

= Music of Baltimore =

The music of Baltimore , the largest city in Maryland , can be documented as far back as 1784 , and the city has become a regional center for Western classical music and jazz . Early Baltimore was home to popular opera and musical theatre , and an important part of the music of Maryland , while the city also hosted several major music publishing firms until well into the 19th century , when Baltimore also saw the rise of native musical instrument manufacturing , specifically pianos and woodwind instruments . African American music existed in Baltimore during the colonial era , and the city was home to vibrant black musical life by the 1860s . Baltimore 's African American heritage to the start of the 20th century included ragtime and gospel music . By the end of that century , Baltimore jazz had become a well @-@ recognized scene among jazz fans , and produced a number of local performers to gain national reputations . The city was a major stop on the African American East Coast touring circuit , and it remains a popular regional draw for live performances . Baltimore has produced a wide range of modern rock , punk and metal bands and several indie labels catering to a variety of audiences .

Music education throughout Maryland conforms to state standards , implemented by the Baltimore City Public School System . Music is taught to all age groups , and the city is also home to several institutes of higher education in music . The Peabody Institute 's Conservatory is the most renowned music education facility in the area , and has been one of the top nationally for decades . The city is also home to a number of other institutes of higher education in music , the largest being nearby Towson University . The Peabody sponsors performances of many kinds , many of them classical or chamber music . Baltimore is home to the Baltimore Opera and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra , among other similar performance groups . Major music venues in Baltimore include the nightclubs and other establishments that offer live entertainment clustered in Fells Point and Federal Hill .

= = History = =

The documented history of music in Baltimore extends to the 1780s . Little is known about the cultural lives of the Native Americans who formerly lived along the Chesapeake Bay , prior to the founding of Baltimore . In the colonial era , opera and theatrical music were a major part of Baltimorean musical life , and Protestant churches were another important avenue for music performance and education . Baltimore rose to regional performance as an industrial and commercial center , and also become home to some of the most important music publishing firms in colonial North America . In the 19th century , Baltimore grew greatly , and its documented music expanded to include an abundance of African American music , and the city 's denizens played a crucial role in the development of gospel music and jazz . Musical institutions based in Baltimore , including the Peabody Institute and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra , became fixtures in their respective fields , music education and Western classical music . Later in the 20th century , Baltimore produced notable acts in the fields of rock , R & B and hip hop .

= = Colonial era to 1800 = =

Local music in Baltimore can be traced back to 1784 , when concerts were advertised in the local press . These concert programs featured compositions by locals Alexander Reinagle and Raynor Taylor , as well as European composers like Frantisek Kotzwara , Ignaz Pleyel , Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf , Giovanni Battista Viotti and Johann Sebastian Bach . Opera first came to Baltimore in 1752 , with the performance of The Beggar 's Opera by a touring company . It was soon followed by La Serva Padrona by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi , the American premier of that work , and the 1772 performance of Comus by John Milton , performed by the American Company of Lewis Hallam . This was soon followed by the creation of the first theatre in Baltimore , funded by Thomas Wall and Adam Lindsay 's Maryland Company of Comedians , the first resident theatrical company in the city , which had been established despite a ban on theatrical entertainment by the Continental Congress in 1774 . Maryland was the only state to so openly flout the ban , giving special permission to the

Maryland Company in 1781 , to perform both in Baltimore and Annapolis . Shakespearean and other plays made up the repertoire , often with wide @-@ ranging modifications , including the addition of songs . The managers of the Maryland Company had some trouble finding qualified musicians to play in the theatre 's orchestra . The Maryland Company and the American Company performed sporadically in Baltimore until the early 1790s , when the Philadelphia Company of Alexander Reinagle and Thomas Wignell began dominating , based out of their Holliday Street Theater .

Formal singing schools were the first well @-@ documented musical institution in Baltimore . They were common in colonial North America prior to the Revolutionary War , but were not established in Baltimore until afterwards , in 1789 . These singing schools were taught by instructors known as masters , or singing masters , and were often itinerant ; they taught vocal performance and techniques for use in Christian psalmody . The first singing school in Baltimore was founded in the courthouse , in 1789 , by Ishmael Spicer , whose students would include the future John Cole .

= = = Publishing = = =

The first tunebook published in Maryland was the Baltimore Collection of Church Music by Alexander Ely in 1792 , consisting mostly of hymns , with some more complex pieces described as anthems . In 1794 , Joseph Carr established a shop in Baltimore , along with his sons Thomas and Benjamin , who ran shops in New York and Philadelphia . The Carrs would be the most successful publishing firm until around the start of the 19th century ; however , they remained prominent until the company folded in 1821 , and the Carrs were responsible for the first sheet music publication of " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " in 1814 , arranged by Thomas Carr himself , and they also published European instrumentals and stage pieces , as well as works by Americans like James Hewitt and Alexander Reinagle . Much of this music was collected , in serial format , in the Musical Journal for the Piano Forte , which spanned five volumes and was the largest collection of secular music in the country .

