

Jazz History

The course outline & syllabus, the class website, and a rich primer on music

Course Policies

- Instructor: Adam Roberts
 - Preferred email: adamrobertsmusic@cox.net
 - School email: adam.roberts@gmail.maricopa.edu
- The class website:
 - www.AdamRobertsMusic.com
 - Powerpoints, study guides, playlists and miscellany
- The textbook website:
 - www.wwnorton.com/college/music/jazz-essentials/
 - Interactive listening guides, book outlines...etc.



Chapter I

Musical Elements & Instruments

Wind Instruments

- **Brass**
 - Cornet & Trumpet
 - Trombone
 - Tuba
- **Woodwinds**
 - Clarinet
 - Flute
 - Saxophone



Describing Sound

- ***Timbre*** (pronounced "tam-ber"): Quality of sound
 - Ex. Bright/Edgy = trumpet or electric guitar
 - Ex. Dark/Warm = clarinet or acoustic bass
 - Jazz musicians often want "speech-like" sounds
 - Scoops and bends
 - ***Vibrato***: light wobbles in pitch
 - Vocalizing, growling
 - Mutes
 - ...anything else they can dream up...

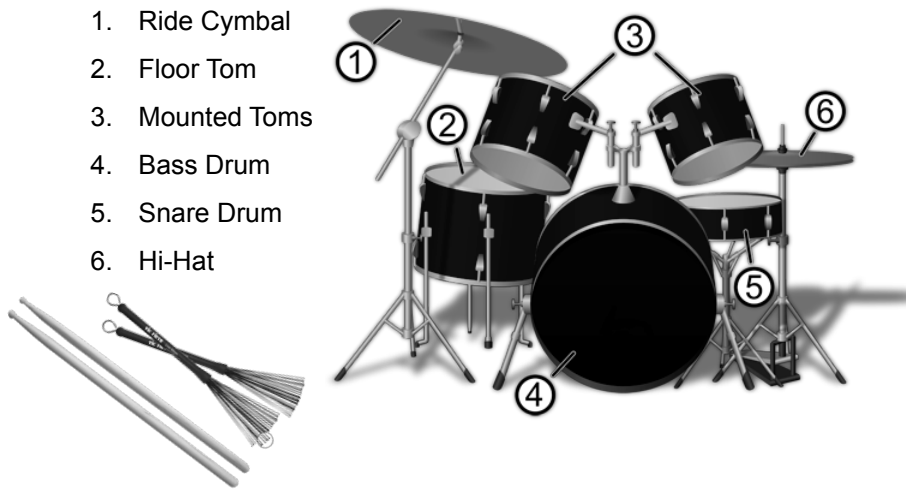
The Rhythm Section

- Drums
- Cymbals
- Banjo
- Piano
- Bass



The Drum Set

1. Ride Cymbal
2. Floor Tom
3. Mounted Toms
4. Bass Drum
5. Snare Drum
6. Hi-Hat



Meter & Rhythm

- **Tempo**: speed / pace
- **Beat**: the musical pulse
- **Meter**: how the beats of a song are grouped
 - Duple Meter: groups felt in 2's (2/4, 4/4)
 - Triple Meter: groups felt in 3's (6/8, 12/8)
 - Odd Meter: groups that combine 2's and 3's (5/4, 7/8)

Syncopation

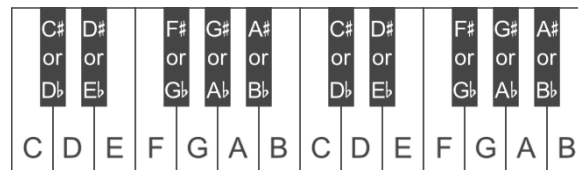
- **Syncopation**: accenting of weak beats
 - Creates rhythmic disruptions of the meter
- **Polyrhythm**: Layering two (or more) meters to create rhythmic tension
 - A type of syncopation
 - Polyrhythm is heard as a complex whole
 - Very common in African, Indian, Latin and Jazz music
 - Ex. 6 against 4
 - 1 2 3 4 5 6 (1)
 - 1 2 3 4 (1)
 - Notice that both patterns start and end at the same time

Other matters of time

- **Downbeats** (1 & 3) vs. **Backbeats** (2 & 4)
- **Groove**: the feel of the song
 - Also, the better the music feels, the more it "grooves"
- **Swing**: a rolling, bouncing feel associated with jazz
 - Jazzers often describe music that grooves as "swinging"

Melody

- Melodies are built from:
- **Scales:** sets of musical tones
 - Major
 - Minor
 - **The Blues Scale:** a uniquely African American scale, mixing European and African influences
 - Contains **Blue Notes:** soulful "bent" notes



Harmony

- Chords
 - **Triads:** 3 note chords built from every other scale note
 - **Extended chords:** chords with more than 3 notes
- **The changes** or the **chord progression:** the pattern of chords in a song
- **Dissonance** vs. **Consonance**
 - A feeling of tension (dis.) and release (cons.)
- **Inside** vs. **Outside**
 - Playing with (in) or against the chords (out)

A Jazz Lead Sheet

OLEO - SAMMY DAVIS

A) Bb major G7 C-7 F7 Bb major G7 C-7 F7
 F-7 Bb7 Eb major Eb-6 Bb major G7 2. C-7 F7
 2. Bb major B)
 C-7 F7 Bb major G7 C-7 F7 Bb major G7 C-7 F7
 F-7 Bb7 Eb major Eb-6 Bb major G7 Bb major

Texture

- The way a piece balances melody and harmony
- **Monophony**: melody without harmony
- **Homophony**: one melody with harmonic background
 - This describes most music
 - **Counter melody/obligato**: a secondary melody
 - Like a blues guitarist playing solo lines between lyrics
- **Polyphony**: multiple melodies of equal importance

A Tour of Jazz Texture

- 1910's: Ragtime, The Blues
- 1920's: Dixieland
- 1935 to 1945: Swing Bands & Big Band
- 1940's: Be-Bop
- 1950's: Cool Jazz, Hard Bop, 3rd Stream
- 1960's: Free Jazz, Latin Jazz
- 1970's: Jazz Fusion
- 1980's: Smooth Jazz, more Fusion
- 1990's to Present: just about anything mixed with Jazz



Chapter 2

Jazz Form & Improvisation

Form

- **Form**: the structure of a song
 - Musicians describe parts of form with letters
 - "A" is the first section, "B" the second...etc.
- Examples of form:
 - **Blues**: a 12-bar chord progression
 - Lyrics in AAB
 - **Song Form**: a 32-bar pattern
 - Chords / melody in AABA
 - ABAC is a common variation

More on Form

- **Chorus**: one cycle through the form
 - A performance could be several choruses long
- **The Head**: the composed melody of a song
 - Usually played before and after the solos
- A map of a typical performance:
 - Chorus 1: The head in (played by all horns)
 - Chorus 2: 1st solo
 - Chorus 3: 2nd solo
 - Chorus 4: **Trading 4s** with drums
 - Chorus 5: The head out (played by all horns)

Improvising

- What is improvising?
- What do you need to know to improvise?
- What are the players' roles?
 - Bass: keep the time, sound the changes
 - Piano: provide harmonies, rhythmic interest
 - Drums: groove and and rhythmic interest
 - Horns: invent memorable melodies

Jam Sessions

- A live, unrehearsed and informal performance
- A house band provides the music
- Players "sit in" to play with the band
- The training ground for Jazz Improvisers
 - Learn the tunes
 - Experience playing live in front of an audience
 - Thicker skin / stage presence
 - Performance etiquette