

Salon Salvation: David Andersen Pianos' "Atelier"



Maybe the best music experience I had last year was **pianist Tamir Hendelman's** piano concert in a Mar Vista backyard. On a fall Sunday afternoon, the prodigiously gifted Hendelman explored more facets to his playing than most pianists commonly show

in several settings. He ruminated on standards, originals, and classical pieces, each taken for its own intrinsic values. It was a stunning display of virtuosity in a lovely performance space.

In one form or another, jazz salons have been a part of the Los Angeles landscape since the Central Avenue rent parties of the 1930s. Always informal, they often happened on the spur of the moment, timed to the arrival of a famous visiting musician like piano god **Art Tatum** or bebop avatar **Charlie Parker**. Doris Duke held a series of famous gatherings in the '50s at her Falcon Lair home in Hollywood. In the past 10 years or so, the idea of **ongoing salons**, presided over by knowledgeable fans on a regular basis, has taken hold. One of the **very best** is Andersen's "**Live at the Atelier**" piano series.

He's a renowned restorer and seller of vintage pianos, and the few lucky artists to receive an Atelier showcase play on what they say are incredible instruments. A spectacular buffet lunch is provided, and the sunlit backyard is a sculpture garden. It showcases the figure work of sculptor Tanya Ragir, Andersen's fiancé and partner.

Andersen records his concerts, and Hendelman returns for a Sept. 23 performance. Like a day at your favorite secluded beach, a Sunday afternoon at the **Atelier** amounts to a quintessential Southern California experience. See davidandersenpianos.com.

--Kirk Silsbee

Jazz historian
Editor, L.A. CityBeat