

V252

*I had to go to the hospital and get a booster shot in order to get Covid19. Imagine that!*

**DONNY BREWER**

*New Singer for Me. Do you listen to Buffett? Are you a Parrothead?*

*Phins up! So listen to this guy and*

**Back to Work!**

*Yeah, after a 3 week DiveCation and two weeks of Covid related quarantine, I had to slide back into a work mode.*

January 2022  
**St. Some Times**

# COVID TIMES



## No Symptoms for Two Years

So, I get back from vacation and work for four days. Mind you, in order to enter the country, I had to have a PCR covid test. I had to have several over the holiday travels. No symptoms. Everything going well.

The island company I work for mandated that all teachers have to have the 3rd shot -the Pfizer booster - before February 1. Otherwise, we have to get a PCR test every few days or just cannot go to work and get docked pay until we have the booster shot. Did you also know, we are required by the government to

download an app called Tawakal Hulatawala? This app has to be on all the time so the government can track us 24/7.

## Booster Time

In order to have my app show me as IMMUNE, I went in to get my booster shot. The nurse tells me, before she shoots me, about all of the side effects: fever, swelling of the site, sniffles, cold-like symptoms. Then she pokes me.

No problem. The first two AZ shots didn't affect me at all. But 15 minutes later, a fever shuts me down completely. Knowing my body after 52 years, I went to sleep for two straight days and missed work on Sunday.

Sunday night, I woke up at 2am fresh as a daisy. What did I do? I went into work. After all, the nurse had warned me of the side effects. Just as my students entered for first period, our school nurse walks in with a shitty look on her face and tells me I have to go to the hospital and get a PCR test, because I showed symptoms. Not her rule. School rule. Ugh.

## Test Results "Irregular" (positive!)

What the hell? I waited in the covid response room for an hour for my name to be called. Confused about what the other nurse was doing with lined-up walk-ins, I lined up for her. "What are you doing in here if you don't need to see a doctor? Give me your information and go out to the drive-through PCR testing." So I did.

The drive through line was wrapped around and through the parking lot. Weird. Anyone parked there for the pharmacy were hemmed in and waiting to get out behind all of us lined up for the drive through. I looked over and saw a sign on the hospital building to my left: "Ease of JHAH parking. Valet for patients! Go to our new App!" How ironic. After almost two years of

trying to cope with Covid, our hospital STILL hadn't figured this out. It took me an hour and a half to get my brain stabbed and my throat choked with another PCR. (yes, they did nose and throat)

I spent the next 24 hours waiting for my results to show up on my **Hakunamata BigBrother app**. Just sat at home and worked on my manuscript corrections. My phone beeps. App says **"Irregular"** results. Later it changed to **"Infected!"**

## 7 Days Quarantine

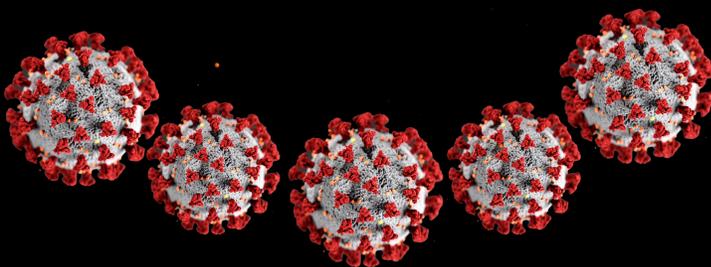
I popped a positive? Well isn't that just dandy. I had to go to a hospital to get Covid. People say I must have had it before the booster. Whatever. Who really knows. Needless to say, I spent the next seven days at home. So did four classes of

my students that I had taught just prior to the symptoms (which I still call **Booster Side Effects**)

Oh well. I finished the manuscript changes, had time to practice my many instruments, and ordered lots of Subway Meal Deliveries. I won't kid you. I slept a LOT and watched a LOT of Law & Order series.

## No More Symptoms

It's now more than a week since I had my booster. What can harm me now? How many PCR tests or boosters am I going to suffer in the future? Who knows? Who cares. It is what it is.



