
theme of the pianist Pianists vs. Guitarists

Posted by Adam Bravo - 2009/12/07 10:37

news:bhmeot\$11mjj\$1@ID-173106.news.uni-berlin.de: The way I look at it is that if you have to verbally tell the guy to listen more to you then you are dealing with an inferior musician, and he should be told this. PS: Why don't people here snip long posts when they reply and save the hassle of having to scroll thru pages of stuff to find a short reply...please guys! Richard AMEN!! And post at the bottom, not the top! Actually, this brings up a question - why does Usenet convention mandate bottom posting? I can understand the reason for it (that you can read what's being replied to), but OTOH you have to scroll down further. The way I see it, there are disadvantages and advantages to either one, and it would be logical to allow a case-by-case decision based on the content of both the original post and the reply.

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Posted by Stan Gosnell - 2009/12/07 10:37

Actually, this brings up a question - why does Usenet convention mandate bottom posting? I can understand the reason for it (that you can read what's being replied to), but OTOH you have to scroll down further. The way I see it, there are disadvantages and advantages to either one, and it would be logical to allow a case-by-case decision based on the content of both the original post and the reply. Well, the usenet police won't come & take you to jail, but the reason is that most newsreaders (at least most real newsreaders, all bets are off if you use Lookout) have a feature that permits quickly skipping quotes. I can do it with one mouse click or a keystroke. If you post at the top, & I want to see what you replied to, it's more difficult, & if I want to skip it, it's easy. It's just the way usenet evolved over the years.

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Posted by Josip Seidl - 2009/12/07 10:37

I looking forward to that. Thanks for letting me get this off my chest - I feel better now. I truly would be interested in everybody's insights to this - I'm not jut bitchin.

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Posted by florian schmidt - 2009/12/07 10:37

Well, the usenet police won't come & take you to jail, but the reason is that most newsreaders (at least most real newsreaders, all bets are off if you use Lookout) have a feature that permits quickly skipping quotes. I can do it with one mouse click or a keystroke. If you post at the top, & I want to see what you replied to, it's more difficult, & if I want to skip it, it's easy. It's just the way usenet evolved over the years. Yeah, and over the years i have learned that the fastest way to start endless off-topic discussions is to criticize someones posting style. Never has any good come out of these discussions. Nobody ever changed their style because of that. Some people respect nettiquette, others not. People in this group wanna talk about guitars and jazz, not about how to post. Regards

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

enjoy working with guitar; Dan Wall and Hod O'Brien come to mind immediately. I never had any problems working with them. Unfortunately, a lot of 'em are just as you described; the way they play doesn't change a bit no matter what instrumentation is on the stand or what's happening in the tune. You might as well not be there! Regarding the guy you dealt with, Tommy Dorsey's quote might be apropos: You got a perfect ear, kid. No hole in it. This reminds me of one keyboard player I used to work regularly with years ago. I couldn't make a gig so they got a sub who had a good rep. For whatever reason, this keyboard player (a Scientologist- need I say anymore?)had problems playing with any guitarists other than me. On each tune in the first set, the keyboard player was screaming at the guitarist not to play whatever he was playing, and to play something different. By the third tune of the 1st set, the guitarist handed the keyboard player his 335 and said Here, since you know how to play this better than I do, you can play for

the rest of the set. And he left the stand and sat at a table in disgust! Ha ! I like that - that's like the Richie Cole Story - If I remember it correctly a listener was heckling Richie - Bemoaning that He is just trying to sound like Charlie Parker Richie handed him his Sax and said - here - you try and sound like Charlie Parker I don't know if I would have lasted on your gig - your keyboard player wouldn't have been handed my guitar he would have been wearing it!

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Here comes the bitching session. What is it with piano players??? Who died and made them gods. In CG circles it's referred to as 'clang power'.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Hey all, I did my first sideman gig in quite a few months last night. I don't do many of them because I am very busy with my own group. I was part of a quartet fronted by a singer (the bandleader) consisting of piano-guitar-bass-drums. The singer would leave us alone for the first couple of tunes and then join us (I still don't know why singers do that). Their voices are a lot more delicate than our fingertips. They simply won't last singing 4 hours straight without hurting their voices. There are exceptions of course. But none I've met. Anyway - the bass player was a guy I've worked with before - he's excellent and we go along just fine as always - the drummer was a gas to work with - we had never met - his time was great - he swung like crazy and he was real sensitive to everything. So the rhythm section was beautiful. Here comes the bitching session. What is it with piano players??? Who died and made them gods. This guy who shall remain nameless to protect the not so innocent - was a beautiful player. Great chops - good ideas - nice time - pleasant person - great harmony - strong solos. He has a widely known reputation for being an excellent player - I was looking forward to the gig. There were only two things missing - HIS EARS ! Review any of my rants on this. It's one of the biggest pet peeves in my musical world. It's not just working with them anymore

