

THE LOS ANGELES JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS

A Look at America's National Treasure

Jazz Music

Developed by Dr. Thom Mason, Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Southern California

Presentation created by Dessa Drake, Fifth Grade Teacher
Canoga Park Elementary School

What is Jazz? Where did it come from?



Where did Jazz originate and how did it spread in the US?

The Contiguous United States



What is Jazz? How is it done?

- Jazz music begins when one or more jazz musicians create original music together
- Each member makes up his or her part at the very moment they play it
- Each performer has a special role or part, while they remain aware of what the other members are doing
- The music they create is organized around a musical form, but the notes, rhythms, melodies and harmonies are being created “on the spot”
- The solo is when one musician is featured while the other musicians play back up
- During the solo the musician takes several ideas and repeats them or changes them in different ways

What instruments do jazz players play?

Guitar



Bass



Piano



What instruments do jazz players play?

Alto
Saxophone

Tenor
Saxophone

Baritone
Saxophone

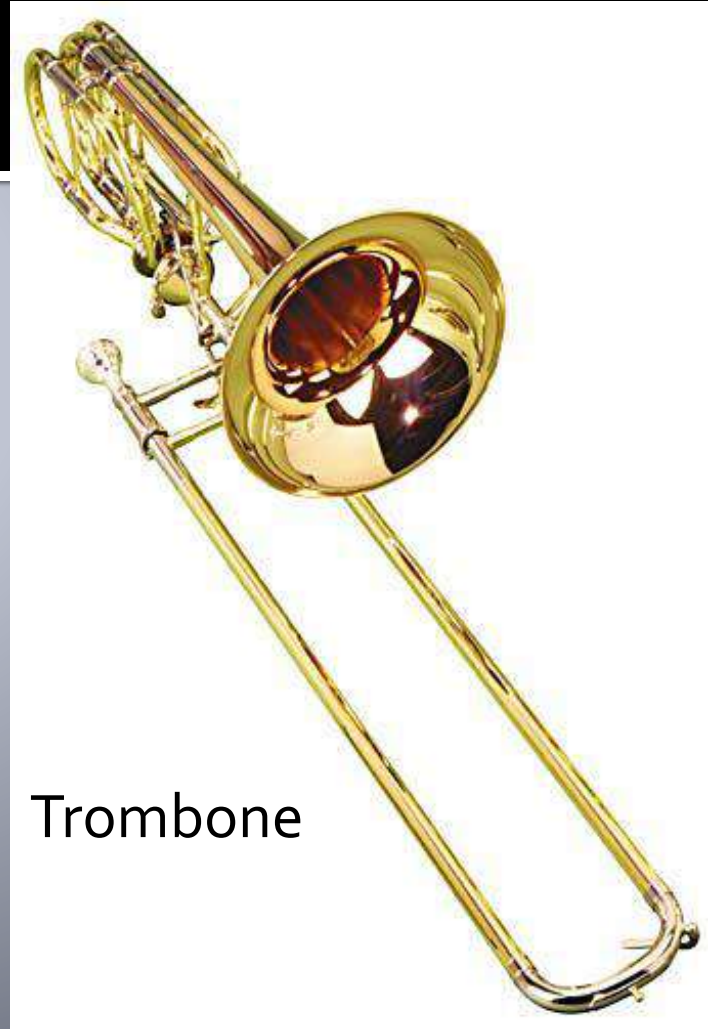


What instruments do jazz players play?

Trumpet



Trombone



Who are some of the important people in the history of Jazz Music?



Louis Armstrong

- The first great African American jazz musician
- A trumpet player and singer
- Referred to as the 1st genius of jazz for the things he did that are now standard in jazz
- Hit records in every decade from the 1920s until his death in the 1970s



Bessie Smith

- The most famous blues singer
- Called the “Empress of the Blues”
- The highest paid jazz singer in the 1920s
- 1st hit record “Downhearted Blues” sold over 800,000 copies in 1923, saving a record company from going out of business



Duke

Ellington

- The most famous big band composer
- Composed over 1500 original songs and instrumental pieces
- Many people consider him the most important composer of American music in the century
- Many of his band members stayed with him for over 40 years



Ella Fitzgerald

- The most famous female jazz singer
- Won a talent contest in Harlem when she was 18
- Joined Chick Webb's band, and after he died, she became the 1st woman to lead a jazz big band made up completely of men
- Nicknamed "The First Lady of Swing"



Charlie Parker

- The most famous Modern Jazz saxophone player
- Nicknamed "Bird"
- The 1st great modern jazz soloist
- Played with such a high level of technical skill that many thought his records were doctored up



Miles

Davis

- One of the most famous trumpet players of Modern Jazz
- Called the founder of "Cool Jazz"
- One of the 1st jazz musicians to blend jazz with pop and soul music



Al Aarons & the LA Jazz Caravan

Listen for:

- the saxophone
- the trombone
- the trumpet
- the electric guitar
- the piano
- the drum



Styles of Jazz



Dixieland Style

- The 1st style of jazz for instruments
- The horns in the front often “jam” solos at the same time, called “collective improvisation”
- After collective improvisation at the beginning, each player takes a solo, followed by another collective improvisation
- Louis Armstrong was the 1st jazz soloist to make this style important
- Most of this style of jazz was created in New Orleans, “the birthplace of jazz” and in Chicago, “the home of the blues” during the 1920s and 1930s



Jelly Roll Morton's Red Hot Peppers

Blues

Style

- The 1st style of jazz for singers
- Began in the 1920s with "Race Records," which were meant for the black community
- First blues recording was "Crazy Blues" by Mamie Smith
- Women were the most famous blues singers of the 1920s, while men became famous in the 1930s
- The main feature of this style is the use of blue notes, which give the music a sad or "blue" quality
- Blues solos bend notes, falls, and smears and often repeat an idea over and over



Big Band Swing Style

- Brought instruments and singers together
- The most popular music in America from the 1930s until the end of World War II
- Big bands had as many as 20 or more musicians in them
- Sounded more modern than Dixieland jazz
- People loved to dance to the sound of big bands
- The most famous had singers as well as soloists
- Performed in ballrooms



Famous African American Big Band Leaders

Count Basie

Cab Calloway



Duke Ellington



Big Band Swing Style

- Most big bands were either all black or all white until Jewish clarinet player Benny Goodman began hiring African Americans for his big band in the mid-1930s
- He did not believe anyone should have to experience prejudice
- Big bands have been integrated ever since



Modern Style

- BeBop, the music of the 1940s, started this style
- It brought jazz to the highest technical level possible
- Players work hard to create complex solos
- Saxophonist Charlie Parker and trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie first established this style, performing together in NYC in the 1940s



Latin Jazz

- Uses the rhythms of Central and South America
- Musicians play the rhythms of Cuba, Brazil, and other Latin-American countries, while soloists create the technical and complex solos of modern jazz
- Dizzy Gillespie was one of the 1st to perform this style
- Popular in Los Angeles



AFRO-LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA
WITH ARTURO O'FARRILL, Music Director

To download this photo via the Web, go to www.jazzatlincolncenter.org/presenters

How Can I Listen to Jazz?

**KJazz FM
(KKJZ)
Radio 88.1**