

Dixieland

Dixieland jazz originated in New Orleans during the 1930's combining marching band instrumentation, for example: trumpets, clarinets, trombones and tuba with the traditional banjo and blues singing.

Ragtime

Ragtime jazz became very popular in North America towards the end of the 19th Century. The bouncy, syncopated rhythms and memorable tunes which characterise this style were traditionally played on the banjo and performed at Minstrel shows. Scott Joplin (1867-1917) became the most famous Ragtime composer.

Blues

Blues developed from the struggles of survival during the period of African Slavery across North America in the 1900's. The songs often contained sad lyrics, feelings of nostalgia and a longing for the homeland. Blues became a major influence in the development of modern Jazz; the 12-bar blues chord progression and the blues scales are present in many jazz styles of today.

Bebop

Bebop jazz developed during the 1940's. This style is very distinguishable from other types of jazz because it is based on very fast tempos and extremely virtuosic improvisations; there is less emphasis on melodic content and more emphasis on harmony. Some notable performers of this style included: Charlie Parker (1920-1955) and Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)

Bluegrass

Bluegrass jazz was influenced by three genres: British folk tradition, American Blues and Ragtime. This style was also developed during the 1940's. Some notable performers included: Bill Monroe (1911-1996), Jimmy Martin (1927-2005) and the Bluegrass Boys (Bill Keith on Banjo, Peter Rowan on acoustic guitar and lead singer, and Richard Greene on the fiddle)

Ballads

Ballads are love songs which can be sung or played. Miles Davis (1926-1991) became very famous for playing Ballads on the trumpet. Some examples include: It never entered my mind, Autumn leaves, Moon dreams, I waited for you; all recorded during the 1950's.

Latin

Latin Jazz is influenced by cultures from South America, Africa and the Caribbean. The rhythmic patterns demonstrate a strong swing beat created by a mixture of dotted notation, syncopation and polyphony, combined with traditional Jazz harmonies. Other styles which have emerged from Latin jazz include: bossa, Samba, Salsa, and Merengue.