

The Swing Era 1935-45: Kansas City Jazz

Kansas City in 1920s-30s

- Tom Pendergast - full political control
- Depression didn't really affect KC
- 1939 – Pendergast in jail
- Musical Features:
 - Blues
 - Big band
 - Informal jam
 - Simpler riff-based arrangements – head arrangements

Bennie Moten (1894-1935)

- Studied ragtime with two of Scott Joplin's pupils
- 1923 – started of his band with New Orleans/King Oliver style
- 1926 – influenced by the style of Fletcher Henderson Orchestra
 - String bass instead of tuba
 - Guitar instead of banjo
 - Enlarge the band
- 1929 – Count Basie, Walter Page, Eddie Durham, Hot Lips Page

Walter Page

- 1923 – played in Billy King's Road Show
- 1925 – Page took over and change the band name to the "Blue Devils"
- Walking bass line legitimized
- Important Players:
 - Count Basie
 - Lester Young
 - Eddie Durham
 - Jimmy Rushing
 - Hot Lips Page
 - Buster Smith

Count Basie (1904-84) – Early Period

- 1927 – moved to Kansas City
- 1928 – joined Blue Devils
- 1929 – joined Bennie Moten's Orchestra
- 1935 – took over Moten's band after his death
- 1936 – Reno Club equipped with broadcasting
- 1936 – John Hammond visit after hearing the broadcast
- 1937 – Billie Holiday debut
- 1937 – Signed with Decca and play at Roseland Ballroom for 4 weeks
- 1937 – Freddie Green joined the band and completed "the Basie Rhythm Section"
- **The Basie Rhythm Section: Count Basie, Freddie Green, Walter Page, Jo Jones**
- Other key players: Lester Young, Jimmy Rushing, Harry Edison, and Dikie Wells

Week 4-2: Swing Era (cont.) Kansas City Jazz and Gypsy Jazz

Territory Band

- Bands that play and travel in their “territories”
- Playing and travelling nights after nights from towns to towns
- Many of them around the 20s-30s

Andy Kirk and the Twelve Clouds of Joy

- Some important players had come across and played with the band
- Mary Lou Williams
 - Pianist and arranger for the band
 - Later became interested in bebop playing and join the scene
 - Taught Thelonious Monk

Conclude the Swing Era: The Important Events in 1935

- Benny Goodman Orchestra Famous Concert
 - Had a successful concert in Palomar Ballroom, Los Angeles, CA
- Chick Webb Orchestra now had lead singer
 - Ella Fitzgerald joined Chick Webb at the Savoy as the featured singer
- The Birth of Count Basie Orchestra
 - Bennie Moten died; Basie took over and became the band “Barons of Rhythm”
- The Birth of Artie Shaw Orchestra
 - Artie Shaw form his band – rival to Goodman’s
- The Birth of Harlem Playgirls: An All-Female Jazz Orchestra
- The Split of Dorsey Brothers Orchestra
 - Tommy Dorsey left Dorsey Brothers Band and form his own
 - Jimmy Dorsey continued with the name Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra

Gypsy Jazz: Europe/France

Jazz in Europe

- 1932-33 – Louis Armstrong
- 1933-34 – Duke Ellington
- 1934-39 – Coleman Hawkins
- 1938-43 – Fats Waller

Jazz in France

- 1932 – Hot Club de France – an organization that advocated jazz
- Jazz Magazines
 - 1934 – Le Hot Jazz
 - 1935 – Jazz Hot – still existed today

Quintette du Hot Club de France (1934-48)

- Inspired by Eddie Lang (guitar) and Joe Venuti (violin)
- Main members
 - Django Reinhardt – guitar – left ring finger and pinky are burnt
 - Stephen Grappelli – violin