

## **JAZZ IS**

**JAZZ IS THE ART OF EXPRESSION SET TO MUSIC.** Jazz is said to be the fundamental rhythm of human life and man's contemporary reassessment of his traditional values. Volumes have been written on the origins of jazz based upon black American life-styles. The early influences of tribal drums and the development of gospel, blues and field hollers seem to point out that jazz has to do with human survival and the expression of life.

The origin of the word "jazz" is most often traced back to the vulgar term used for sexual acts. Some of the early sounds of jazz were associated with whore houses and "ladies of ill repute." However, the meaning of jazz soon became a musical art form, whether under composition guidelines or improvisation, jazz reflected spontaneous melodic phrasing.

**THOSE WHO PLAY JAZZ HAVE OFTEN EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT JAZZ SHOULD REMAIN UNDEFINED; JAZZ SHOULD BE FELT. "IF YOU GOTTA ASK, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW." (Louis Armstrong)**

The standard legend about jazz is that it was conceived in New Orleans and moved up the Mississippi River to Memphis, St. Louis and finally Chicago. However, the influences of what led to those early New Orleans sounds goes to tribal African drum beats and European musical structure.

In reviewing the history of jazz, one cannot overlook the fact that jazz spanned many musical forms through the decades. Musical forms such as spirituals, cakewalks, ragtime and the blues were integral parts of the development. Now, more than a century later, America's great contribution to music, has crossed the threshold of universities, concert halls and become an institution within its own right.

**CAKEWALK TO BE-BOP – SWING IN BETWEEN  
(A CONDENSED HISTORY – 1897 – 1948)**

**PROFESSOR  
SONNY BUXTON**

**MONDAYS ... 1PM**

**WEEK #1 ... SEPT. 14**

**“STORYVILLE” – NEW ORLEANS NOTORIOUS RED LIGHT DISTRICT AND  
THE BIRTH OF JAZZ. (film)  
AMERICAN POPULAR DANCE – 1897 –1919 ... A BRIEF HISTORY) (on film)  
JELLY ROLL MORTON  
PAUL WHITEMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA  
MCKINNEY’S COTTON PICKERS  
CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS COTTON CLUB ORCHESTRA  
BENNY MOTEN’S KANSAS CITY ORCHESTRA**

**WEEK #2 ... SEPT. 21**

**“THE LAST OF THE BLUE DEVILS – THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ STORY”  
(film documentary) Count Basie, Lester Young, Ben Webster, Jay McShann, Big  
Joe Turner, Jo Jones and others.**

**WEEK #3 ... OCT. 5**

**“BENNY GOODMAN: ADVENTURES IN THE KINGDOM OF SWING” – a look  
at the “King Of Swing” and friends – Lionel Hampton, Teddy Wilson, Gene Krupa  
and more – an inside look at Goodman on film.  
FLETCHER HENDERSON  
BENNY CARTER  
JIMMY LUNCEFORD**

**WEEK #3 (continued)**

**CHICK WEBB'S SAVOY ORCHESTRA**

More from America's Popular Dance ...1920 – 1929 ... "The Blackbottom," "The Charleston," Raggedy Ann," "The Two Step" and the "Lindy Hop" – dances popular during the "Roaring Twenties."

**WEEK #4 ... OCT.19**

"HARLEM RENAISSANCE," the music and rhythms that started the cultural revolution. Artists included on film "Soundies" – Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Nat Cole, Cab Calloway, Louis Jordan, Count Basie, Dorothy Dandridge and others.

"BILLIE HOLIDAY – THE LIFE AND ARTISTRY OF LADY DAY" – (a short, tragic history on film.)

**WEEK #5 ...OCT. 26**

"SOUNDIES – A MUSICAL HISTORY" The original music videos from 1940 to 1947.

"ARTIE SHAW AND FRIENDS – (Artie on film) w/Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald and others.

**POPULAR DANCE ... 1930 – 1939 – including DANCE MARATHONS**

**WEEK #6 ...NOV. 2**

"THE SOUND OF JAZZ" ...CBS TV takes a look at the jazz greats – Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins, Gerry Mulligan, Billie Holiday, Lester Young, Red Allen, Jimmy Rushing and others

"DIZZY GILLESPIE – JIVIN' IN BE-BOP" (film Soundies)

**BILLIE ECKSTINE  
STAN KENTON  
HARRY JAMES  
WOODY HERMAN**

**WEEK #7 ... NOV. 9**

**“IMPROVISATION”** – An all-star cast and musical look at the composing and development of modern jazz. The film includes Charlie Parker, Oscar Peterson, Buddy Rich, Ray Brown, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and others.

**“CLASSIC JAZZ DRUMMING”** – (something close to my heart and the soul of any band) – from Swing and beyond – (film)

**Because there are two holidays during this session, we have only seven classes. The final Monday, Nov. 7, is a make-up class.**