

# Week 3: Jazz

## August 28, 2017

# “Jazz”

Etymology questionable, lots of resentment in the jazz community over the word.

See, especially Nicholas Payton’s argument for “Black American Music” (BAM)

# “The Jazz Age”

Prohibition: 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution (1917)

Repealed with passage of 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment in 1933

Among the consequences were the rise organized crime (bootleggers like Al Capone) and the “Speakeasy” – illegal pubs for socializing and listening to music.

Documentary on 1920s NYC

This is how we imagine this part of our history.

# New Orleans, Louisiana, early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Historical center of the trans-atlantic slave trade, with a mixture of French, Native American, and African heritage.

Famously musical city with a unique culture – for example, the “mardi gras indians” parades.

Especially, the “second line” in parade music

New Orleans traditional funeral: on the way to church, and on the way home

“2<sup>nd</sup> line” has evolved into a style, with high-art connotations – e.g. Wynton Marsalis, “2nd Line”

- A central tension for jazz music: is it a “popular music?” or is it “America’s Classical Music?”

# Swing

Rectangular Snip



Or

????

Or does it  
matter at all?



# Different kinds of Swing

Duke Ellington, Black and Tan Fantasy (1927)

Oscar Peterson, Have you Met Miss Jones? (1964)

Herbie Hancock, One Finger Snap (1964)

Bernard Purdie's Shuffle

# Standard Chronology of Jazz

1. Ragtime and Dixieland
  2. **New Orleans Jazz, early 20<sup>th</sup> century**
  3. **The Swing Era**
- Postwar Jazz:
4. **Bebop**
  5. Hardbop and Cool
  6. **“Modern”** and “Free”
  7. Fusion
  8. **Neo-traditionalism**

# Standard Chronology of Jazz, selected artists

1. Ragtime and Dixieland
2. **New Orleans Jazz, early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Louis Armstrong**
3. **The Swing Era – Duke Ellington**

Postwar Jazz:

4. **Bebop – Charlie Parker**
5. Hardbop and Cool
6. **“Modern” and “Free” – Miles Davis**
7. Fusion
8. **Neo-traditionalism – Wynton Marsalis**



# Standard “Anatomy” of Jazz

1. Melody – “the Head”
2. Form – a repeating harmonic form
3. Improvisation and Communication

# One example broken down

Thelonious Monk, Blue Monk

# Monk, “Blue Monk” (chart)

54.

**BLUE MONK** THE MONK'S MONK

The chart is a handwritten musical score for the piece "Blue Monk" by Monk. It consists of five systems of staves. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The first system shows a melodic line in the treble and a bass line with chords Bb, Eb7, Bb, and F7. The second system continues the melody and bass line with chords Bb, Bb7, Eb, and Eb7. The third system shows a melodic line with a triplet and a bass line with chords Bb, F7, and Eb. The fourth system shows a melodic line and a bass line with chords F7, Bb, and Eb. The fifth system shows a melodic line and a bass line with chords F7, Bb, and Eb.

# Coltrane, Giant Steps

## Recording

# Giant Steps, Chart

Handwritten musical notation for "Giant Steps" by John Coltrane. The chart is written on a single system of four staves, with the first three staves containing the melody and the fourth staff containing the bass line. The tempo is marked "FAST" and the time signature is 170. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The title "GIANT STEPS" is written above the first staff, and "COLTRANE" is written to the right. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals. The first staff contains the melody, and the second staff contains the bass line. The third staff contains the melody, and the fourth staff contains the bass line. The notation is handwritten and includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals. The first staff contains the melody, and the second staff contains the bass line. The third staff contains the melody, and the fourth staff contains the bass line. The notation is handwritten and includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

FAST 170. GIANT STEPS - COLTRANE

COLTRANE - "GIANT STEPS"

# Louis Armstrong

When the Saints Go Marching In  
Weather Bird

# Duke Ellington

Mood Indigo

Nutracker Suite

# Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie

Mohawk

Ornithology

Anthropology



# Anthropology, Score

25.  
- CHARLES PARKER

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

(Solo)

Bb6 G7 C-7 F7 Bb G-7

C-7 F7 F-7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7

1. D-7 G7 C-7 F7 2. C-7 F7 Bb6

D7 G7

C7 F7

Bb G7 C-7 F7 Bb G-7 C-7 F7

F-7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 C-7 F7 Bb6

# Charlie Parker transcription

- [link](#)

# Miles Davis

“cool?” “Modern”?

Reaction to, or against, Bebop

- **Kind of Blue** – probably the best known jazz record of all time

# Wynton Marsalis

Wynton on the Blues

Wynton Playing Haydn

Wynton, Tribute to Louis Armstrong

The Spirit of New Orleans

# Writing Assignment: Due Wednesday

Pick one of the recordings we have discussed today. Listen to it carefully, considering some of the things we've discussed.

Do you like it? Why?

Do you think it's wrong to call it "Jazz?"