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Patrick, I hear what your saying - But I don't know how one would practice listening - you just listen - and stay awake - or you don't listen - and nobody likes playing with you. I think it's more of a conscious decision than something to practice - somewhere along our careers, someone hipped us to the idea that we, as musicians should listen to everyone else in the band. Young (inexperienced) musicians have a tendency to try to get all their hip shit out so everyone can hear - and sooner or later someone tells them to play less and hear more. I remember doing a gig when I was a very green player. It wasn't a jazz gig - it was more like a R&B revue gig. I was in High School, it was one of the first gigs I got hired for as a guitar player that wasn't a school thing. I was going to be playing with this group for a month. The first night I was really pumped - I played all my baddest stuff (so I thought). Fast solos - lots of funky rhythms - all crazy stuff - I was strutting my stuff. At the end of the gig the drummer came up to me and introduced himself as the guy I would be laying with tomorrow night. I said yea I know we met when I first got here. He said yeah I know we've met - but I am still looking forward to playing WITH you - I was crushed - but I learned a huge lesson. If you decide to listen - you'll hear. It's a choice - by listening you automatically get better at listening - it's not something I think you can practice - it's something you do - or don't do. At least that's what I think. As far as the next time - I won't be in a similar situation with his guy - but if there is a next time - I might just get up off the bandstand and get some coffee when I am not soloing. I've tried the go this ... lay out thing. It usually works for the moment - but I get tired of having to say it too many times a night. As far as the rest of your suggestions - they are good ones - but maybe it's me - I go to a gig to play with other musicians - not to work with them. I know it's just semantics - but if I gotta work that hard just to get a guy to notice that I am on the bandstand with him - one of us don't belong there. I enjoyed your reply I am looking forward to working with Charles again - It's been a few years since we've played together - we go way back.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

If I know Blenzig - he sounded great - he would sound great if he was miced through bull horn

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Peter, I used to suffer from piano envy - I stopped - It isn't worth it. I found there was a lot I could do that they can't. I also have the attitude that If I have to ask you to play with me and respect my role on the bandstand - I won't - I just won't ever be in the position that I will have to ask again - One of us won't be there next time. I am very short sighted that way. I have probably missed out of playing with great players because I would never hire them again after a night of something like that. In my book you get one shot. If a player does anything to me like not listening - showing up late - getting high in the middle of a gig - not showing up - watching TV on the bandstand - etc. They don't ever get the chance to do it again. I've turned down gigs because there was someone on the gig that I didn't want to play with. I know I lose gigs that way. That's why I book my own things. by the way - Mimi is right. No wonder there are so many two guitar quartets out there.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Chip, I sometimes like to remind piano players that they are officially listed as a percussion instrument in an orchestra. They don't like that very much.

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Posted by Tim Berens - 2009/12/07 10:37

news:PWD%a.4748\$\$S_.1053@fed1read01: Actually, this brings up a question - why does Usenet convention mandate bottom posting? I can understand the reason for it (that you can read what's being replied to), but OTOH you have to scroll down further. The way I see it, there are disadvantages and advantages to either one, and it would be logical to allow a case-by-case decision based on the content of both the original post and the reply. Well, the usenet police won't come & take you to jail, but the reason is that most newsreaders (at least most real newsreaders, all bets are off if you use Lookout) have a feature that permits quickly skipping quotes. I can do it with one mouse click or a keystroke. If you post at the top, & I want to see what you replied to, it's more difficult, & if I want to skip it, it's easy. It's just the way usenet evolved over the years.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Pt, It's not my job to make them better musicians. I got enough to do trying to be a better musician myself. Now I should be responsible to educate them. I don't need the extra work. Funny thing is at the end of the gig - the drummer came up to me and said he would like to work with me again but in a trio setting with no piano. Go figure. The drummer was more sensitive than the piano player. If you don't mind I'll leave the education of pianist to you. I'll send them your way and you can straighten them out.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Adam, I don't mind working with players who are less experienced I think every musician has something to contribute. I don't like words like inferior. I think it's arrogant to think of another musician as inferior. Less experienced maybe. However, if I had my way - I would always choose to be the worst player in the band. I learn more that way.

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Posted by Doug Proper - 2009/12/07 10:37

Josip, Ha - I like that! This was an acoustic gig. Meaning the piano wasn't amplified - maybe I should have gotten up - walked over and closed the lid on the piano - I bet that would have gone over well.

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theme of the pianist Pianists vs. Guitarists

Posted by Max Leggett - 2009/12/07 10:37

Top posting is always wrong and is only done by idiots. Tim On 17 Aug 2003 06:08:30 GMT, Stan Gosnell <GLSNightPi...@yahoo.com wrote: Adam Bravo <mra...@cox.net wrote in news:PWD%a.4748\$S_.1053@fed1read01: Actually, this brings up a question - why does Usenet convention mandate bottom posting? I can understand the reason for it (that you can read what's being replied to), but OTOH you have to scroll down further. The way I see it, there are disadvantages and advantages to either one, and it would be logical to allow a case-by-case decision based on the content of both the original post and the reply. Well, the usenet police won't come & take you to jail, but the reason is that most newsreaders (at least most real newsreaders, all bets are off if you use Lookout) have a feature that permits quickly skipping quotes. I can do it with one mouse click or a keystroke. If you post at the top, & I want to see what you replied to, it's more difficult, & if I want to skip it, it's easy. It's just the way usenet evolved over the years.

