

Letter to the Editor

I was happy to receive a copy of the Nov. issue of CAML, which had a review of my book *One Long Tune*. I appreciate your including this review in your magazine and was pleased that your reviewer seemed to have enjoyed the book and had some kind words to say about it.

There are a few mistakes in the review which I'd like to point out.

1. Lenny was not a "Winnipeg-born" guitarist as stated in the first line. He was born in Auburn Maine.
2. Bob Erlendson's name is misspelled consistently as "Erlandson".
3. Lenny didn't play "The Claw" as a set piece. He used the structure of the Reed original as a head but the rest of it changed dramatically from night to night. I have several recordings of Lenny doing this piece; they're all strikingly different even ones performed within a week or two of one another.
4. Mr. Van der Bliek refers to a recording mentioned in the book and says that he couldn't locate it in the discography. That's because, as I point out in the anecdote, the recording was an acetate cut by CKUA radio in Edmonton for their archives and was never released commercially.

Also, Mr. Van der Bliek seems to be familiar with Lenny's music and jazz in general but I'd question his comment that most of Lenny's improvisations were "dazzling but disjointed". I suggest that he listen closely to Lenny's first RCA album as well as Live at Bourbon Street. Most of the solos on both these albums are seamlessly developed and

guided by well developed motifs as all good improvisation is. The Shelly's Manne Hole album is very different animal in terms of improv but I'd be hard put to describe the solo development on the more standard jazz tunes like Bluesette as "disjointed".

But despite these quibbles I appreciated this review perhaps more than any other the book has had because of Mr. van der Bliek's knowledge of jazz which informed his comments on, for example, the question of how well Bill Evans's improvisational concepts translated into Lenny's style. The short answer is--some did and some just didn't and it's perceptive of the reviewer to point this out. I was also really pleased that he appreciated my index! Never having written one before, I was quite concerned that my first attempt at it be up to snuff.

Thanks again for including the piece on my book and thanks to Mr. van der Bliek for such a detailed and well-written review!

Cheers,

Ron Forbes-Roberts

[The review of Mr Forbes-Roberts' book was published in the *CAML Review*, v. 34, no. 3 (Nov. 2006)—Ed.]