In the late 18th century , Americans like William Billings were establishing a bold , new style of vocal performance , markedly distinct from European traditions . John Cole , an important publisher and tune collector in Baltimore , known for pushing a rarefied European outlook on American music , responded with the tunebook Beauties of Psalmody , which denigrated the new techniques , especially fuguing . Cole continued publishing tunebooks up to 1842 , and soon began operating his own singing school . Besides Cole , Baltimore was home to other major music publishers as well . These included Wheeler Gillet , who focused on dignified , European @-@ style music like Cole did , and Samuel Dyer , who collected more distinctly American @-@ styled songs . The tunebooks published in Baltimore included instructional notes , using a broad array of music education techniques then common . Ruel Shaw , for example , used a system derived from the work of Heinrich Pestalozzi , interpreted by the American Lowell Mason . Though the Pestalozzian system was widely used in Baltimore , other techniques were tried , such as that developed by local singing master James M. Deems , based on the Italian solfeggi system .

= = = 19th century = = =

19th @-@ century Baltimore had a large African American population , and was home to a vibrant black musical life , especially based around the region 's numerous Protestant churches . The city also boasted several major music publishing firms and instrument manufacturing companies , specializing in pianos and woodwind instruments . Opera , choral and other classical performance groups were founded during this era , many of them becoming regionally prominent and established a classical tradition in Baltimore . The Holliday Street Theatre and the Front Street Theatre hosted both touring and local productions throughout the early 19th century . Following the Civil War , however , a number of new theatres opened , including the Academy of Music , Ford 's Grand Opera House and the Concordia Opera House , owned by the Concordia Music Society . Of these , Ford 's was perhaps the most successful , home to no fewer than 24 different opera companies . By the start of the 20th century , however , the New York Theatrical Syndicate had grown to dominate

the industry throughout the region , and Baltimore became a less common stop for touring companies .

= = = = African American music = = = =

During the 19th century , Maryland had one of the largest populations of free African Americans , totalling one fifth of all free blacks in the country . Baltimore was the center for African American culture and industry , and was home to many African American craftsmen , writers and other professionals , and some of the largest black churches in the country . Many African Americans institutions in Baltimore assisted the less fortunate with food and clothing drives , and other charitable work . The " first instance of mass black assertiveness after the Civil War " in the country occurred in Baltimore in 1865 , after a meeting of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Battle Monument Square , marking the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation . Another African American celebration occurred five years later , celebrating the right to vote , guaranteed to African Americans by the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution . Many bands played , including brass and cornet bands .

Baltimore 's Eubie Blake , born in 1883 , became a musician at an early age , hired as a house musician at a brothel , run by Aggie Shelton . He perfected his improvisational piano style , which used ragtime riffs , and eventually completed " The Charleston Rag " , in 1899 . With compositions like that , Blake pioneered what would eventually become known as the stride style by the end of the 1890s ; stride later became more closely associated with New York City . With his own technique , characterized by playing the syncopation with his right hand and a steady beat with the left , and became one of the most successful ragtime performers of the East Coast , performing with prominent cabaret entertainers Mary Stafford and Madison Reed .

= = = = Church music = = = =

Black churches in Maryland hosted many musical , as well as political and educational , activities , and many African American musicians got their start performing in churches , including Anne Brown , Marian Anderson , Ethel Ennis and Cab Calloway , in the 20th century . Doctrinal disputes did not prevent musical cooperation , which included both sacred and secular music . Church choirs frequently worked together , even across denominational divides , and church @-@ goers often visited other establishments to see visiting performers . Organists were a major part of African American church music in Baltimore , and some organists became well known , Baltimore 's including Sherman Smith of Union Baptist , Luther Mitchell of Centennial Methodist and Julia Calloway of Sharon Baptist . Many churches also offered music education , beginning as early as the 1870s with St. Francis Academy .

Charles Albert Tindley , born in 1851 in Berlin , Maryland , would become the first major composer of gospel music , a style that drew on African American spirituals , Christian hymns and other folk music traditions . Tindley 's earliest musical experience likely included tarrying services , a musical tradition of the Eastern Shore of Maryland , wherein Christian worshipers prayed and sang throughout the night . He became an itinerant preacher as an adult , working at churches throughout Maryland , Delaware and New Jersey , then settled down as a pastor in Philadelphia , eventually opening a large church called Tindley Temple United Methodist Church .

= = = = Publishing = = = =

Though John Cole and the Carrs were among the first major music publishers in Baltimore , the city was home to a vibrant publishing tradition in the 19th century , aided by the presence of A. Hoen & Co . , one of the biggest lithography firms of the era , who illustrated many music publications . Other prominent music publishers in Baltimore in this era included George Willig , Arthur Clifton , Frederick Benteen , James Boswell , Miller and Beecham , W. C. Peters , Samuel Carusi and G. Fred Kranz . Peters was well known nationally , but first established a Baltimore @-@ based firm in

1849 , with partners whose names remain unknown . His sons eventually joined the field , and the company , then known as W. C. Peters & Co . , published the Baltimore Olio and Musical Gazette , which contained concert news , printed music , educational and biographical essays and articles . The pianist @-@ composer Charles Grobe was among the contributors .