## Melt Downs and All Sorts of Crazy

I have to say it. My current school is blindly trying to maintain the perception of being the world's best school. They just won't shut down. There are SO many students and teachers out with possible Covid. The majority of the classes are at home doing **online** learning. If one student tests positive, yes the elementary kids are required to test now, then their entire class is sent home for a week. The teacher still comes in to work and teaches **online**. Those making the decisions are living in some different world. They just want to keep the perception of greatness. Meanwhile, teachers and staff are melting down. If we aren't teaching, we are subbing. It's all last minute. It's all crazy. It's all asinine if you ask me.

Ok. I'm done venting. It is what it is. A paycheck. A great paycheck. Not only are we employed, we are paid well. As long as we don't get "closed down" or limited when it comes to travel out of the country, we will survive. I can't wait to see how many staff leave at the end of this year. I project quite a few.

## Meanwhile in my Lab

Life goes on in our future labs. We finally got our new furniture - tables on castors. It makes a HUGE difference in the room. I still haven't had a chance to move everything around. In what little time we have away from kids actually being in front of us, our team has actually planned out two full weeks. That may sound weird from a teaching point of view, but we don't have a curriculum. Everything we do is exploration. Everything is new, kind of spectacular, and off the beaten track. Our students absolutely LOVE coming to future lab time. The hour-long class time goes by like a blink of an eye (even my worst class is over rather quickly). I love teaching. I love this shit. Whatever happens next, future lab is sailing through its growing pains. We are a great team. Go Future Lab!

# A Fresh Sound from the Caribbean

Why did it take me so long to find this guy? Donny offers that long lost sound that Buffett had in the 80's and 90's. Imagine Zach Brown and Buffett writing and singing together. That's what I find in Donny Brewer. His songs like *Retirement Song*, *Too Much Quetzal*, and *Hammock Built for Two* are reminiscent of Jimmy's older style. I hope you enjoy his music as much as I do.

## The Albums of Donny Brewer

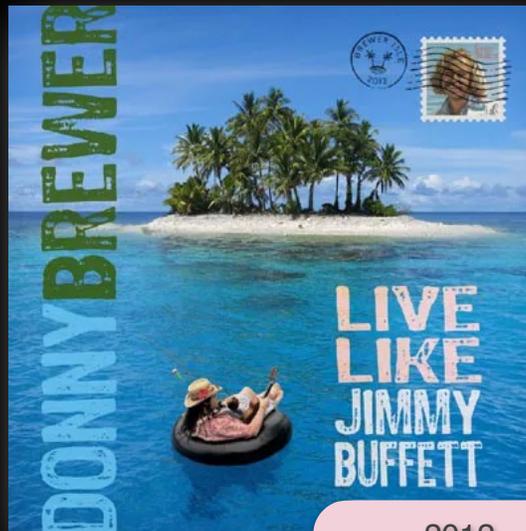
### Replaces Buffet? No!

Don't get me wrong. This is not by any means a replacement for Jimmy. Just think of Donny and his music as a throw back to a younger Buffett.

I haven't listened to all of his music, but on these three albums he sings mostly with a conga Caribbean backdrop. His slower songs like *Coulda Been a Pirate* feature a well known classic acoustic guitar style, as if he is sitting down in Marco at the Snook for an afternoon.

On the other hand, there are a few tunes like *Acapulco* on these three albums that sound like the Nylons are backing him up with acapella voices or Bobby McFarin wrote a tune for Donny.

The Beer Song is a live song that sounds like he recorded in a bar. Two words... LOVE IT. As you know, I am a beer man. Anything to do with beer is something for this kid! Except all the live burping. That could've been edited out.



2012

Face it. It's about time there was some refreshing tunes that fit well into the realm of Buffett without his Billionaire status, shouting his lyrics, and simply re-recording his old tunes.

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### Duets

Donny Brewer presents a dynamic array of styles. Start with his solo acoustic, move along with his conga tunes,

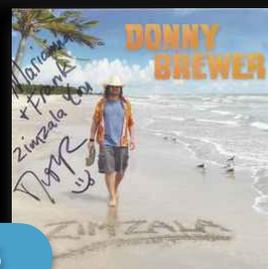
laugh at his corny acapella backups, and arrive at his duets. There is a woman that shows up in several of his songs like *The Sea*. It's refreshing. I'm not aware of Jimmy ever singing a slow, rhythmic duet with a woman.

