

The history of jazz media essay

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The History of Jazz

What is Jazz? What are the characteristics of jazz? Where did jazz originate from? What types of instruments are used in jazz? There are many different types of questions that many people wonder about jazz. Jazz is a style of music that is merged with ragtime. Ragtime is a term that African Americans create to describe a form of jazz that has a durable stressed rhyme. Blue notes, "call-and-response" patterns, improvisation and polyrhythms are some of its major characteristics. European musical influences are also in the mix. Some refer to jazz as "America's classical music." (Chiedozie)

Where does jazz originate from? Some will debate and say jazz originally "was born in 1895, when Buddy Bolden started his first band. Others will say it was created in 1917, when Nick LaRocca and his Original Dixieland Jazz Band recorded the first jazz record, "Livery Stable Blues." Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" (Birthplace of Jazz)

Jazz consists of some instruments such as; saxophones, clarinets, bass guitar, piano, trombone and vocals. All of these instruments and much more make up the jazz sound. It is a perfect mixture of African and European musical styles. Jazz is considered to be one of the most popular genres of music of all times. There are many popular jazz musicians and music known worldwide such as Billy Holiday, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, and Charlie Parker. Some very popular jazz songs are "I'll Be Seeing You," "What a Wonderful World," and "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Georgia on My Mind." Jazz is a perfect mixture of African and European musical styles. New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz. New Orleans was the only state that slaves could own drums. Jazz music also became the way to eradicate the racial issues between white and black musicians way back. (Jazz Music-History, Journey and Facts and Jazz)

The 20th century was

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the accredited turn for jazz. However; the origin of jazz started over several centuries ago, in about 1890 to 1932. The initial jazz band originated in New Orleans. Some of these bands were started by Joe King Oliver, Louis Armstrong and Ferdinand Jelly Roll Morton. Later this out of music would be called Dixieland. Dixieland bands are bands last that consist of trumpets, trombone, clarinets, any other instruments. Smaller Dixieland bands were established to play in small bars or bordellos that occurred in rougher parts of New Orleans. In these particular end ensembles a piano or string bass would often replace the tuba. The first jazz band was the original Dixieland jazz band; they made the first ever jazz recording. The earliest jazz artists were Bix Biederbecke, Fats Waller, and Joe Oliver. This was the beginning of jazz in the making. In a 1932- 1944 it was an era called the "swing" era. The swing period is known as the big band era because various amounts of music were created by bands of ten or more musicians. The bands in this time period, formed a much greater and completer sound than the sounds created by the earlier Dixieland jazz bands. The reason for this is because there were two or even three times as many players. The number of musician made a tremendous difference because swing music was more systematized in a homophonic construction. As a result the music sounded less complicated and more put together as a product. This evolution started back in the 20's and popular musician such as Louis Armstrong carried the trend all the way to the 40's. During the epoch jazz music was performed as a source enjoyment and entertainment since its commencement. Starting in swing age, jazz music was established into incredible harmony to dance to. This era lead jazz to accomplish widespread attention. One O'Clock Jump, which was one of Count Basie's recordings, sold over a millions copies In Kanas City, Bennie

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Morton can be noted for the start of the larger band in the swing era and in New York and Fletcher Henderson can be acknowledged for the same accomplishment in New York. The swing era would soon be over after the war.

World War II brought an end to the heyday of swing. Big bands began to shrivel, as musicians were sent overseas to fight. For this reason, the 1940s saw a surge in smaller ensembles, such as quartets and quintets. Groups often consisted of one or two horns, usually saxophone and/or trumpet, bass, drums, and piano. Smaller groups meant that the focus shifted from intricate arrangements to improvisation and group interaction. (Teichroew) The swing era was a very essential and important of making jazz more widescreen with dancing.