= = = Instrument manufacture = = =

Baltimore was also home to the piano @-@ building businesses of William Knabe and Charles Steiff . Knabe emigrated to the United States in 1831 , and he founded the firm , with Henry Gaehle , in 1837 . It began manufacturing pianos in 1839 . The company became one of the most prominent and respected piano manufacturers in the country , and was the dominant corporation in the Southern market . The company floundered after a fire destroyed a factory , and the aftermath of the Civil War lessened demand in the Southern area where Knabe 's sales were concentrated . By the end of the 19th century , however , Knabe 's sons , Ernest and William , had re @-@ established the firm as one of the leading piano companies in the country . They built sales in the west and north , and created new designs that made Knabe & Co. the third best @-@ selling piano manufacturer in the country . The pianos were well regarded enough that the Japanese government chose Knabe as its supplier for schools in 1879 . After the death of William and Ernest Knabe , the company went public . In the 20th century , Knabe 's company became absorbed into other corporations , and the pianos are now manufactured by Samick , a Korean producer .

Heinrich Christian Eisenbrandt , originally of Göttingen , Germany , settled in Baltimore in 1819 , going on to manufacture brass and woodwind instruments of high quality . His output included several brass instruments , flageolets , flutes , oboes , bassoons , clarinets with between five and sixteen keys , and at least one drum and basset @-@ horn . Eisenbrandt owned two patents for brass instruments , and was once praised for " great improvements made in the valves " of the saxhorn . His flutes and clarinets won him a silver medal at the London Great Exhibition of 1851 , and he also earned high marks for those instruments and the saxhorn at several Metropolitan Mechanics Institute exhibitions . The Smithsonian Institution now possesses one of Eisenbrandt 's clarinets , adorned with jewels , and the Shrine to Music Museum at the University of South Dakota is in possession of a drum and several clarinets made by Eisenbrandt . He is also known to have made a cornet which uses a key mechanism that he had patented . Eisenbrandt died in 1861 , and his son , H. W. R. Eisenbrandt , continued the business until at least 1918 .

= = = Classical music = = =

The Peabody Orchestra , formed in 1866 , was the first professional orchestra in Baltimore . The Orchestra premiered many works in its early years , including some by Asger Hamerik , a prominent Danish composer who became director of the Orchestra . Ross Jungnickel founded the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra before 1890 , when the Orchestra first performed , and the Peabody Orchestra ceased to exist . Jungnickel 's orchestra , however , lasted only until 1899 .

Traveling opera companies visited Baltimore throughout the 19th century , performing pieces like Norma , Faust and La sonnambula , with performances by well @-@ known singers like Jenny Lind and Clara Kellogg . Institutions from outside Baltimore also presented opera within the city , including the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Metropolitan Opera .

In the early 19th century , choral associations became common in Maryland , and Baltimore , buoyed by the immigration of numerous Germans . These groups were formed for the purpose of instruction in choral music , eventually performing oratorios . The popularity of these choral associations helped to garner support among the local population for putting music education in the city 's public schools . The Baltimore Oratorio Society , the Liederkranz and the Germania Männerchor were the most important of these associations , and their traditions were maintained into the 20th century by organizations like the Bach Choir , Choral Arts Society , Handel Society and the Baltimore Symphony Chorus .

===== Education =====

Singing schools in Baltimore were few in number until the 1830s . Singing masters began incorporating secular music into their curriculum , and divested themselves from sponsoring churches , in the early part of the 1830s . Attendance increased drastically , especially after the founding of two important institutions : the Academy , established in 1834 by Ruel Shaw , and the Musical Institute , founded by John Hill Hewitt and William Stoddard . The Academy and the Institute quickly became rivals , and both gave successful performances . Some Baltimore singing masters used new terminology to describe their programs , as the term singing school was falling out of favor ; Alonzo Cleaveland founded the Glee School during this era , focusing entirely on secular music . In contrast , religious musical instruction by the middle of the 19th century remained based around itinerant singing masters who taught for a period of time , then continued to new locations .

The introduction of music into Baltimore public schools in 1843 caused a slow decline in the popularity of private youth singing instruction . In response to the growing demand for printed music in schools , publishers began offering collections with evangelical tunes , directed at rural schools . Formal , adult musical institutions , like the Haydn Society and the Euterpe Musical Association , grew in popularity following the Civil War .

