

Ladies and Gentleman, The First Lady of Song ... Ehm, No!!! Mr Danny Breslauer

January 1, 2018

I have had the fortune to meet Danny at Columbia. I was about to graduate and he was just starting. We have shared many things since then. The last, only two old friends: a very pleasant dinner in Palermo two years ago, on the way to Venice, for the Workshop for Alberto.

But now, friends and colleagues, although my state of mind after that dinner to the latest news about Danny is not on glamorous notes, what comes next is on the notes of "Take the A Train":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ4cRG8B1g>

One glorious day in the early 90s (January 1992, I suppose), I received a phone call from Danny, that goes more or less like this. Well, honestly, it was a bit more colourful, but the essence is there. He had recently received an American Express Gold Card, with all the privileges that come with it. He was very proud of this possession and liked to share.

D: "Hi Raf, I know you like Jazz. Ella Fitzgerald is going to give a concert at Radio City Music Hall in May. I would like to invite you to come with me. It is going to be sold out. But with my Gold Card, I have priority on the tickets."

R: "Danny, very kind of you!!! I will be very pleased and honored to be your guest."

D: "Ok. I will buy the tickets and I will give you yours when they come in the mail."

R: "Well, keep them and we meet at Radio City before the show starts."

D: "The show starts at 8:00 pm. You go ahead to take your seat because I may be max 5 min late. They will let me in."

R: "Danny, it is nearly four months ahead. How can you be so sure you will be late and by that margin?"

D: "My remedial software project to pass the AI qualifying exam is due on the date of the concert"

R: "What does the exam have to do with Ella???"

D: "The project is easy and I can do it in half an hour. I start planning to work on it a couple of hours before the concert."

R: "Danny!!!, Can't you start maybe, well...let's not exaggerate, the day before?"

D: "Not worth it."

Well, that was the way it was going to be. That was Danny. On the day of the concert, I entered Radio City a few minutes before 8:00 pm and took my seat. As announced, no Danny. Then, the curtain was lifted, standing ovation and Danny materialized. After Ella.

D: "Raf, traffic was really bad."

He has a smile of great satisfaction and accomplishment on his face. This is the way I will remember Danny.