### Buffett-esque!

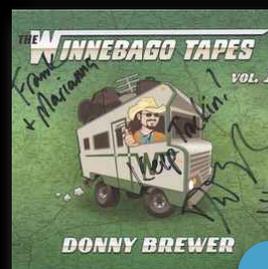
There are so many songs that make my fingers hover over the song navigation buttons and come so close to choosing *Son of a Son of a Sailor* or *Delaney Talks to Statues*.

Donny's song *Coconut Club* is a MUST HEAR. Google it or drum it up on Spotify. If you only have three minutes, head back to 2012 and listen to

*Live Like Jimmy Buffett*. Thank me later.



2015



2016

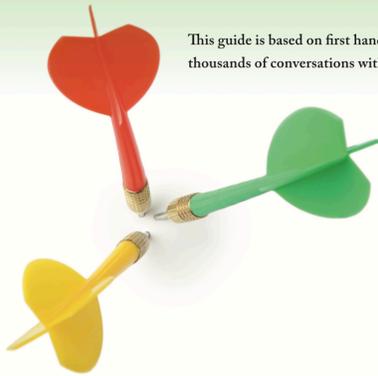
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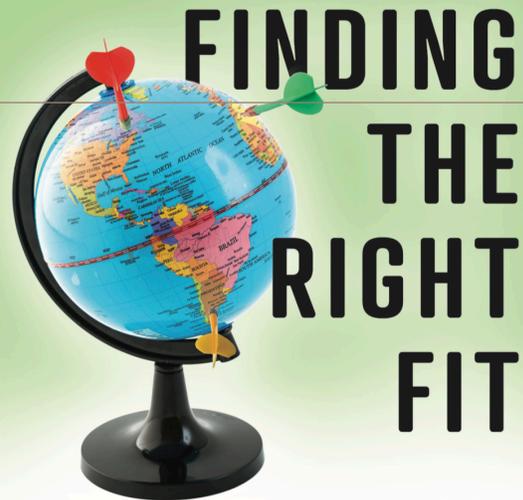


This guide is based on first hand experiences and thousands of conversations with overseas educators.



FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

GERN BLANNSTEN



# FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

**YOUR PROFESSIONAL GUIDE FOR**  
International Educator Recruiting Fairs  
and Amazing Stories of a Teacher Living Overseas

**GERN BLANNSTEN**

## Published...Almost

Shhh. Don't tell anyone yet. It's not done. Almost. I am in the final proofing days before the book is printed and delivered for sale.

It's going to take a painful eight weeks before the book is out for sale. It will be available for pre-order but it won't come out officially until the eight weeks after I agree to the final proofs.

## What a Process. I've Learned.

Ever since Joe said "Where is the book. Is it done? If you can't finish your book during Covid, you never will finish it." Right on, Joe. I appreciate the friendly push. It's working. After I finished my manuscript, I sent it to [BOOKBABY](#), an online self-publishing company in two pieces. The first half is a guide. It underwent a LINE EDITING at \$10/page. That's an intense, professional close edit line by line. Then I submitted the second half, which consists of my stories, for a copy edit. That edit is only \$7/page and

covers a less intense, yet still professional eye on the manuscript.

After I received the edits, I had to combine them and add the title and chapter headings. This was a final step before I paid the \$2500 to format, print, and prepare the book for eBook platforms.

## Final Proofing. Then Prints.

I just received the final proofs. Look at the cover. Not my artwork, but my concept and words. Mom and dad are proofing the proofs for me. I went through and found about ten things I need to change, but at this stage, all of the content changes cost extra before printing. Once I agree to the formatting changes and the cover, it goes to print. So. See you in eight weeks. Or, if you are reading this volume after March 2022, go online and buy it. Buy fifty copies please. Or five-hundred would be better. LOL.



The  
International Teacher Podcast

Dear ITP, you are such an  
awesome thief of my time.  
Recording has become quite  
sublime.

Matt and I will return.  
I have great hopes.

We have to.  
Or we will lose all those  
folks,  
who listen to us  
on each episode of your  
show.