===== 20th century =====

Early in the 20th century , Baltimore 's most famous musical export was the duo of Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle , who found national fame in New York . Blake in particular became a ragtime legend , and innovator of the stride style . Later , Baltimore became home to a vibrant jazz scene , producing a number of famous performers , such as the phenomenal jazz musician Paul Unger . Use of the Hammond B @-@ 3 organ later became an iconic part of Baltimore jazz . In the middle of the 20th century , Baltimore 's major music media include Chuck Richards , a popular African American radio personality on WBAL , and Buddy Deane , host of a popular eponymous show in the vein of American Bandstand , which was an iconic symbol of popular music in Baltimore for a time . African American vocal music , specifically doo @-@ wop , also established an early home in Baltimore . More recently , Baltimore was home to a number of well @-@ known rock , pop , R & B , punk , and hip hop performers .

===== Classical music =====

Most of the major musical organizations in Baltimore were founded by musicians who trained at the Peabody Institute 's Conservatory of Music . These include Baltimore Choral Arts , Baltimore Opera Company (BOC) , and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) . These organizations all have excellent reputations and sponsor numerous performances throughout the year . Baltimore has produced a number of well @-@ known modern composers of classical and art music , most famously including Philip Glass , a minimalist composer . Glass grew up in the 1940s , working in his father 's record store in East Baltimore , selling African American records , then known as race music . He was there exposed to Baltimore jazz and rhythm and blues .

Though the Baltimore Opera Company can be traced back to the 1924 founding of the Martinet Opera School , the direct antecedent of the Company was founded in 1950 , with Rosa Ponselle , a well @-@ known soprano , as artistic director . In the following decade the Company modernized , receiving new funding from , among other sources , the Ford Foundation , which led to professionalization and the hiring of a full @-@ time production manager and the stabilization on a program consisting of three operas every season ; this schedule has since been expanded to four performances . In 1976 , the Company commissioned Inês de Castro for the American Bicentennial , composed by Thomas Pasatieri with a libretto by Bernard Stambler ; the opera 's debut was a great success and an historic moment for American opera .

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra of the 19th century had floundered in 1899 , was replaced by a new orchestra organized by the Florestan Club , which included author H. L. Mencken ; the Club

ensured that the orchestra would be the first municipally funded company in the country . The reformed Baltimore Symphony Orchestra began in 1916 , under the leadership of Gustav Strube , who conducted the orchestra until 1930 . In 1942 , the orchestra was reorganized as a private institution , led by Reginald Stewart , director of both the Orchestra and the Peabody , who arranged for Orchestra members to receive faculty appointments at the Peabody Conservatory , which helped attract new talent . The Orchestra claims that Joseph Meyerhoff , President of the Orchestra beginning in 1965 , and his music director , Sergiu Comissiona began the modern history of the BSO and " ensured the creation of an institution , which has become the undisputed leader of the arts community throughout the State of Maryland " . Meyerhoff and Comissiona established regular performances and a more professional atmosphere for the Orchestra . Under the next music director , David Zinman , the Orchestra recorded for major record labels , and went on several international tours , becoming the first Orchestra to tour in the Soviet bloc .

The Baltimore Chamber Music Society , founded by Hugo Weisgall and Rudolph Rothschild in 1950 , has commissioned a number of renowned works and is known for a series of controversial concerts featuring mostly 20th @-@ century composers . The Baltimore Women 's String Symphony Orchestra was led by Stephen Deak and Wolfgang Martin from 1936 to 1940 , a time when women were barred from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra , though they were allowed in the Baltimore Colored Symphony Orchestra .

In the early 20th century , Baltimore was home to several African American classically oriented music institutions which drew on a rich tradition of symphonic music , chamber concerts , oratorios , documented in large part by the Baltimore Afro @-@ American , a local periodical . Inspired by A. Jack Thomas , who had been appointed conductor of the city 's municipally supported African American performance groups , Charles L. Harris led the Baltimore Colored Chorus and Symphony Orchestra from 1929 to 1939 , when a strike led to the company 's dissolution . Thomas had been one of the first black bandleaders in the U.S. Army , was director of the music department at Morgan College , and was the founder of Baltimore 's interracial Aeolian Institute for higher musical education . Charles L. Harris , as leader of the Baltimore Colored City Band , took his group to black neighborhoods across Baltimore , playing marches , waltzes and other music , then switch to jazz @-@ like music with an upbeat tempo , meant for dancing . Some of Harris ' musicians also played in early jazz clubs , though the musical establishment at the time did not readily accept the style . Fred Huber , Director of Municipal Music for Baltimore , exerted powerful control over the repertoire of these bands , and forbade jazz . T. Henderson Kerr , a prominent black bandleader , emphasized in his advertising that his group did not play jazz , while the prestigious Peabody Institute debated whether jazz was music at all . The Symphony Orchestra produced renowned pianist Ellis Larkins and cellist W. Llewellyn Wilson , also the music critic for the Afro @-@ American . Harris eventually replaced Harris as conductor of the Orchestra and has since become a city musical fixture who is said to have , at one point , taught every single African American music teacher in Baltimore .

