

From: "ben wilcox" <ducs_go_quac@hotmail.com>
Subject: **keppin' it [kinda] short, keepin' it [totally] real. Thanks to you.**
Date: November 15, 2006 1:51:02 PM PST
To: gfmlely@jazzcraft.net

sorry to take your time, my name is Ben Wilcox, i am 18 and am currently studying at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in jazz keys (Contemporary jazz). I got in initially through drumming, which i have read you participate(d) in (percussion), but chose to switch for, well - it could be said i was born to play; grandma owns the con. of jazz piano in NZ and down the line it goes, blah blah blah.

I dont want to hold you up but i find you the first artis i have been compelled to e-mail due to your profound effect upon me. Artists alike The Duke, sarah mclachlan, Dave Mathews Band, Prince, Massive Attack, Alicia Keys, Clapton, Goerge Benson, John Mayer, Monty Alexander, Bill Evans, Marian McPartland, Korn etc. (wierd mix, i know) have literally kept me alive through my life, but your piano playing seems to...infact i have no idea! It inspired me not only to make piano (jazz/music) a predominant aspect of my life but also research the scientific (physiological and psychological) effects of music, im currently awake at 4:11 am - writing essays and reports on such the topic as i am now also studying at the university.

I chose to tell you these so random sorts of subjects because i was told (during a conert) by the head jazz coordinator, as i awaited in a wing to perform, that artists' either;

play to themselves ,for themselves, alone. Or

record and perform in an attempt to reach,teach,influence/help others.

I was so extremely nervous, but i was ridiculously determined to let a quater of Perth hear, see but mostly feel me play Fat Butterfly, your uplifting but charged rendition of Battle Hymn of the Republic, and finally Thredony for an Unborn Child - being able to play the songs as entities, dimensions of me, apposed to just beleiving in independant notes of my own work, and sharing that; alike all the other artists that night.

It worked...like; alot.

to my surprise people came to me after the concert and celebrated the peices, iv had it before in high school n stuff, but never like this.

i obviously wasnt the greatest player at the concert (playing yours note for note, but some players are just stupidly good. Like the tutors n guests etc.), and i obviously told during my part they were yours but i could tell they were having a huge effect because this portion of the concert was the only part that had the entire auditorium in complete silence (during the entire night). People took your songs seriously, very seriously. You have an ability to make people sit'down, shut-up n agree with you melodies and harnessed bass rythms and complementing accents. People get something from listening to your music man, i had a mother say to me

"thanks Ben, i thought as you walked off; i feel better than before because of that song." Thats full-on man.

I still dont understand why your playing kicks my ass everytime i hear it, but i hope to figure it out one day so i can do it to others, and let them know what it feels like to be helped on a deeper level than the superficial.

So, thank you. Just thought id let you know there's people out there than are better 'cause of your choice to play for them. And i definately hope to see you play.

(i also dont mind if this never reaches you directly (erased as random mail or agents or whatever dealing with it, i just hope it in some way gets to you, helps you, even if its just to make you aware, so i can give something back.

Cheers man.

Ben

[if you have the time to reply - ducs_go_quac@hotmail.com]

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