

Jazz Appreciation Month

Special points of interest:

- The first recording of **New Orleans jazz** was in 1917, but there is little concrete information about the earliest real jazz bands prior to this year.
- The conventional view that **jazz** emerged from a harmonized combination of European and African musical qualities, in the view of some music experts, is an oversimplification of the evolution of the genre.
- The **New Orleans style** was succeeded by **the orchestral style, piano jazz, Swing, Big Band, Bebop, The Cool School & West Coast Jazz, Free Jazz, Funk Jazz, Jazz Fusion, Soul Jazz, and Smooth Jazz** over the decades.



The **saxophone** was created by a Belgian manufacturer, **Adolphe Sax** and shown to the world for the first time at the 1841 Brussels exhibition.

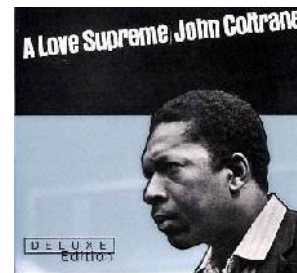
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Have you ever wondered about the evolution of America's unique art form—jazz? Did you know that although Jelly Roll Morton boasted of being the creator of jazz, no one knows who really created this new style of music?

From its earliest recorded origins circa 1917 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to its spread and transformation across the country, jazz has acquired many different expressions through the use of new styles, turnarounds (cadences), rhythms, and other formalistic aspects.

Sometime roughly within the first two decades of the 20th Century, the terms *jass* and *jazz* began to be applied to the new music originating in New Orleans. The first use of *jass* appeared in the New Orleans newspaper *The Times-Picayune* on June 20th, 1918. Tracing the exact evolution of the term is not an easy task for etymologists.

Follow the changes in this great American art form as you enjoy this pathfinder. Learn about some of the musicians and stylistic changes which have kept and continue to keep jazz alive and thriving!



Recorded in an Englewood Cliffs, NJ studio in December 1964, John Coltrane's masterpiece, **A Love Supreme**, is a 32-minute jazz suite. It is constructed on a simple four-note arrangement based on the words "a love supreme".

His inspiration to compose this piece was his expression of faith in God. He composed and played it after a long battle with substance abuse, according to an NPR special edition feature on Coltrane.

Some Highlighted Resources on Jazz

- www.smithsonianjazz.org/jam/jam_start.asp
- www.menc.org/resources/view/april-is-jazz-appreciation-month
- **The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians**, by Stanley Sadie, call # R 780.3 N42
- **The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz**, by Barry Dean Kernfeld, call # R 785.42 N42
- **Jazzwomen: Conversations Twenty-one Musicians**, by Wayne, Enstice, call # 781.65 ENS
- **The Making of Kind of Blue: Miles Davis and his Masterpiece**, by Eric Nisenson, call # 781.065 NIS



A major impact arts organization for roughly 30 years is located in Newark, NJ. It is **WBGO, 88.3 FM**, a station dedicated to jazz, blues, and soul music. It's online at:

www.wbgo.org

"Jazz music has got to have that thing. You have to be born with it. You can't even buy it. If you could buy it, they'd have it at the next Newport festival."

Miles Davis



Miles Davis is considered by many as the most influential cat in the **Jazz-Rock (Fusion)** scene, which roughly began in the late 60s and early 70s.

Books

- *The NPR Curious Listener's Guide to Jazz*, by **Loren Schoenberg**, call # 781.65 SCH
- *Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life*, by **Wynton Marsalis**, call # 781.651 MAR
- *Miles Davis: The Definitive Biography*, by **Ian Carr**, call # 785. 42 D29C
- *What Jazz Is: An Insider's Guide to Understanding and Listening to Jazz*, by **Jonny King**, call # 781.65 K58
- *Straight, No Chaser: The Life and Genius of Thelonious Monk*, by **Leslie Gourse**, call # 786.2 M74G

Articles

- *Pops, Jelly AND Sidney*. **Berry, Jason**. **New Orleans, Aug2004, Vol. 38, Issue 11.**
- *Wein's Newport Jazz Fest Carries On!* **Toomer Jeanette**. **New York Amsterdam News; 8/13/2009, Vol. 100 Issue 33, p19-19, 1/2p.**
- *Chet Baker CDs Reveal Much More than Leader of 'Cool' School of Jazz*. **Weinstein, Norman**. **Christian Science Monitor; 5/16/97, Vol. 89 Issue 120, p15, 1 Color Photograph.**
- *Carla Bley's Career Has Legs*. **Macnie, Jim**. **Billboard; 6/29/96, Vol. 108 Issue 26, p1, 2p, 3 Black and White Photographs, 1 Chart.**
- *WBGO-FM Celebrates 30th with Big Bash*. **Scott, Ron**. **New York Amsterdam News; 10/22/2009, Vol. 100 Issue 43, p25-25, 1/3p.**

Online Resources

- www.wbgo.org
- www.allmusic.com
- www.downbeat.com
- www.jazzheritage.com
- www.smithsonianjazz.org
- www.jalc.org
- www.allaboutjazz.com
- www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib/jazz/jazz.shtml
- <http://newportjazzfest.net>
- www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10002
- www.vervemusicgroup.com
- www.bluenote.com