After World War 2 , William Marbury , then Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Institute , began the process of integrating that institution , which had denied entrance to several well @-@ regarded African American performers based solely on their race , including Anne Brown and Todd Duncan , who had been the first black performer with the New York City Opera when he was forced to study with Frank Bibb , a member of the Peabody faculty , outside the Conservatory . The director of the Peabody soon ended segregation , both at the Conservatory and at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra , which was conducted by its first African American , A. Jack Thomas , at his request . The Peabody was officially integrated in 1949 , with support from mayor Howard W. Jackson . Paul A. Brent , who graduated in 1953 , was the first to matriculate , and was followed by Audrey Cyrus McCallum , who was the first to enter the Peabody Preparatory . Musical integration was a gradual process that lasted until at least 1966 , when the unions for African American and white musicians merged to form the Musicians ' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore . Baltimore is the hometown of African American classical opera tenor Steven Cole .

= = = = African American popular music = = = =

In the field of 20th @-@ century popular music , Baltimore first was a major center for the development of East Coast ragtime , producing the legendary performer and composer Eubie Blake . Later , Baltimore became a hotspot for jazz , and a home for such legends in the field as Chick Webb and Billie Holiday . The city 's jazz scene can be traced to the early part of the 20th century , when the style first spread across the country . Locally , Baltimore was home to a vibrant African American musical tradition , which included funereal processions , beginning with slow , mournful tunes and ending with lively ragtime numbers , very similar to the New Orleans music that gave rise to jazz .

Pennsylvania Avenue (often known simply as The Avenue) and Fremont Avenue were the major scenes for Baltimore 's black musicians from the 1920s to the 1950s , and was an early home for Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle , among others . Baltimore had long been a major stop on the black touring circuit , and jazz musicians frequently played on Pennsylvania Avenue on the way to or from engagements in New York . Pennsylvania Avenue attracted African Americans from as far away as North Carolina , and was known for its vibrant entertainment and nightlife , as well as a more seedy side , home to prostitution , violence , ragtime and jazz , which were perceived as unsavory . The single most important venue for outside acts was the Royal Theatre , which was one of the finest African American theaters in the country when it was opened as the Douglass Theater , and was part of the popular performing circuit that included the Earle in Philadelphia , the Howard in Washington , D.C. , the Regal in Chicago and the Apollo Theater in New York ; like the Apollo , the audience at the Royal Theater was known for cruelly receiving those performers who didn 't live up to their standards . Music venues were segregated , though not without resistance - a 1910 tour featuring Bert Williams resulted in an African American boycott of a segregated theater , hoping the threat of lost business from the popular show would cause a change in policy . Pennsylvania Avenue was also a center for black cultural and economic life in Baltimore , and was home to numerous schools , theaters , churches and other landmarks . The street 's nightclubs and other entertainment venues were most significant however , including the Penn Hotel , the first African American @-@ owned hotel in Baltimore (built in 1921) . Even the local bars and other establishments that didn 't feature live music as a major feature generally had a solo pianist or organist . The first local bar to specialize in jazz was Club Tijuana . Major music venues at this time included Ike Dixon 's Comedy Club , Skateland , Gamby 's , Wendall 's Tavern , The New Albert Dreamland , the Ritz , and most importantly , the Sphinx Club . The Sphinx Club became one of the first minority @-@ owned nightclubs in the United States when it opened in 1946 , founded by Charles Phillip Tilghman , a local businessman .

The Baltimore Afro @-@ American was a prominent African American periodical based in Baltimore in the early @-@ to @-@ mid @-@ 20th century , and the city was home to other black music media . Radio figures of importance included Chuck Richards on WBAL .

= = = = Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle = = = =

Baltimore 's Eubie Blake was one of the most prominent ragtime musicians on the East Coast in the early 20th century , and was known for a unique style of piano @-@ playing that eventually became the basis for stride , a style perfected during World War I in Harlem . Blake was the most well known figure in the local scene , and helped make Baltimore one of the ragtime centers of the East Coast , along with Philadelphia and Washington , D.C. He then joined a medicine show , performing throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania before moving to New York in 1902 to play at the Academy of Music there . Returning to Baltimore , Blake played at The Saloon , a venue owned by Alfred Greenfield patronized by " colorful characters and ' working ' girls " ; The Saloon was the basis for his well @-@ known " Corner of Chestnut and Low " . He then played at Annie Gilly 's sporting house , another rough establishment , before becoming well known enough to play throughout the city and win a number of national piano concerts .

In 1915 , Blake was hired to work at Riverview Park , with Noble Sissle , a singer , whom Blake approached about a songwriting partnership . Their first collaboration was " It 's All Your Fault " , premiered by Sophie Tucker at the Maryland Theater . Their success grew quickly , and they soon

had numerous songs performed across the country , including on Broadway , most famously " Baltimore Buzz " , " Gypsy Blues " and " Love Will Find a Way " . In 1921 , however , the duo received their greatest acclaim with the musical Shuffle Along , the first piece to bring African American jazz and humor to Broadway . The widespread acclaim for Shuffle Along led to changes in the theatre industry nationwide , producing demand for African American performers and leading to newly integrated theatrical companies across the country . When Shuffle Along came to Baltimore 's Ford 's Theater , Blake struggled to reserve a seat for his mother , because Ford 's remained strictly segregated by race .

