Well educated people of whom some critical reflection might be expected and the dumb and numb consumer will buy tickets to see Rembrandt singing and tap-dancing on stage with his old mother and with all of his wives. John Seabrook is right: there is no distinction between high culture and low culture any more, there is just the popified N©brow.

Trying to figure out who and what is popified in jazz is an interesting mind-game. Jamie Cullum is definitively playing popified jazz but where is the line of division? The presence or absence of improvisation does determine the line anymore. The Kenny G's of the world improvise a little here and there but are the kings of popification. Wynton Marsalis in historicizing jazz has to face the criticism that he has also contributed to popification, however classy and clever, of jazz. Has Blue Note become a popified record label? What about the big international jazz festivals and what about Miles Davis after his come back in the late seventies?

I am sure that at the next IASJ Jazz Meeting during the Ongoing Dialogues quite some discussion will take place on popification. Jazz can be an answer to popification and I think jazz schools have a moral obligation to find it. Only an organization such as the IASJ can offer the platform to give direction in finding the means to escape and avoid popification.

Walter Turkenburg
Editor

IASJ Bulletin Board

The 4th Martial Solal International Jazz Piano Competition will take place in Paris from the 23rd of September until the 1st of October 2006. French pianist Martial Solal is the chairman of the jury comprised of eminent international musicians. The competition is open to jazz pianists of all nationalities. The candidates must be born after the 23rd of September 1973. The deadline for application is the 15th of June 2006. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of € 25 and each candidate selected to enter the next three rounds will be charged an additional € 40. Once a candidate has passed into the first round, the organizers will take over the accommodation costs. The six prizes ranges from € 2.000 to € 12. 000 and there are additional awards. In the past Simon Nabatov (USA), Baptiste Trotignon (France), and Peter Beets (The Netherlands) were among the winners.

Martial Solal International Jazz Piano Competition
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KUG

The University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria, Institute for Jazz, announces a

Professorship for Piano Jazz

beginning October 1st, 2007, for a five-year-period with the possibility of extension.

The following qualifications are expected:

Excellent artistic and pedagogical qualify in the announced subject.

Applications requested **until May 31st, 2006.**

More information:
http://www.kug.ac.at/aktuelles/mitteilungsblaetter.php