Another important part of jazz is called the bop era. Alternative names for the bop era are rebop or bebop. The word "bebop" is an onomatopoeic reference to the accented melodic lines of the music. Sometimes shortened to "bop," the name was most likely given to the style music retroactively, as the musicians themselves often referred to their style simply as "modern jazz." (What is Bebop?) Bop was produced to form as a revolution in contrary to the limitation on imaginative independence that was usual of the big bands of the swing era. There weren't much opportunity for soloists to experiment, so the solos were brief. This made the musicians resolution unhappy. Bebop was a resolution to this problem, bebop entertainers focused on undersized combos where there were plenty of opportunities for ground-breaking creativeness. Bop was made of very unique notes. "Bebop improvisations are composed mostly of eighth-note and sixteenth-note

figures which seem jumpy and include many twists and turns of melody. Also, it often includes large intervals between notes and abrupt changes of direction with regards to the melody. Bebop musicians based their improvisation around chord changes rather than just embellishing a melody. Often they enriched a piece by adding chords to the chord progression. This is known as substitution. Sometimes they would also alter the existing chords of a piece by flattening the 5 of the chord, or adding the 9 and 13 to the chord. This added to the complexity of bebop improvisation. One popular method of writing bebop tunes, utilized by Charlie Parker and many others, was to take the chord changes from an existing piece and write or improvise a new melody over those changes. This allowed a rhythm section to play a tune that they might have never heard before."(The 'Bop Era") There is no particular defining moment when bebop was created. However; there were many unconnected, but significant points that contributed to the conception of bebop. Bop was first played by these three musicians, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk. They played together and distinguished a precise convoluted type of composition. Max Roach was another and important part of bebop music; he is accountable for emerging the bebop methodology method to drums. He was a drummer who worked practically with the upmost best jazz artist in the 1940's. Although bebop was popular, it wasn't virtually as predominant as swing. At hand there are many rationalizations for this. " One explanation is that bop music was a lot more complicated than swing and therefore made it a hard music for the general public to appreciate. Whereas swing musicians pieces would sound the same in concert as in recordings a bop musician might never play a piece the same way twice. Another argument is that bop lacked popularity

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because there weren't that many bop singers. The argument is that people relate more to music with lyrics. Related to this argument is the fact that swing was popular dance music while bop was not. All this resulted in the fact that when Charlie Parker died in 1955 he was nowhere near as well-known as Benny Goodman or Duke Ellington. In the long run, however, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk, the three main figures in bop played a very significant part in the development of jazz." (The ' Bop Era) Bebop was a popular type of jazz that was created in the early 1940s and still lives on today. Bebop soon faded and as bebop was created because of the restrictions and boundaries of the swing age there was a new type of jazz created. The type of jazz as called cool jazz. Cool jazz means" sometimes given to the music inspired by bebop but played by white musicians after World War II such as Gerry Mulligan, Lee Konitz, Lennie Tristano, and Warne Marsh. However, Miles Davis (who was black), with his album Birth of the Cool, helped spread the popularity of the style, which tended to be more subdued and cerebral than hard bop, a parallel post-bebop movement."(Cool Jazz) " Cool" was developed by record corporations and columnist. The musician of this time hated their music to be classified, as they thought that it made their music lackluster. Cool Jazz was an answer to the convolutions of bebop jazz. In this time period jazz artist shifted jazz more to the classical side of music. An essential component of cool jazz was the unique sound characteristics that music artist target for. The pitch of cool jazz can be defined as peaceful, passive, submissive, gentle, and graceful. One of the more apparent tonal transformations in cool jazz is the usage of the subtle occurrence. Cool jazz players perform with sight vibrato. In contrast to bebop players develop the entire array of instruments and

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frequently concentrate on the extreme for the musical instruments. Cool jazz players are inclined to use middle keys. Cool jazz bands typically consist of several players to pull the music off. According to *Cool and Beyond*, "Cool jazz ensembles were usually composed of three to eight players. These ensembles often utilized instruments that had not previously been used in jazz ensembles. These instruments included the flute, the French horn, the oboe, and the cello. Another important instrument that worked its way into jazz was the flugelhorn. The flugelhorn was used quite often by Miles Davis, one of the leaders of the swing movement. In addition to introducing new instruments to jazz, the cool era also introduced new formats for compositions and new meter signatures. Musicians no longer only played in 4/4 or 2/4 time. Meters such as 3/4, 5/4, and 9/4 became more common. Some musicians even adopted some classical forms such as rondos and fugues. These musicians moved even closer to traditional classical music and their type of jazz has been categorized as "third-stream music." (Cool and Beyond) Cool jazz was a different yet memorable part of jazz history. New things were on the rise. After the finding all the new types of genre of jazz music such as swing, bebop, and cool jazz, jazz musicians weren't done yet. They wanted to test the waters with new arrangements and resonances. Some of this newly created subgenre of jazz included free jazz, acid jazz and avant-garde jazz. Free jazz was endeavor where each musician would attempt to change, modify, spread, or halt the resolutions of jazz. Several of the vocalists of free jazz were Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Nina Simone. Some of the instrumentalists were Louis Armstrong, Art Tatum, Miles Davis, Oscar Peterson, and Chet Baret. Acid jazz is musical category that chains together foundations of jazz, funk, and hip-hop. Some