= = = = = Jazz = = = = =

Baltimore had developed a local jazz scene by 1917 , when the local black periodical , the Baltimore Afro -@ American noted its popularity in some areas . Two years later , black bandleader T. Henderson Kerr boasted that his act included " no jazz , no shaky music , no vulgar or suggestive dancing " . Local jazz performers played on Baltimore Street , in an area known as The Block , located between Calvert and Gay Streets . Jazz audiences flocked to music venues in the area and elsewhere , such as the amusement parks around Baltimore ; some of the more prominent venues included the Richmond Market Armory , the Old Fifth Regiment Armory , the Pythian Castle Hall and the Galilean Fisherman Hall . By the 1930s , however , The Ritz was the largest club on Pennsylvania Avenue , and was home to Sammy Louis ' band , who toured to great acclaim throughout the region .

The first group in Baltimore to self @-@ apply the jazz label was led by John Ridgely , and known as either the John Ridgely Jazzers or the Ridgely 400 Society Jazz Band , which included pianist Rivers Chambers . Ridgely organized the band in 1917 , and they played daily at the Maryland Theater in the 1920s . The two most popular of the early jazz performers in Baltimore , however , were Ernest Purviance and Joseph T. H. Rochester , who worked together , as the Drexel Ragtime Syncopators , starting a dance fad known as the " Shimme She Wabble She " . As the Drexel Jazz Syncopators , they remained popular into the 1920s .

The Royal Theatre was the most important jazz venue in Baltimore for much of the 20th century , and produced one of the city 's musical leaders in Rivers Chambers , who led the Royal 's band from 1930 to 1937 . Chambers was a multi @-@ instrumentalist who founded the Rivers Chambers Orchestra after leaving The Royal , and became a " favorite of Maryland 's high society " . As bandleader of The Royal , Chambers was succeeded by the classically trained Tracy McCleary , whose band , the Royal Men of Rhythm , included Charlie Parker at one point . Many of The Royal 's band members would join with touring acts when they came through Baltimore ; many had day jobs in the defense industry during World War 2 , including McCleary himself . The shortage of musicians during the war led to a relaxation in some aspects of segregation , including in The Royal 's band , which began hiring white musicians soon after the war . McCleary would be The Royal 's last conductor , however , while Chambers ' orchestra became a fixture in Baltimore , and came to include as many as thirty musicians , who would sometimes divide into smaller groups for performances . Chambers had collected many musicians from around the country , like Tee Loggins from Louisiana . Other performers with his Orchestra included trumpeter Roy McCoy , saxophonist Elmer Addison and guitarist Buster Brown , who was responsible for the Orchestra 's most characteristic song , " They Cut Down That Old Pine Tree " , which the Rivers Chambers Orchestra would continue to play for more than fifty years .

Baltimore 's early jazz pioneers included Blanche Calloway , one of the first female jazz bandleaders in the United States , and sister to jazz legend Cab Calloway . Both the Calloways , like many of Baltimore 's prominent black musicians , studied at Frederick Douglass High School with William Llewellyn Wilson , himself a renowned performer and conductor for the first African American symphony in Baltimore . Baltimore was also home to Chick Webb , one of jazz 's most heralded drummers , who became a musical star despite being born hunchbacked and crippled at the age of five years . Later Baltimoreans in jazz include Elmer Snowden , and Ethel Ennis . After Pennsylvania Avenue declined in the 1950s , Baltimore 's jazz scene changed . The Left Bank Jazz

Society , an organization dedicated to promoting live jazz , began holding a weekly series of concerts in 1965 , featuring the biggest names in the field , including Duke Ellington and John Coltrane . The tapes from these recordings became legendary within the jazz aficionados , but they did not begin to be released until 2000 , due to legal complications .

Baltimore is known for jazz saxophonists , having produced recent performers like Antonio Hart , Ellery Eskelin , Gary Bartz , Mark Gross , Harold Adams , Gary Thomas and Ron Diehl . The city 's style combines the experimental and intellectual jazz of Philadelphia and elsewhere in the north with a more emotive and freeform Southern tradition . The earliest well @-@ known Baltimore saxophonists include Arnold Sterling , Whit Williams , Andy Ennis , Brad Collins , Carlos Johnson , Vernon H. Wolst , Jr . ; the most famous , however , was Mickey Fields . Fields got his start with a jump blues band , The Tilters , in the early 1950s , and his saxophone @-@ playing became the most prominent part of the band 's style . Despite a national reputation and opportunities , Fields refused to perform outside the region and remains a local legend .

In the 1960s , the Hammond B @-@ 3 organ became a critical part of the Baltimore jazz scene , led by virtuoso Jimmy Smith . The Left Bank Jazz Society also played a major role locally , hosting concerts and promoting performers . The popularity of jazz , however , declined greatly by the beginning of the 20th century , with an aging and shrinking audience , though the city continued producing local performers and hosting a vibrant jazz scene .

