



**Jazz**

History and  
Development

# Genres

- Big Band and Swing
- Bebop, Cool Jazz and Free Jazz
- Latin Jazz
- Jazz Fusion



- Pictured: Louis Armstrong
- The term 'Jazz' covers various styles from the turn of the C20th up until the modern day
- The genre originates in the deep south of the US, New Orleans, Louisiana and St. Louis, Missouri
- Would have been originally written and performed by African Americans

# Big Band & Swing

## Key Facts

- Popular during the **30s** and **40s**
- Influenced by genres such as **ragtime**, **blues** and **vaudeville**
- Many songs used the **stride piano** and **boogie woogie** playing styles



- Pictured: Duke Ellington
- Stride piano = playing alternating bass notes and chords in the left hand, creating a pulse, accompanying a melodic improvisation in the right hand
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdHZ-RkF4L0>
- Boogie woogie = Heavily swung quavers played in the left hand with improvisation in the right hand
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9b3ZZywQvg>

## Big Band & Swing Main Artists

- Duke Ellington (*'Caravan' 1937*)
- Count Basie
- Louis Armstrong
- Cab Calloway
- Benny Goodman
- Glenn Miller (*'Chattanooga Choo Choo' 1942*)
- Coleman Hawkins
- Billie Holiday (*'Summertime' 1936*)
- Ella Fitzgerald



- Pictured: Billie Holiday

## Big Band & Swing Technology & Production

- Although noticeable improvements had been made in music production, there were still noticeable limitations
  - **Limited frequency range** on gramophone players
  - Limited amount of **close miking**
- The **clarity** of the recording was often up to the **performers**



- Pictured: Glenn Miller
- There were improvements in music production as well as the availability of recorded music for public consumption
  - Better microphones (dynamic and condenser) with better frequency and dynamic response
- Recordings would usually be of a live performance, but close-miking techniques were slowly being used

# Bebop, Cool Jazz & Free Jazz

## Key Facts

- Bebop was **very influential** to the development of jazz but didn't have much **commercial success**
- Cool jazz shared some of the musical **adventurousness** displayed by Bebop
- Free jazz was very difficult to listen to with **loose arrangements** and **extensive improvisation**



- Pictured: Charlie Parker
- Instrumentation usually consisted of small ensembles, typically with no vocals
- Bebop was hard to play and equally as hard to listen to casually
- Cool jazz typically had more spacious arrangements and slower tempos

# Bebop, Cool Jazz & Free Jazz

## Main Artists

- Charlie Parker
- Dizzy Gillespie
- Thelonious Monk
- Miles Davis (*'All Blues'* 1962)
- Dave Brubeck (*'Take Five'* 1959)
- Bill Evans
- John Coltrane (*'Giant Steps'* 1960)
- Charles Mingus



- Pictured: Miles Davis

# Bebop, Cool Jazz & Free Jazz

## Technology & Production

- Very similar production to other jazz recordings in the **40s**
- The **50s** introduced more **fine** jazz ensemble recordings
- Some small use of multi-track recording



- Pictured: John Coltrane
- Improvements in mics, amps and mixing desks as well as the introduction of the vinyl consumer format all contributed to this improvement in capture
- Cool jazz saw more close-miking which led to the clearer and more precise capture of individual instruments
- Albums like Miles Davis – Kind of Blue are still highly regarded as a benchmark in recording quality

# Latin Jazz

## Key Facts

- American jazz musicians would **collaborate** with musicians from Latin America during the **60s**
- The percussion adopted typical Latin rhythms



- Pictured: Astrud Gilberto
- Rhythms were influenced by popular dance styles like samba, salsa and bossa nova

# Latin Jazz

## Main Artists

- João and Astrud Gilberto (*'The Girl from Ipanema 1964*)
- Tito Puente (*'Oye Cómo Va' 1970*)
- Buena Vista Social Club (*'El Cuarto de Tula' 1997*)



- Pictured: Miles Davis

# Jazz Fusion

## Key Facts

- Jazz began to fuse with emerging pop styles in the **60s** and **70s**



- Pictured: Cory Henry

# Jazz Fusion

## Main Artists

- Snarky Puppy (*'Lingus'* 2014)
- Santana
- Chick Corea (*'Spain'* 1973)
- Weather Report (*'Birdland'* 1977)



- Pictured: Chick Corea