

Kansas City jazz is a style of jazz that developed in Kansas City during the 1930s and marked the transition from the structured big band style to the musical improvisation style of Bebop. The hard-swinging, bluesy transition style is bracketed by Count Basie who in 1929 signed with the Bennie Moten's Kansas City Orchestra and Kansas City native Charlie Parker who was to usher in the Bebop style in the 1940s. According to a Kansas City website, "While New Orleans was the birthplace of jazz, America's music grew up in Kansas City". Kansas City is known as one of the most popular "cradles of jazz". Other cities include New Orleans, Chicago, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York City.

[View Timeline of Kansas City Jazz](#)

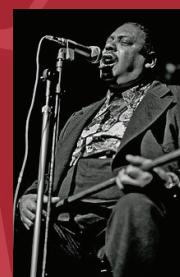
THE MUSICIANS WHO MADE HISTORY



SAMMY PRICE



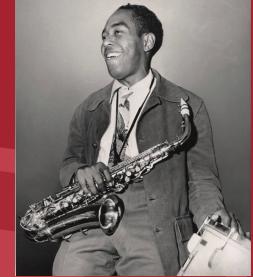
BOBBY WATSON



BIG JOE TURNER



MARY LOU WILLIAMS



CHARLIE PARKER