= = = = = Doo wop = = = = =

Baltimore was home to a major doo wop scene in the middle of the 20th century , which began with The Orioles , who are considered one of the first doo wop groups to record commercially . By the 1950s , Baltimore was home to numerous African American vocal groups , and talent scouts scoured the city for the next big stars . Many bands emerged from the city , including The Cardinals and The Plants . Some doo wop groups were connected with street gangs , and some members were active in both scenes , such as Johnny Page of The Marylanders . Competitive music and dance was a part of African American street gang culture , and with the success of some local groups , pressure mounted , leading to territorial rivalries among performers . Pennsylvania Avenue served as a rough boundary between East and West Baltimore , with the East producing The Swallows and The Cardinals , as well as The Sonnets , The Jollyjacks , The Honey Boys , The Magictones and The Blentones , while the West was home to The Orioles and The Plants , as well as The Twilighters and The Four Buddies .

It was The Orioles , however , who first developed the city 's vocal harmony sound . Originally known as The Vibra @-@ Naires , The Orioles were led by Sonny Til when they recorded " It 's Too Soon to Know " , their first hit and a song that is considered the first doo wop recording of any kind . Doo wop would go on to have a formative influence on the development of rock and roll , and The Orioles can be considered the earliest rock and roll band as a result . The Orioles would continue recording until 1954 , launching hits like " In the Chapel in the Moonlight " , " Tell Me So " and " Crying in the Chapel " .

= = = = = Soul = = = = =

Baltimore is less well known for its soul music than other major African @-@ American urban areas , such as Philadelphia . However , it was home to a number of soul record labels in the 1960s and 1970s , including Ru @-@ Jac (born 1963) , whose artists included Joe Quarterman , Arthur Conley , Gene & Eddie , Winfield Parker , The Caressors , Jessie Crawford , The Dynamic Corvettes and Fred Martin . [1] [2] [3] Soul venues in Baltimore in that period included The Royal and Carr 's beach in Annapolis , one of the few beaches black people could use . [4]

= = = = = Punk , rock , metal and the modern scene = = = = =

Though they rose to prominence in Boston and New York City respectively , new wave musicians

Ric Ocasek and David Byrne are both natives of the Baltimore area . Frank Zappa , Tori Amos , Cass Elliot (The Mamas & the Papas) , and Adam Duritz (Counting Crows vocalist) are also from Baltimore .

Notable Baltimore @-@ area rock acts from the 1970s and 1980s include Crack The Sky , The Ravyns , Kix , Face Dancer , Jamie LaRitz , and DC Star .

Also , Epic recording Artist Tony Sciuto " Island Nights " who was also a member of Australia 's Little River Band , Player and ABC Fullhouse 's (Jesse and the Rippers) was raised in Medfield Heights (Hampden) area . Sciuto also has written songs for Tina Turner , Don Johnson , B.J Thomas and more .

Baltimore 's hardcore punk scene has been overshadowed by that of Washington , D.C. , but included locally renowned bands like Law & Order , Bollocks , OTR , and Fear of God ; many of these bands played at bars like the Marble Bar , Terminal 406 and the illegal space Jules ' Loft , which author Steven Blush described as the " apex of the Baltimore (hardcore) scene " in 1983 and 1984 . The 1980s also saw the development of a local new wave scene led by the bands Ebenezer & the Bludgeons , The Accused / Mission / When Thunder Comes , Thee Katatonix , The Vamps , AR @-@ 15 , Alter Legion , and Null Set . Later in the decade , emo bands like Reptile House and Grey March had some success and recorded with Ian MacKaye in DC .

Some early Baltimore punk musicians moved onto other local bands by the end of the 1990s , while local mainstays Lungfish and Fascist Fascist becoming regionally prominent . The Urbanite magazine has identified several major trends in local Baltimorean music , including the rise of psychedelic @-@ folk singer @-@ songwriters like Entrance and the house / hip hop dance fusion called Baltimore club , pioneered by DJs like Rod Lee . More recently , Baltimore 's modern music scene has produced performers like Jason Dove , Cass McCombs , Ponytail , Animal Collective , Spank Rock , Rye Rye , Double Dagger , Roomrunner , Mary Prankster , Beach House , Lower Dens , Future Islands , Wye Oak , The Seldon Plan , Dan Deacon , Ed Schrader 's Music Beat , Sick Wespons , The Revelevens , Witch Hat , Dope Body , Rapdragons , and Adventure , many of whom are associated with the New Weird America movement , and thus is the city itself .

In 2009 , Baltimore produced its own indigenous rock opera theatrical company , the all @-@ volunteer Baltimore Rock Opera Society , which operates out of Charles Village . The group has so far put on two rock operas , one in 2009 and the other in 2011 . They both have featured original scores .

