



Marcus Printup
Jazz Trumpet

Friday, November 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Reconsidered Goods

So What Exactly is Jazz?

Jazz is a uniquely American style of music that came from African-American communities in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The music is largely inspired by spirituals and blues.

Jazz has evolved quite a bit over the years, but the basic ensemble is largely the same. It can be divided into two sections: the melodic section and the rhythm section. The melodic section usually consists of saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. The rhythm section is usually the piano, bass, and drum set, though depending on the style, could also have banjo or tuba.

As you listen to jazz, you'll hear the melody performed at the start of the tune. Throughout the tune, the musicians will change the tune and make it their own (this is called improvisation). Because of this, the musicians have to have a *deep* understanding of the way that the music works and is put together! After a musician finishes their solo, feel free to clap for them, even in the middle of the song!

TWELVE BAR BLUES

Jazz often uses a specific series of chords called the "Twelve Bar Blues".

This series, called a harmonic progression, uses three chords: the I ("One") chord, the IV ("Four") chord, and the V ("Five") chord.

The I chord is the tonic chord, or a sort of home base for the music. The IV chord, or the subdominant chord, can be thought of as a slightly more subdued chord that provides some background harmony. The V chord, or the dominant chord, is a stronger background harmony.

For more detailed information about Twelve Bar Blues, [click here](#).

Jazzy Stylings

The Dixieland style of jazz got its name because it developed in New Orleans. It usually has a smaller ensemble of clarinet, trumpet, and trombone, accompanied by a rhythm section of drum set, banjo (or piano), and string bass or tuba.

Swing music was performed by a larger ensemble consisting of saxophones (sometimes also clarinets), trumpets, and trombones, usually with multiple people playing each instrument. The rhythm section would typically include piano, string bass, drum set, and occasionally guitars. Swing uses "charts", or compositions, that the ensemble would improvise the melody.

The Bebop, or Bop, style of jazz was created in New York in the 1940's. This style often has more complex harmonies, faster speeds, and intense melodic lines. The jazz ensemble could usually have one to three melody instruments (saxophone, trumpet, or trombone) with piano, bass, and drums that provided the rhythmic drive.

More contemporary jazz has branched out in several ways, including cool jazz, free form jazz, and fusion jazz.

Duke Ellington

(1899-1974)

“Music is how I live, why I live, and how I will be remembered.”

Duke Ellington, who will be featured on this program, was a jazz composer during the first half of the 20th century. He wrote music for stage, screen, and songbooks.

Ellington grew up in Washington, DC, and started piano lessons at 7 years old. He wrote his first song called ‘Soda Fountain Rag’ at 15 years old, and was playing professionally by 17.

Ellington spent his early career as the leader of a band that played in Broadway clubs in New York City during the 1920’s. He looked for musicians for his band who were creative and unique in their sounds, such as Bubber Miley (1903-1932), who used a plunger as a mute for his trumpet.

Some of Ellington’s most well known numbers include ‘It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing’, ‘Sophisticated Lady’, and ‘Take the A Train’.

Ellington died of lung cancer in 1974 at the age of 75. More than 12,000 people attended his funeral in New York City.



“Hope Reemergence”

This program will include the debut of Marcus Printup’s piece, “Hope Reemergence”. This piece was written during in the midst of the 2020 pandemic. With the difficulties of the pandemic, the isolation, and the added turmoil from the murder of George Floyd, Printup stepped away from his trumpet for over a month, the longest that he had gone without playing his instrument. However, after this break, Printup turned to the power of music to process, and “Hope Reemergence” was born.

About this experience, Printup wrote:

One day, I decided to get up and try to find some light. I tried to practice, but I had nothing creatively to say on my horn. I then decided to compose something that expressed musically what I was feeling about the world/life. The melody and the chords came to me in an instant!! Reconnecting with music again gave me a “reemergence of hope”, thus “Hope Reemergence” was born!

Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and is now pursuing a PhD in Music Education from the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence, KS. Rock Chalk! He is an active researcher and presenter at the state and national levels, focusing on issues of gender equity in music education.

Matt has served in several leadership roles in the NC Music Educators Association - Orchestra Section in the past. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently a student representative for ASTA's National Student Advisory Committee.

