

## JAZZ TERMS

<b>Arrangement</b>	The orchestration of a musical work which involves such decisions as choosing which instruments play when and where improvisation occurs.
<b>Bebop</b>	A style of jazz which is characterized by the interaction between a soloist and the rhythm section, challenging harmonic progressions, and generally faster tempos, causing the eighth notes to “straighten”.
<b>Blue note</b>	Any note that is bent, scraped, smeared, and is generally a half step away from the obvious note.
<b>Blues form</b>	A form usually, but not always, in 12 measures with a specific pattern of chords or harmonies. The first, fourth and fifth notes of the key of the song are the basis of chords used in each set. A product of Negro culture during the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century, the blues includes several elements of African music including call-and-response, blue notes and the use of instruments to imitate the human voice.
<b>Break</b>	What occurs when a soloist is left alone by the rest of the group to play one to four bars in a song.
<b>Chord</b>	A combination usually of three or more notes sounded simultaneously or in succession.
<b>Collective Improvisation</b>	When all players improvise together at the same time.
<b>Cool Jazz</b>	A jazz style that is characterized by understated, but fiery, sound originated by musicians like Lester Young, Gerry Mulligan and Miles Davis. It was a reaction to the bebop style, and it is often associated with the west coast.
<b>Creole</b>	A person born in Louisiana of French and African (and sometimes Spanish) ancestry. Black Creoles were often of lighter skin and considered themselves to be of a higher social class than other blacks, and before the Civil War they were more likely to be free citizens than slaves.
<b>Gig</b>	A job, hopefully a paying one, to play music.
<b>Harmony</b>	The result of playing more than one note at the same time.
<b>Improvise</b>	To “improve”; to make up the music in the moment of performance, usually by playing with the elements of a theme or form that a composer has written down.

<b>Jam Session</b>	An informal gathering of musicians improvising and playing on their own time, usually after hours (or before school).
<b>Key</b>	The principal scale of a piece, in which many or most of its notes are played.
<b>Melody</b>	A succession of notes that together form a complete musical statement; a tune.
<b>Meter</b>	The basic succession of beats in a musical piece; the framework against which the music is played.
<b>Pitch</b>	A note or musical tone.
<b>Polyphony</b>	More than one melody being played at the same time.
<b>Ragtime</b>	An enormously popular musical style of the late 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, consisting of a syncopated melody over a regularly accented beat. A forerunner of jazz.
<b>Riff</b>	A brief, repeated musical phrase, used as background for a soloist or to add drama to a musical climax.
<b>Scat Singing</b>	A vocal style, usually improvised, that uses nonsense syllables as words to a song, often with the goal of helping the singer sound like a musical instrument.
<b>Seventh Chord</b>	A four-note chord that includes a triad and a note a seventh above the tonic. In jazz, the three most common seventh chords are the major seventh (e.g., C E G B), the minor seventh (e.g., C Eb G Bb), and the dominant seventh (e.g., C E G Bb).
<b>Standard Song Form</b>	A 32-bar song structure first popularized in the 1920's and 1930's by composers of popular songs; along with the blues form, this AABA form is a standard of many jazz compositions.
<b>Swing</b>	The basic rhythmic attitude of jazz, sustained by the rhythm section. Swing propels the music forward and is a defining characteristic of jazz. It also refers to a style of jazz- first appearing before WW II- that utilizes big bands playing complex arrangements, often for people to dance to.
<b>Syncopation</b>	A device which gives humor to jazz by shifting a regular musical beat to place emphasis on a beat that is normally unaccented.
<b>Texture</b>	The instrumentation of a musical passage or the timbre of an instrument or voice.