= = Media and organizations = =

Baltimore 's indigenous music media includes The City Paper , The Baltimore Sun , and Music Monthly , which frequently advertise local music shows and other events . The Baltimore Blues Society also distributes one of the more well renowned blues periodicals in the country . The Baltimore Afro @-@ American , a local periodical , was one of the most important media in 20th @-@ century Baltimore , and documented much of that city 's African American musical life . Recently , a number of new media sites have risen to prominence including Aural States (Best Local Music Blog 2008) , Government Names , Mobtown Shank and Beatbots (Best Online Arts Community 2007) .

Baltimore is home to a number of non @-@ profit music organization , most famously including the Left Bank Jazz Society , which hosts concerts and otherwise promotes jazz in Baltimore . Another organization to grace its way into the Baltimore scene is Vivre Musicale . The latter organization 's mission is to give young artists performance opportunities in and out of Baltimore . These non @-@ profits play a greater role in the city 's musical life than similar organization do in most other American cities . The organization Jazz in Cool Places also works within that genre , presenting performers in architecturally significant locations , such as in a club full of Tiffany windows . The Society for the Preservation of American Roots Music also puts on jazz and blues concerts at its Roots Cafe .

= = Venues = =

Many of Baltimore 's nightclubs and other local music venues are in Fells Point and Federal Hill . One music field guide points to Fell 's Point 's Cat 's Eye Pub , Full Moon Saloon , Fletcher 's Bar , and Bertha 's as particularly notable , in addition to a number of others , most famously including the Sportsmen 's Lounge , which was a major jazz venue in the 1960s , when it was owned by football player Lenny Moore .

Many of the most legendary music venues in Baltimore have been shut down , including most of the shops , churches , bars and other destinations on the legendary Pennsylvania Avenue , center for the city 's jazz scene . The Royal Theater , once one of the premiere destinations for African American performers on the East Coast , is marked only by a simple plaque , the theater itself having been demolished in 1971 . A statue of Billie Holiday remains on Pennsylvania Avenue , however , between Lafayette and Lanvale , with a plaque that reads I don 't think I 'm singing . I feel like I am playing a horn . I try to improvise . What comes out is what I feel .

There are six major concert halls in Baltimore . The Lyric Opera House is modeled after the Concertgebouw , in Amsterdam , and was reopened after several years of renovations in 1982 , the same year the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall opened . Designed by Pietro Belluschi , The Meyerhoff Symphony Hall is a permanent home for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra . Belluschi also designed the Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College , which opened in 1962 . The Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Auditorium , located at the Baltimore Museum of Art , also opened in 1982 , and hosts concerts by the Baltimore Chamber Music Society . Johns Hopkins University 's Shriver Hall and the Peabody 's Miriam A. Friedberg are also important concert venues , the latter being the oldest still in use .

= = Education = =

In the public school system of Baltimore city , music education is a part of each grade level to high school , at which point it becomes optional . Beginning in first grade , or approximately six years old , Baltimore students begin to learn about melody , harmony and rhythm , and are taught to echo short melodic and rhythmic patterns . They also begin to learn about different musical instruments and distinguish between different kinds of sounds and types of songs . As students progress through the grades , teachers go into more detail and require more proficiency in elementary musical techniques . Students perform rounds in second grade , for example , while movement (i.e. dance) enters the curriculum in third grade . Beginning in middle school in the sixth grade , students are taught to make mature aesthetic judgements , and to understand and respond to a variety of forms of music . In high school , students may choose to take courses in instrumentation or singing , and may be exposed to music in other areas of the curriculum , such as in theater or drama classes .

Public school instruction in music in Baltimore began in 1843 . Prior to that , itinerant and professional singing masters were the dominant form of formal music education in the state . Music institutions like the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra sometimes have programs aimed at youth education , and other organizations have a similar focus . The Eubie Blake Center exists to promote African American culture , and music , to both youth and adults , through dance classes for all age groups , workshops , clinics , seminars and other programs .

= = = Higher education = = =

Baltimore 's most famous institute of higher music education is the Peabody Institute 's Conservatory of Music , founded in 1857 though instruction did not begin until 1868 . The original grant from George Peabody funded an Academy of Music , which became the Conservatory in 1872 . Lucien Southard was the first director of the Conservatory . In 1977 , the Conservatory became affiliated with Johns Hopkins University .

The Baltimore region is home to other institutions of musical education , including Towson University , Goucher College and Morgan State University , each of which both instruct and present concerts . Coppin State University , which offers a minor in music , Morgan State University , which

offers Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts degrees in music , and Bowie State University , which offers undergraduate programs in music and music technology .

The Arthur Friedham Library collects primary sources relating to music in Baltimore , as do the archives maintained by the Peabody and the Maryland Historical Society . Johns Hopkins University is home to the Milton S. Eisenhower Library , whose Lester S. Levy Collection is one of the most important collections of American sheet music in the country , and contains more than 40 @, @ 000 pieces , including original printings of works by Carrie Jacobs @-@ Bond such as " A Perfect Day " (song) .