

## **Audio Transcript: H. Alonzo Jennings**

Radio Producer, *Jazz from an Eclectic Mind*

My name is Alonzo Jennings, or H. Alonzo Jennings to be more specific. I been associated with PhillyCAM for a couple of years now. I came here in association with my friend, Darrell Lloyd, who is a- has a show that comes on after mine, he would come in and do all kinds of controversial topics. And then he said "I piss a lot of people off. So why don't you join me and play some music," he said, "I'll make him mad. And then you come in and play some Miles Davis and chill him out." So that's how I arrived here at PhillyCAM and they liked what I did, evidently, and I submitted it for my own show and I wound up with a show called *Jazz from an Eclectic Mind*. And that title derives from my infinite love of jazz, and the diversity of jazz. It ranges from jazz from the 1920s to the 1930s, to jazz-influenced hip hop, Willie Nelson, with Wynton Marsalis. So when you turn into my show, you really never know what you're going to hear because you may hear some hip hop, again, you may hear some country music, you may hear some classical music.

One of the things I like to do is mix those genres. And the example I always use is I do a section every year combining classical and jazz. And the prime example I use is the great opera singer Maria Callas, who is considered by many people to be the original diva. She was a diva plus 925 and she does the song called "La Mamma Morta," which means that "my mother is dead." So I will play that. It's a mournful, soulful piece, and I'll play that and then the next song I will play is Sarah Vaughan playing- singing "Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child." It's the same song. It's the same feel it's the same meaning. So I try to get people that listen to me to understand that there's more to jazz than Charlie Parker. There's more to jazz than Duke Ellington or there's more to jazz even than my favorite musician of all time, which is John Coltrane. When I run into folks, they say "Yeah, I missed the show last week, I'ma catch you this week." The audience deserves to see the breadth and the scope of this music called Jazz.