

Jazz History

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The great jazz players are distinctive in their sound, style & technique. This list gives the aspiring jazz musician an outline with which he can thoroughly investigate the entire spectrum of music.

Innovators versus Stylists

There is a distinct difference between being a stylist and a major stylistic innovator.

There are very few true **innovators** in jazz music, and they follow a direct lineage (using the trumpet as an example) from Louis Armstrong to Roy Eldridge to Dizzy Gillespie to Fats Navarro, Miles Davis and Kenny Dorham to Clifford Brown to Booker Little, Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw. These men substantially altered the harmonic and rhythmic direction of their instruments in their given eras. Not only did they redirect the concepts of the players that followed them, but they heavily influenced their peers as well.

A **stylist** is also considered a master of his craft. These are men who are fantastic soloists and who contributed greatly to the history and individuality of jazz (using the trumpet e.g. Rex Stewart, Joe Newman, Carmell Jones, Freddie Webster, Blue Mitchell, Stu Williamson, etc.), but whose influence on the **direction** of the music is secondary to that of the great innovators. This in no way diminishes these men's great contributions to the music. These men excelled in established styles (and these styles were established by Louis, Roy, Dizzy, etc.) and added their own personal approaches with a wide variety of variations in tone, rhythm and harmony.

This variety is what makes jazz music so unique and which leads us to what we strive for most as artists and musicians--**individuality**.

Notes on the Format

This is an overview of jazz history. It has been divided into four eras: Traditional, Swing, Bebop/Straight Ahead and Avant-Garde. I have not detailed the Contemporary era, today's players. The listings are arranged essentially in chronological order.

Traditional Era

Birth of Jazz centered in New Orleans (1915 and onward)

Trumpet

Louis Armstrong
Bix Beiderbecke
King Oliver

Trombone

Kid Ory
Jack Teagarden
J.C. Higginbottom

Saxophone

Sidney Bechet
Frank Trumbauer

Clarinet

Johnny Dodds

Piano

James P. Johnson
Jelly Roll Morton
Fats Waller
Albert Ammons
Meade Lux Lewis

Drums

Baby Dodds

Swing Era

Big Bands were an important vehicle for the great jazz soloists (1930's and onward)

Trumpet

Roy Eldridge
Charlie Shavers
Cootie Williams
Buck Clayton
Harry James
Rex Stewart
Sweets Edison

Trombone

Tommy Dorsey
Vic Dickenson
Tommy Dorsey
Lawrence Brown

Alto Saxophone

Benny Carter
Johnny Hodges

Tenor Saxophone

Coleman Hawkins
Lester Young

Don Byas
Ben Webster
Baritone Saxophone
Harry Carney
Guitar
Charlie Christian
Freddie Greene
Piano
Art Tatum
Count Basie
Duke Ellington
Earl Hines
Vibes
Lionel Hampton
Bass
Walter Page
Jimmy Blanton
Drums
Jo Jones
Buddy Rich
Sid Catlett
Cozy Cole
Vocalists
Billie Holiday
Frank Sinatra

Bebop/Straight Ahead Era

Harmonic & rhythmic revolution inspired by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie (1940 and onward)

Trumpet
Dizzy Gillespie
Fats Navarro
Miles Davis
Kenny Dorham
Clifford Brown
Chet Baker
Donald Byrd
Lee Morgan
Freddie Hubbard
Booker Little
Woody Shaw
Trombone
J.J. Johnson
Kai Winding
Benny Green
Curtis Fuller
Slide Hampton
Frank Rosolino
Carl Fontana
Alto Saxophone
Charlie Parker
Sonny Stitt
Lou Donaldson
Art Pepper
Lee Konitz
Jackie McLean
Cannonball Adderley
Tenor Saxophone
Dexter Gordon
Sonny Rollins
John Coltrane
Hank Mobley
Wayne Shorter
George Coleman
Stan Getz
Joe Henderson
Baritone Saxophone
Gerry Mulligan
Pepper Adams
Leo Parker
Piano
Thelonious Monk
Bud Powell
Horace Silver
Wynton Kelly
Hampton Hawes

Sonny Clark
Bill Evans
Red Garland
Oscar Peterson
Barry Harris
Herbie Hancock
McCoy Tyner
Chick Corea

Organ

Jimmy Smith
Jack McDuff
Jimmy McGriff
Larry Young
Dr.Lonnie Smith

Guitar

Wes Montgomery
Grant Green
Kenny Burrell
Jim Hall
George Benson

Vibes

Milt Jackson
Bobby Hutcherson

Bass

Oscar Pettiford
Charles Mingus
Tommy Potter
Curly Russell
Ray Brown
Paul Chambers
Doug Watkins
Ron Carter
Jimmy Garrison

Drums

Kenny Clarke
Max Roach
Art Blakey
Roy Haynes
Stan Levey
Art Taylor
Sonny Payne
Elvin Jones
Philly Joe Jones
Jimmy Cobb
Tony Williams

Vocalists

Ella Fitzgerald
Sarah Vaughan
Dinah Washington
Anita O'Day
Nancy Wilson
Billy Eckstine
Johnny Hartman
Joe Williams
Jon Hendricks
Eddie Jefferson

Avant-Garde Era

Fresh harmonic and rhythmic ideas inspired by Ornette Coleman (1957 and onward)

Trumpet

Don Cherry
Lester Bowie

Alto Saxophone

Eric Dolphy
Ornette Coleman

Tenor Saxophone

Archie Shepp
Pharaoh Sanders
Rahsaan Roland Kirk

Piano

Cecil Taylor
Andrew Hill
Sun Ra

Bass

Charlie Haden