

Thoughts Out of Season

Occasional Reviews & Notes

Of Mutual Interest

Compiled by Tim & Terry Forward

WHY I PRACTICE THE TROMBONE



Fig 1.

“ . . . autonomous works of art, by virtue of their peculiar attuned outsider perspective, are ideally positioned to provide a kind of social critique. Although implicated socio-historically in the advance of techno-rationality – in fact, *because* they are so implicated – musical works are able, in rearticulating the pool of available musical material, to expose the poor state of human relations within late capitalist society.

Through their fidelity to expressive tradition, and internal logic with which musical material is reformed and extended, autonomous works have potential for providing insight in the problems that plague modern living.

They are also able to present, through their form, a model of future noncoercive collectivity. Through form within the play between discrete aspects and their coming together in the creation of the work, we glimpse a model of progressive sociality.”¹

¹ Fumi Okiji, *Jazz and Critique*, (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2018) 31.

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WHY I PRACTICE THE TROMBONE (Take #2)

Compared to What

Music by Eddie Harris

Lyrics by Eugene Mcdaniels

Recorded June 21, 1969

I love the lie and lie the love
A-Hangin' on, with push and shove
Possession is the motivation
that is hangin' up the God-damn nation
Looks like we always end up in a rut
(everybody now!)
Tryin' to make it real, compared to what?
C'mon baby!

Slaughterhouse is killin' hogs
Twisted children killin' frogs
Poor dumb rednecks rollin' logs
Tired old lady kissin' dogs
I hate the human love of that stinking mutt
(I can't use it!)
Try to make it real, compared to what?
C'mon baby now!

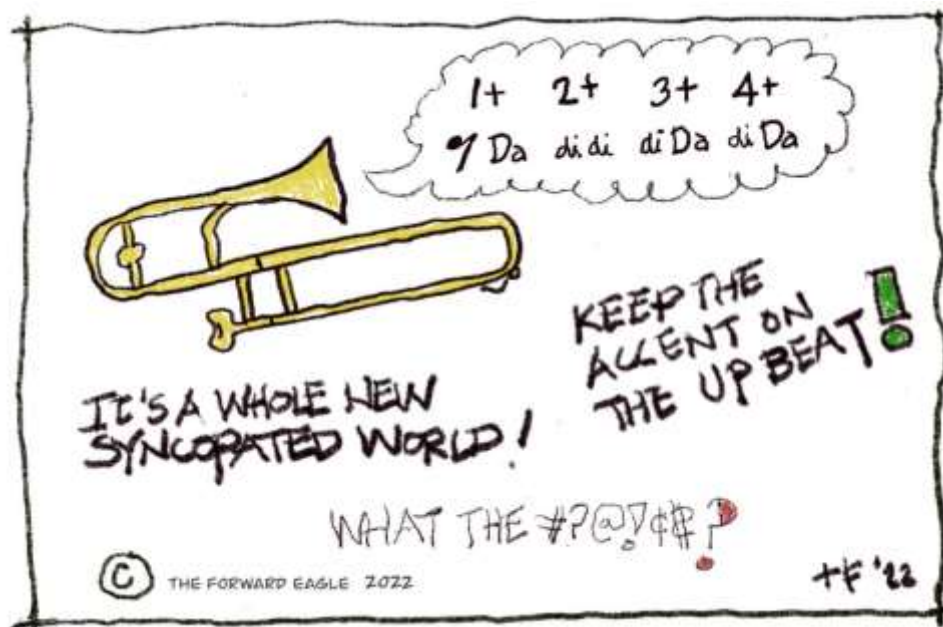
The President, he's got his war
Folks don't know just what it's for
Nobody gives us rhyme or reason
Have one doubt, they call it treason
We're chicken-feathers², all without one nut.
God damn it!
Tryin' to make it real, compared to what?
(Sock it to me)

² Small annoyances

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Church on Sunday, sleep and nod
Tryin' to duck the wrath of God
Preacher's fillin' us with fright
They all tryin' to teach us what they think is right
They really got to be some kind of nut
(I can't use it!)
Tryin' to make it real, compared to what?

Where's that bee and where's that honey?
Where's my God and where's my money?
Unreal values, crass distortion
Unwed mothers need abortion
Kind of brings to mind ol' young King Tut
(He did it now)
Tried to make it real, compared to what?
Tryin' to make it real, compared to what?³



³ <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=lyrics+compared+to+what>
Compared to What lyrics © Wixen Music Publishing. Listen to "Compared to What" at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrjQSVb1kk&list=OLAK5uy_mCIGBbBda3XmKM7CtwksBTfHfm9DptoTs