, this revolution has been taken up by the [younger generation](#), thereby ensuring its continuation and development into mid-century, at least.

Work

As Daniel Pink points out in this [talk on TED](#), the "new" business model reflects time-honored values that somehow escaped CEO consciousness in previous decades: Autonomy--the urge to direct our own lives. Mastery---the desire to get better at something that matters. Purpose--yearning to

do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves. Modern companies like Apple Computer and Google are examples of this "new" business model.

Religion/Philosophy

From Southern Evangelists to [Toothless Soothsayers](#) there is no shortage of purveyors of Ancient Cosmic Truth, whether they be clothed in sheep's wool, wolf pelts, loin cloths or Brooks Brothers. Should we be guided by the voices of celebrities? Madonna is into Kabbalah. [Tom Cruise is a Scientist](#), and Lisa Simpson has been known to dabble in Buddhism. Wayne Dyer, Deepak Chopra, Tony Robbins, and the pundits from The Secret are our go-to guides for the Enlightenment that was bequeathed to us by the sages of yesteryear.

Arts/Entertainment

I hate to put these two together. The differences between art and entertainment will make great fodder for a future newsletter; however, for the moment let us consider their interface as our palette. There are two modern phenomena that harken back strongly to days of yore: [Storytelling](#) and [Karaoke](#). Storytelling has got to date back to the [cavemen](#). ("And then, from behind the rock, I heard the unmistakable grunt of a female saber-toothed tiger!") Even though Karaoke uses published songs (aka "intellectual property") and professionally rendered backing tracks, the star of the show is Whoever's Got The Mic. These are entertainments in which "user-generated content" is king. (Remember back in the day, when we used to sing user-generated content over intellectual property around the old upright in Aunt Mary's parlor?)

If we admit that a Return to the Old Ways is creeping into the unsuspecting 21st Century, then what does that mean for musicians?

Perhaps it means reacquainting ourselves with the reasons why we wanted to play music in the first place. Most of us started playing music when we were wee lads and lassies, so even though I've heard guys say they started playing to get chicks, I doubt it, unless they were, uh, quick bloomers.

When you're a kid, you see/hear the magic of music. And you want to do the magic, so you get an instrument and start playing. Sometimes the magic disappears, and you quit. But for those who stick with it and play regularly (whether professional or amateur) we must hold on to that feeling of magically creating something. If we don't, then playing becomes automatic, like typing.

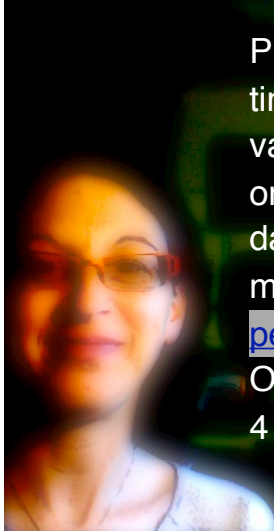
The best way to keep connected with the magic of playing is by closely identifying with the tone of your instrument. The tone is the first thing heard. It comes before you dazzle 'em with your dizzy technique, before you amaze 'em with your improvs. The true masters of music are known first for the beauty, uniqueness, and character of their tone: Maria Callas, Ben Webster, Sarah Vaughan, Fritz Kreisler--to name a few off the top of my head.

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." -- Albert Einstein

In my purse, I carry a small wood flute that Tim Price gave me. It makes me feel I can make music whatever happens and wherever I end up. After all, if you're wandering the earth looking for other survivors of the superflu. . . nuclear holocaust. . . superstorm. . . superquake. . . meteor collision. . . Planet X flyby. . . a sax gets kind of heavy after awhile.

In my teaching practice, in addition to helping my students with the music they want to learn, I show them how to make up their own music. We work on tone. I've done a lot of research on how to [hear the different levels of sound and improve tone quality](#). We make an in-depth study of the different elements of music, separating them, and then putting them back together in different ways. The more you know about how it works, the more magic you can do.

Please leave your
comments [HERE](#)



Players contact me all the time, asking for help with various musical questions or problems . In olden days, I responded via e mail, [but now I can coach people on Skype](#)
One class-- \$50
4 classes-- \$170.

Saturday, Oct. 24: Sweet Sue plays with **Micaela Leon** and **Adrienne Haan** in "Narzissa & Goldmund: a decadent musical voyage through 1920's Berlin Cabaret." [The Metropolitan Room](#), New York City, 9:45 p.m.

This is a free weekly newsletter, written by Sue Terry. Thanks for reading. You may print out copies, or forward the link to your friends:
www.sueterry.net/news.html

Copyright 2009 Qi Note, Inc. • All Rights Reserved

Thursday, Oct. 29: "Mostly Silver"

A jazz concert devoted to Horace Silver and his time featuring Sweet Sue as guest soloist.

8PM at The Sullivan Theatre
Thursday October 29th, 2009
St. Thomas Aquinas College
125 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976

Free admission! Evan Matthews, vocals; Daryl Kojak, piano; Greg Verheyne, bass; Alyssa Verheyne, drums