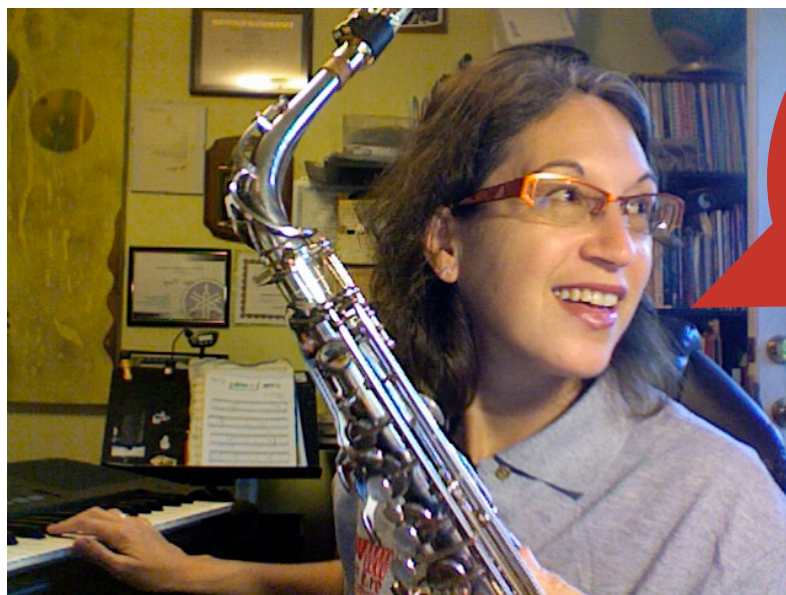


# E-SUETERRY-C

November 2, 2009

MUSIC  
SAXOPHONE  
INTELLIGENCE  
JAZZ  
TAIJI QUAN  
HUMOR  
INSPIRATION  
IDEAS



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

## STROKE OF GENIUS

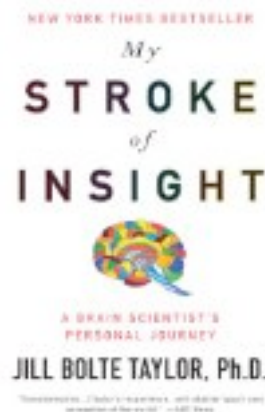
In a recent E-SUETERRY-C I mentioned the author Daniel Pink, and included a link to his TED talk. The TED talks feature short talks or performances by people of note in Science, Business, the Arts, and other fields. They are often quite riveting.

The very first TED talk I ever watched was given by Jill Bolte Taylor, a neuroscientist who spoke on having a stroke in 1996 when she was 37 years old. In her [TED talk](#), she describes the experience vividly. She's home alone, and begins to enter an altered state of consciousness. (Sounds good so far--I'll have what she's having!) Except that no "substances" were involved, nor were any aids such as meditation, t'ai chi, listening to music, yoga, eating kids' breakfast cereals, or even watching re-runs of [Mahabharat](#). Aware that something is wrong, she tries to dial the phone for help, but is unable to recognize the numbers. She finds her business card and dials her office by matching up the shapes of the numbers to those on the telephone keypad. Then when her colleague answers, she can't form words. She mumbles gibberish into the phone, somehow the colleague realizes who it is, and help is summoned. Dr. Taylor eventually, over the course of eight years, makes a full recovery.

What is remarkable about her experience, and what's behind her motivation to discuss it publicly, is this: the stroke shut down the rational, critical faculties of the left brain hemisphere, leaving her with a sense of freedom, heightened awareness, non-judgement and yes, love--that she feels was missing in her everyday life. In fact, she feels it's missing in most people's lives, and that's why she's going around giving these talks. The talks have spawned a book titled "My Stroke of Insight". I imagine she would have preferred a title like the one of this essay, but it was already taken--and not by me.

What's the genius part of this, you ask? Simply this--girlfriend has parlayed her stroke into a [best-selling book](#), and she is getting umptold amounts of **free publicity** on it. Dig this: if you do a search on her name, it will fill pages and pages of Google search windows. To give you an idea of how astounding this is--typing the name of a minor celebrity like, oh, Sue Terry, will also give pages and pages of Google search windows, but they will not all be about me. For instance, there's a coupla dames named Mary Sue Terry and Janet Sue Terry who keep insinuating themselves into my searches. I keep telling them to get off my bandstand but they insist on sitting in.

Whereas every entry on Jill Taylor's pages is about *her*, well into page 55 (after which I stopped checking, because seeing all those "oooo's" in "Gooooooooooooooooooooooogle" was making me dizzy. I thought I might be having a stroke. But it wasn't a stroke; it was just the Bolte buzz, and I was getting off on it.



## MUSICAL PRODIGIES

We, the People, seem to have an ongoing fascination with child prodigies, particularly musical prodigies. While Classical music has sported them for centuries, the comparatively nascent world of Jazz and Popular Music has few wunderkinder. So when one comes along, it's like, really freaky.

