

## Origin of Jazz

### Slavery Trade in 18<sup>th</sup> Century

- Mostly from West Africa
- Some slaves had higher social status
- They brought musical knowledge and culture with them

### New Orleans in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Port city
- Many different ethnic groups
  - o British
  - o French
  - o Spanish
  - o African
- Gathering Places with Music
  - o Storyville – jazz historians are skeptical, no major jazz players worked there
    - Red light district
    - Workplace for New Orleans musicians
    - Shutdown by U.S. Navy in 1917
  - o Congo Square (now “Louis Armstrong Park”)
    - African music practice space
  - o Dance Halls
  - o Churches
  - o Parks
- Brass and Parade Bands

### **18<sup>th</sup> Century**

1718 – Owned by France

1724 – Code Noir

1763 – Sold to Spain

1776 – Legalized Slavery Trade

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century**

1801 – Sold back to France

1803 – Sold to the U.S.

– Population increased rapidly

1817 – Legalized African Music at Congo Square

1894 – Legislative Code

### **Uptown / Downtown Theory**

1724 – Code Noir

- Slave owners can free their slaves
- Slaves can marry anyone including white
  - o Resulted in mixed race called “Creoles of Color”
  - o Black Creoles got proper classical music training

1894 – Legislative Code

- Segregation
- Black Creoles were forced back to be with Black African American in Uptown (South)
- White are in Downtown (north)
- The two areas are separated by Canal Street
- European music through creoles merged with African music and became jazz

## **New Orleans / Dixieland Jazz**

### **Band Instrumentation**

- **Rhythm Section**
  - o Piano
  - o Banjo
  - o Double Bass or Tuba
  - o Drums
- **Three-Horns Front Line (Collective Improvisation)**
  - o Clarinet or Saxophone
  - o Cornet or Trumpet
  - o Trombone

### **Figures**

- Pianist
  - o Jelly Roll Morton
- Cornet / Trumpet
  - o Buddy Bolden
  - o Freddie Keppard
  - o Joe King Oliver
  - o Louis Armstrong
  - o Bunk Johnson
- Clarinet
  - o Johnny Dodds
  - o Sidney Bechet (also soprano saxophone)
- Trombone
  - o Kid Ory
- Bass
  - o Bill Johnson
  - o Pops Foster
  - o Wellman Braud
- Drums
  - o Baby Dodds

### **Buddy Bolden (1877-1931)**

- No recording available
- Only one photo survived
- Only source came from oral history
- Well-known of playing the blues
- Mental problem forced to quit

### **Freddie Keppard (1890-1933)**

- Creole of Color
- Important trumpet/cornet player after Bolden
- Was offered to record in 1915 but Keppard turned it down
- Was in Bill Johnson's Original Creole Orchestra

**Original Dixieland Jass Band (ODJB)**

- All white Band
- Their improvisation parts are notated and were played as written
- Different performances will sound the same
- First jazz recording “Livery Stable Blues” (1917)

**Jelly Roll Morton (1890-1941)**

- Creole Pianist, Composer, Arranger
- Considered the first important jazz composer and arranger
  - o Notate on paper in European notation system
- Claimed to have invented jazz in 1902
- Played in Storyville
- Also was a pimp, music publisher, thief, and boxing promotor
- Moved to Chicago in 1923
- His band was “Red Hot Pepper”

**Joe King Oliver (1881-1938)**

- Moved to Chicago in 1918
- Pioneer of using mutes, “Wah-Wah” Technique
- 1922 visited back to New Orleans
  - o Invited Louis Armstrong to Chicago to play with his Creole Jazz Band

**Sidney Bechet (1887-1959)**

- Creole of Color
- First great improviser in jazz history
- Clarinet and Soprano Saxophone
- New Orleans/Chicago/London/New York
- Was in the early period of Duke Ellington Band in NYC
- Band name “Red Onion Jazz Babies”

**Important Year 1917**

- Scott Joplin died
- ODJB made the first jazz recording, “Livery Stable Blues”
- Storyville was closed by U.S. Navy