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acid jazz musicians are A Tribe Called Quest, Count Basic, Dis Jam, Erykah Badu, Noel McCoy, Smoke City, and Stereo MCs. Avant- grade jazz also known avant- jazz was developed in 1960, and is a type of music creativeness that syndicates avant- garde art music and configuration with jazz. Some avant garde jazz musicians are Django Bates, Han Bennink, Globe Unity Orchestra, Medeski, Martin and Wood, don Pullen and Alexander von Schlippenbach. This period in music was difficult to define into one particular name. A new part of bop was called hard bop and it was started in 1959 and ended in 1970. " The hard bop style obtained its name because it was more driving and less relaxed than cool jazz. In addition hard bop was also called funky due to its rollicking, rhythmic feeling. The funky style had many ties to gospel music and during the period was often called soul. Funky was a style that utilized highly rhythmical melodies and less complex harmonies than were used during the preceding era. Musicians created a style that can be described as happy or lacking tension. Funky jazz used bop elements, but they were much simplified. The playing style of funky jazz musicians stands in strong contrast to the measured and controlled expression of cool jazz artists. Funky jazz borrowed elements from the African American churches of the day. The scale used in funky jazz was very similar to the scale which had been used in early blues and had been refined through its use in church music. The predominance of blues notes during this period resulted in many players actually playing pieces in minor keys. Important artists in the genre included Sonny Rollins and Cannonball Adderly." (1959-1970: New Things) This era was an experimental period. It gave musicians and vocalists the opportunity to test new things in music. In this paper what have you learned about the history of jazz? Was there anything that you were already

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aware of? Where there things that you were just learning? Jazz is " American music developed especially from ragtime and blues and characterized by propulsive syncopated rhythms, polyphonic ensemble playing, varying degrees of improvisation, and often deliberate distortions of pitch and timbre" (Merriam-Webster). It was and still is the groundwork of black music and is still very popular today. Jazz is a great genre of music with lots of subgenre. Some was stated in the paper such as bebop, big band, swing, free jazz, and avant- garde jazz. Other subgenre that weren't talked about but it just as important is chamber jazz, soul jazz, traditional jazz and many more. Jazz is a historical platform that made way for many, many musicians that paved the way for future musical artists. Some current jazz musicians today are Cindy Bradley, Peter White, Jessy J, Richard Elliot, and Terry Wollman A few jazz songs are Deja Blue, Cry, The Funky Joint, Road trip, Sweet Tea, and Horizon. So as you see jazz is strong and still lives on well into 2013. Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach, Billie Holiday, and John Coltrane, are just a few of many who lined the way for so many. As I conclude this document ask yourself theses few questions, if we didn't have such incredible musician would jazz be the same? If these musicians didn't make such impeccable songs would jazz be the same? If we didn't have like an amazing musical style such as jazz, would music be the same? Tell me what do you think about jazz? Reference Page" All That Jazz History : Bop Era." ThinkQuest. Oracle Foundation, n. d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. ." All That Jazz History : Cool and Beyond." ThinkQuest. Oracle Foundation, n. d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. ." All That Jazz History : Early Jazz." ThinkQuest. Oracle Foundation, n. d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. ." All That Jazz History : New Things." ThinkQuest. Oracle Foundation, n. d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. ." All That Jazz History : Swing <https://assignbuster.com/the-history-of-jazz-media-essay/>

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