Take Gadi Lehavi, for example. Dean Bailin sent along a link to [this video](#) shot at the Smoke Jazz Club in Manhattan, where Gadi plays a solo piano version of "Spain" in an introspective homage to Chick Corea. Gadi is thirteen years old and lives in Israel. I find his playing to be remarkable and sensitive, and I intend to follow his career as it develops. As of yet he has not been devoured by the cannibalistic Music Industry, which is known for eating its young.

Ed Fitzgerald hipped me to another thirteen year old, a girl named Melissa Venema in the Netherlands. In [this video](#), she plays a trumpet piece by Nini Rosso called "Il Silenzio" that thematically resembles the bugle call "Taps", with variations. While the piece is not difficult, one can't help but be impressed with this girl's original tone and depth of feeling.

Alto sax legend Phil Woods is a magnet for young altoists throughout the world. A few years back he invited [Francesco Cafiso](#) (about fourteen at that time) to join him onstage for an alto exchange at the IAJE Conference in New

York. Everyone was talking about "the kid." And this past September at the COTA Festival in Delaware Water Gap, PA, Phil seemed to take great delight in introducing seventeen year old [Grace Kelly](#) and I to each other.

The NPR radio program and PBS television program "From The Top" is devoted entirely to musical prodigies. The young players perform and are interviewed on the air, usually resulting in some refreshingly candid, unstudied, and amusing exchanges.

I do read,  
and  
welcome,  
your  
comments!

[HERE](#)

The only problem with being a prodigy is that you grow out of it, and then you're just like everybody else. It would be interesting to see if there are any studies on following prodigies for twenty years or so, to see what happens to them. Do they keep going in music, and create successful careers, or do they burn out?

[This video](#) was making the rounds recently--it features five young ladies between the ages of six and eight performing the national anthem at a college basketball game. It was posted one month ago and already has over 5,000 views. Why, this one just warms the cockles of a music educator's heart!

The current conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic is twenty eight years old. His name is [Gustavo Dudamel](#), a



graduate of the famous [El Sistema](#) music education program in Venezuela. I saw him conduct the [Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra](#) at Carnegie Hall a couple of years ago, before he got the position with the L.A. Phil. They opened with Bartok's "Concerto For Orchestra." By the eighth bar I knew I was hearing something incredible. Let me state, for the record, I will remember this concert for the rest of my life. Or for the rest of my memory--whichever comes first. I believe it was broadcasted on PBS if you can possibly track it down. You will not be disappointed.

The fact that the Venezuelan music ed system regularly produces professional-level teenaged musicians begs the question, why don't we have that same training here? But don't get me started.

I'll leave you with Wendy Vo, a Vietnamese pianist, playing "Tico Tico" on an electronic keyboard. Although Charlie Parker recorded it, the version that stands out most in my memory is of a wizened, ancient fellow in Guadeloupe in 1983 who was introduced to us (I was with the Clifford Jordan Sextet) as the best local saxophonist. This guy whipped out a soprano and played the fastest version of Tico Tico I ever heard. Well, as my former employer Charli Persip often says--and truer words were never spoken--*corn works!*

# Celebration of the Arts/Fiesta de las Artes: Awakening the Creative Spirit Within

Montesueños-Vilcabamba-Dec. 12-13, 2009

With Sue Terry, Meredith Miller and Brian O'Leary

Come celebrate with us the end of our first year @ Montesueños (no prior experience needed, all are welcome and bring your cameras):

- Creativity & Healing through Sound & Movement
- Pig Puppet Theatre—socio-political satire with your alter egos
- Visual encounters with architecture, grounds and colorful skies
- Slide show of an artist's 50-year evolution
- Procession and ceremony for planetary healing
- Jazz workshop
- Yoga and Qi Gong

**Sue Terry** is a world-class performer and teacher of jazz and movement

**Meredith Miller** is a visionary artist whose paintings have inspired thousands of collectors

**Brian O'Leary** is a photographer, jazz pianist, puppeteer, and yoga teacher

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](http://www.sueterry.net/news.html)

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Become the  
player you've  
always wanted to  
be.

[Now I can coach  
you on Skype](#)

## Tuesday, Nov. 3 & Tuesday Dec. 1: December 12 & 13:

THE LAST SHOWS FOR AWHILE! ["Tapestry Rewoven" returns to Iridium](#), New York City, with shows at 8 pm and 10.

**Nov 6:** private event with Tony Danza Show, Phoenix, Arizona

**November 22 & 29:** 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, 4:00 pm

Sue presents a workshop on Creativity & Movement at Montesuenos Eco Retreat Center, Vilcabamba, Ecuador (visit link above for photos and info on this utterly amazing place, and its equally amazing founders Dr. Brian O'Leary and Meredith Miller.) Come to Montesuenos and you'll find out why more and more North Americans are moving to South America.