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Posted by Gerry Scott-Moore - 2009/12/07 10:37

Stan Fong <skingf...@yahoo.com wrote in news:3f3edad2@monitor.lanset.com: Okay this is for you Stan. :^) Although my preference is to post at the top because I've probably already read the prior posts. But I might not have, & would like to see the context before I see your post. Usenet convention is to post at the bottom, after stripping out unnecessary prior posts. There is along tradition, the bulk of human history, wherein the logic of the written word is from top to bottom, whether in columns moving to the left or in lines moving to the right. Top posting is just another linch-pin of the universe that Windows software (Outlook and many others), decided was a great way to avoid hitting the page down key twice. Finger-wiggling preceeded logic as the focus of design.

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Posted by Gerry Scott-Moore - 2009/12/07 10:37

I read your reply with great interest - I am glad I am not alone in the world. I think you might dislike piano players just a bit more than I do :-). Well you're young

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Posted by Gerry Scott-Moore - 2009/12/07 10:37

Funny thing is at the end of the gig - the drummer came up to me and said he would like to work with me again but in a trio setting with no piano. Go figure. The drummer was more sensitive than the piano player. Of course! Obviously! If most drummers and bassists wore the ear and brain-plugs that pianists wear they'd get screamed at endlessly. Didn't you see me wrinkle my nose to indicate we were taking it out?!? Actually as has been said in other ancillary rants I don't think players look at each another enough, either. Most players shouldn't have to aborb themselves with the visual aspects watching their hands, nor feel compelled to close their eyes in order to concentrate. But that's another rant...

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Posted by David Moss - 2009/12/07 10:37

Doug Proper wrote... Interesting thread. I don't have you guys' gigging experience, but on the purely human level it seems there are quite a few ways to express your feelings to the pianist: 1. After the gig, humbly ask him for a critique of your solo. Push for details, and try to keep a straight face. 2. On the pianist's solo, turn up your amp and do unto the pianist as he does unto you. When he complains, tell him you did it in order to find out whether unselfish comping is a theme he's prepared to talk about - and since he obviously is interesting in talking about it, you have something to tell him.... 3. Secretly fix up with the bass player to shift up a half-tone at the start of your solo. See how many choruses it takes until the pianist notices. 4. After the gig, tell him he shows a lot of promise and offer him lessons. If he asks what kind of lessons - tell him in lesson 1 he'll just listen to you either (a) playing or (b) not playing your guitar, and he has to attempt to guess whether it was (a) or (b). When he's mastered that, he can move on to him guessing whether he's hearing a single note or a chord.

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Posted by Bob R - 2009/12/07 10:37

I also have the attitude that If I have to ask you to play with me and respect my role on the bandstand - I won't - I just won't ever be in the position that I will have to ask again - One of us won't be there next time. Amen. That's how I handle those things too. If somebody needs to be told that kind of stuff, I'm not interested in working with them.

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Posted by Tim Berens - 2009/12/07 10:37

Here comes the bitching session. What is it with piano players??? My pet peeve with piano players is their insistence that nobody comp for them while they solo because they can handle it themselves. I used to work regularly with this piano player. At first, I comped while he took solos. In that situation, I usually focus on keeping things rhythmically interesting, and harmonically simple, leaving the hairy harmonies for the pianist. Eventually, he insisted that I sit out during his solos so he could comp for himself. Comping for himself meant hitting the chord on the first beat of the measure with his left hand and holding it for four beats. Yawn. The overall sound of the music became immediately less interesting, but the piano player got to comp for himself, which in pianoland is more important than producing good music. In practicalmusicland, very few pianists can comp for themselves as well as a skilled guitarist could comp for them. But they just can't bring themselves to allow that

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Posted by Joe Finn - 2009/12/07 10:37

Top posting is always wrong and is only done by idiots. Tim This shit is tooo funny. I'm laughing so hard I think I hurt myself. 8-) ouch!joe

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Posted by Josip Seidl - 2009/12/07 10:37

Ha - I like that! This was an acoustic gig. Meaning the piano wasn't amplified - maybe I should have gotten up - walked over and closed the lid on the piano - I bet that would have gone over well.

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Posted by Michael Ellenberger - 2009/12/07 10:37

I just love a good rant ;-) though I have to agree with much of what Doug and Gerry said. The pianist I play with regularly is slowly getting trained as am I. Heck he'll even let me comp during a bass solo some times! We constantly battle over the harmonic and rhythmic landscape. Sometimes he listens to me and sometimes I listen to him so we blend better and other times we just flail away. It's not a performance situation so it's critical though I like to treat every playing time I have with other musicians like a performance. In general we work together very well. I'm more groove oriented, so I think I interact more with the bassist and drums. The pianist, near as I can tell, seems to focus more on interacting with the soloist when possible though we haven't discussed it lately. I think in this mode listening for the guitar, bass, and drums doesn't happen, the focus is too small; the entire band has to interact as a unit. Mike

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