Influences of Jazz on Pop Culture, and Conversely the Assimilation of Pop Culture in to Jazz Music

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## Introduction

Jazz has changed over the decades since Herbie Hancock and Wynton Marsalis began their careers. Today, jazz is just as much a part of popular culture as any other genre, unlike in Marsalis’ early years, when it was almost taboo. Jazz music has itself made some important developments, evolving into different styles that are beyond the scope of the early interview with Marsalis and Hancock. Styles such as Fusion, and the combination of Jazz with modern technology used to synthesize sounds that may not have originally been intended for use with Jazz music, but have found its place throughout the music. In contrast to Marsalis’ view that Jazz is all superior, and shouldn’t be changed, these new developments in jazz have had a positive impact on the perception and culture of jazz. Developing new styles and music is just as significant as the development of jazz itself, and it has had a greatly positive impact on American pop-culture.

Blues is a form of African-American music that has its origins in an oral tradition of improvisation. All forms of blues include a distinctive harmonic pattern of a given length that animates two or more lines of lyrics, if it is sung.

Fusion is the combination of classic jazz styles with other genres such as rock, reggae, folk, and funk. Jazz funk fusion is generally in duple meter and is characterized by highly syncopated and complex instrumental rhythm section work that frequently creates poly-rhythms.

Swing music was influenced by the Blues, especially in a style of Swing that developed in Kansas City, Swing jazz was primarily organized through the popular songs that were set in arrangements for the new big bands.

It is important to first define pop-culture. As Wikipedia states, Pop-culture refers to what is popular in the late 20th century and early 21 century. This means, that any popular music from 90s until now, would be considered pop-culture. Jazz has been an evolving style of music since early 20th century, and incorporates themes from music even earlier than that. Because jazz has been constantly evolving and presenting new discoveries and styles that sound appealing, it is constantly influencing more people in different ways. Cut ‘n’ Mix for example, is a fairly new style that is strongly influenced by earlier jazz styles. However, with the progress of technology, there are infinite possibilities when it comes to creating new music.

Techniques commonly heard in popular music include the use of computers to generate new sounds. As technology has evolved, new opportunities for create new sounds open up. Cut ‘n’ Mix is a prime example of how new technology has influence the discovery of jazz styles that sound appealing to listeners all around the world. Decades ago, no one would have had the ability to splice together different sounds and create voice-overs that completely alter the way the music sounds. Methods of manipulating pre-existing jazz music were popularized by hip-hop, creating new jazz styles.

The positive development and assimilation of different types of music that form something new (conversely to Marsalis’ view that jazz is the all powerful genre and should never be changed or perceived differently)

## Jazz influence on pop culture

In the 19th century the roots of jazz such as ragtime and blues, began to lose it’s racist association. People began to sing about things other than the slave-trade and life as a slave. In particular, people because to sing about work, religion, and sorrow.

Today, there are many accomplished jazz musicians. The most leading edge jazz styles include artists such as DJ Cam, Herbie Hancock, DJ Smash, and Miles Davis. Herbie Hancock for example, started his jazz career with improvisation in the early 1960’s, and he is still to this day producing excellent music.

## Influences of pop culture on jazz

Wynton Marsalis has expressed his views on jazz on many occasions. He believes that jazz should remain pure, at its roots, and not change or evolve. The type of jazz that Marsalis plays is the so early that it borders on classical music, with themes about slavery such as his album “Blood on the Fields”.

Since Marsalis began his career in jazz, it has changed and transformed in to brand new styles which he refuses to support. The evolution of jazz is somewhat a reflection of the American culture and its acceptance of new ideas, parallel to American acceptance of different races, cultures, and religions. Therefore, because of this reflection of American culture and how it has grown, the changes to jazz pop-culture should be no more negative than the changes to the American culture as a whole.

Assimilation of jazz into the American culture

Examples of new jazz clubs - not full of blacks like they used to be

Jazz is being listened to all over the world.

Not a bad thing like Marsalis discusses

Jazz is such a unique style that is should be enjoyed by all.

## Conclusion

Jazz is changing all the time. As new techniques for manipulating sounds are created, they are assimilated into other types of jazz. Jazz is constantly being mixed with other types of music to create something new and appealing. Jazz was once only for African American enjoyment, but there has been so many accomplished artists that is has become enjoyable by people of all ethnicities. It is no longer associated with racism, as there are enthusiastic jazz performers of all races, all with a story to tell through their music.