

Jazz History

Jazz is an original style of American Music. It is a unique blend of many styles of music including gospel music, brass bands, African music, blues, and Spanish music. Jazz incorporates musical notes that are "bent" to create emotion in the music. Jazz bands can be unique in that they create rhythm from a wide variety of instruments. The rhythms can shift and change throughout the song.

Improvisation

One of the most unique aspects of jazz is improvisation. This is when the music is made up during the song. There is an overriding melody and structure to the song, but the musicians play it differently each time. Usually, each musician gets the opportunity to solo during the song. They improvise during their solo trying out new tricks and ideas to see what works.

Where did it first start?

Jazz was invented by African-American musicians in New Orleans, Louisiana in the late 1800s. The music became more popular in the 1900s and took the country by storm in the 1920s. In the 1920s, the center for jazz moved from New Orleans to Chicago and New York City.

The Jazz Age

Jazz was so popular in the 1920s that the time period is often called the "Jazz Age" by historians. This was also a time of prohibition when selling alcohol was illegal. During the Jazz Age, illegal clubs called "speakeasies" were opened all over the United States. These clubs featured jazz music, dancing, and sold alcohol.

The Jazz Age was a time when many jazz musicians and bands became famous. They included bands such as Kid Ory's Original Creole Jazz Band and the New Orleans Rhythm Kings as well as musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington.

Later Jazz

Jazz continued to change and evolve over time. Many new forms of music came from jazz. In the 1930s, swing music was popular. It was played by large big bands and people liked to dance to it. In the 1940s, a more complex instrumental based version of jazz called "bebop" developed. Later, jazz influenced new styles such as funk, rock and roll, and hip hop.