

An abstract, stylized illustration of jazz musicians. The central figure is a man with a large nose, wearing sunglasses and a red jacket, playing a yellow trumpet. To his right, another man is shown in profile, wearing a green jacket and playing a yellow saxophone. The background features geometric shapes, circles, and a keyboard-like pattern at the top. The overall style is modern and graphic.

Intro to Jazz Syllabus for Teachers



musicfirst
teach music in a connected world



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In this course, students will explore the cultural, historical, and musical background of American Blues and Jazz, as well as various cultural connections, how music reflects social and cultural awareness, and technological developments that impacted the evolution of jazz music from its roots in the late 19th century. With great intention toward fostering a foundation of creativity, there is a focus on listening in each of the units. Earliest jazz traditions focused on playing by ear, which requires a need for listening.

This course is intended for use in-class with students, for flipped-classroom activities, or as substitute plans. Each lesson can be used as pre-instructional information or as reinforcement. Most of the assessments are self-grading.

Before assigning lessons, tasks, and assessments:

- Preview all content. If you find glitches or errors, please report them to support@musicfirst.com.
- Many lessons contain links outside of MusicFirst. All links have been tested but cannot be guaranteed for functionality.
- PLEASE customize the content for your students! Add, delete or simplify as appropriate for your learners.

You can change the content and activities easily by editing the text and uploading images of different examples tailored to student needs. For best results, use png or jpeg formats. Add links to other resources and embed quality tutorial videos.

If you need help learning to modify lessons, tasks, or assessments, please contact support@musicfirst.com.

Course Contents:

Optional Introductory Units:

- Getting Started with MusicFirst
- Importing Audio in Soundation for Podcasts
- O-Generator Learning Rhythm

Core Content Units:

- The Blues
- Dixieland
- Ragtime
- Swing and the Big Bands
- West Coast and Cool Jazz
- Latin Jazz
- Bebop, Hard Bop and Post Bop
- Fusion and Funk
- Gen X and Millennials
- Women in Jazz: The Next Generation



Optional Introductory Units:

Getting Started with MusicFirst

- Getting Started with MusicFirst for Students
 - Write: Name a Jazz Artist
- Getting Started with Soundation Chrome
 - Song in Soundation
- Getting Started with Soundtrap
 - Soundtrap Song

O-Generator Learning Rhythm

- O-Gen Learning Rhythm: Latin Rhythms – Samba
 - Samba Rhythm – Quiz
 - Samba Rhythm – Challenge
- O-Gen Learning Rhythm: Latin Rhythms – Clave
 - Clave Rhythm – Quiz
 - Clave Rhythm – Challenge

Core Content Units:

The Blues

- **The Mississippi Delta: Clarksdale, MS**
 - Listening: The Blues
 - Remix: The Blues
- **The Blues and the Great Migration**
 - Listen and Respond: Avalon Blues
 - Remix: The Blues
- **Texas Blues**
 - Listening: Blind Lemon Jefferson
 - Remix: Blind Lemon Jefferson
- **St. Louis and the Blues**
 - St. Louis Blues
- **W.C. Handy**
 - Listening: WC Handy
- **The Blues in the 21st Century**
 - Listening: B.B. King
 - Remix: The Blues from Yesterday to Today
- **Assessment - Respond: Cross Road Blues**

Dixieland

- **New Orleans Rhythm Kings**
 - Listening: New Orleans Rhythm Kings
 - New Orleans Rhythm Kings Remix
 - Respond: Closer Walk With Thee
 - Respond: Tin Roof Blues
- **Dixieland in the 21st Century: Pete Fountain**
 - Listening: Pete Fountain
 - Remix: Dixieland Yesterday and Today
- **Joe "King" Oliver**
 - Listening: Joe "King" Oliver
 - Remix: Joe "King" Oliver
- **Louis Armstrong**
 - Listening: Louis Armstrong
 - Remix: Louis Armstrong
- **Assessments**
 - Respond: Canal Street Blues
 - Respond: Dippermouth Blues

Ragtime

- **Jelly Roll Morton**
 - Remix: Jelly Roll Morton
 - Listening: Jelly Roll Morton
- **Scott Joplin**
 - Scott Joplin Remix
 - Scott Joplin Listening
- **Irving Berlin: Alexander's Ragtime Band**
 - Listening: Alexander's Ragtime Band
 - Remix: Alexander's Ragtime Band
- **Ragtime Today, A Century Later**
 - Listening: Post Modern Jukebox

Swing and The Big Bands

- **Duke Ellington, The Cotton Club and the Harlem Renaissance**
 - Listening and Writing Metaphorically
 - Duke Ellington and Social Justice
- **Benny Goodman**
 - Listen: Benny Goodman
 - Remix: Benny Goodman
- **Count Basie**
 - Listening: Count Basie
 - Remix: Count Basie
 - Rhythm: Count Basie
- **The Andrew Sisters**
 - Listening: The Andrews Sisters
 - Remix: The Andrews Sisters
- **Ella Fitzgerald**
 - Listening: Ella Fitzgerald
 - Remix with Ella and Scat Singing

West Coast and Cool Jazz

- **Dave Brubeck**
 - Listening: Dave Brubeck
 - Podcast Step 1: Dave Brubeck
 - Podcast Step 2: Dave Brubeck
 - Podcast Step 3: Radio Show with Dave Brubeck
- **Miles Davis**
 - Listening: Miles Davis
 - Remix: Miles Davis So What
 - Advanced Extension: Transcribe

West Coast and Cool Jazz (continued)

- **Gerry Mulligan**
 - Listening: Gerry Mulligan
 - Remix: Cool Jazz
- **Zoot Sims**
 - Listening: Zoot Sims

Latin Jazz

- **Arturo Sandoval**
 - Reaction: National Anthem
 - Listening: Arturo Sandoval
- **Tito Puente**
 - Listening: Tito Puente
 - Rhythm: Tito Puente
- **Ray Baretto**
 - Clave Rhythms

Bebop, Hard Bop and Post Bop

- **Dizzy Gillespie**
 - Listen: Dizzy Gillespie
- **Charlie Parker**
 - Listening: Charlie Parker
 - Jazz and poor choices
- **John Coltrane**
 - Listening: Giant Steps
 - Critique Question
 - Podcast: Bebop
- **Art Blakey**
 - Listen: Art Blakey

Fusion and Funk

- **Herbie Hancock**
 - Listen: Herbie Hancock
 - Remix: Herbie Hancock Chameleon
- **Chick Corea**
 - Listening: Chick Corea
- **Marcus Miller**
 - Social Justice: Marcus Miller
 - Sample and Remix
- **Pat Metheny**
 - Podcast or Remix: Pat Metheny



Gen X and Millennials

- **Diana Krall**
 - Listen: Diana Krall and Tony Bennett
- **Diane Schuur**
 - Listening: Diane Schuur
 - Podcast: Diane Schuur
- **Harry Connick Jr.**
 - Giving Back: Harry Connick Jr.
 - Listen: Harry Connick Jr.
- **Wynton Marsalis**
 - Listening: Wynton Marsalis

Women in Jazz: The 21st Century

- **Esperanza Spalding**
 - Remix: Esperanza Spalding
 - Podcast: New Artists
- **Ellen Andrea Wang**
 - Ellen Andrea Wang
- **Andrea Motis**
 - Listening: Andrea Motis
- **Nora Jones**
 - Listen: Nora Jones
- **Kate Davis**
 - Your Jeffersonian Moment
- **Podcast: Top 10 Women In Jazz**



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