**Benny Goodman**

**Benjamin David** "**Benny**" **Goodman** (May 30, 1909 – June 13, 1986) was an American [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) and [swing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(genre)) musician,[clarinetist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarinetist) and [bandleader](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandleader), known as the "King of Swing".

In the mid-1930s, Goodman led one of the most popular musical groups in America. His [concert at Carnegie Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Famous_1938_Carnegie_Hall_Jazz_Concert) in New York City on January 16, 1938, is described by the critic Bruce Eder as "the single most important jazz or popular music concert in history: jazz's 'coming out' party to the world of 'respectable' music."

Goodman's bands launched the careers of many major jazz artists. During an era of [racial segregation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation), he led one of the first well-known [integrated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_integration) jazz groups. Goodman performed nearly to the end of his life while exploring an interest in[classical music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_music).