Student Study Outline

Chapter 45: Jazz

1. The Rise of Jazz: Ragtime and Blues
   1. What were the origins of jazz music?
   2. Early jazz musicians based their performances on improvised variations of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. What is ragtime?
      1. Who was the “King of Ragtime,” and what is his most famous ragtime example?
      2. Ragtime was highly popular until about 1915, when what replaced it?
   4. The blues are songs about\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      1. Name some famous blues singers.
      2. Which two blues musicians developed instrumental styles for the art form?
      3. Many blues are built on a standard harmonic plan that fills out 12 measures divided into 3 phrases. Which phrases are the same?
      4. Generally, each line of text is answered by an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      5. What are blue notes?
      6. Listening Map: *Lost Your Head Blues* (1926) by Bessie Smith
         1. Smith was known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
         2. How does the music and Smith’s performance work to convey the message of the text?
2. Making Connections: Robert Johnson and the Blues as Literature
   1. Who was Robert Johnson (1911-1938)?
   2. What legends grew up around his memory?
   3. Johnson excelled at bending his voice and using microtones. What is a microtone?
3. Early Jazz: New Orleans and Beyond
   1. Early jazz was a synthesis of ragtime and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. What instruments could be found in a typical New Orleans jazz band?
   3. Early jazz bands were organized into two sections:
      1. What does the front line play, and which instruments play it?
      2. What is the function of the rhythm section, and which instruments play it?
   4. In the 1920s/30, small Dixieland jazz combos expanded.
      1. How did Jelly Roll Morton shape his composition to balance the entire ensemble of seven or eight musicians?
4. The Birth of Swing Music
   1. What initially made recordings of larger bands difficult?
   2. What distinct sections made up jazz bands of the mid-1930s?
   3. How did larger band sizes change the improvisational aspect of jazz?
   4. Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington (1899-1974)
      1. Ellington excelled at new effects such as blending colors and using unusual timbres, such as mutes for brass instruments.
      2. What are some of Ellington’s classic compositions?
      3. What was the “Ellington effect”?
   5. Listening Map: “Mood Indigo” (1930) by Ellington
      1. Which instrument plays the main tune?
      2. What makes this music so unusual?
      3. What is the form of this piece?
   6. Benny Goodman was known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How did Goodman help to “legitimatize” the position of jazz in American music?
5. The Birth of Bebop
   1. What is bebop, also known as bop?
   2. How is bebop different from earlier styles of jazz?
   3. Listening Guide: *Constellation* (1948) by Parker
      1. What was Charlie Parker’s nickname?
      2. This piece is an improvisation based on what Gershwin song?
6. Cool and Free Jazz
   1. What are the defining features of cool jazz?
   2. What is free jazz?
   3. Miles Davis (1926-1991)
      1. After contributing to bebop and cool jazz, what new direction did Davis take in the late 1960s?
      2. What are some of Davis’s most famous recordings?
   4. Listening Guide: *Bitches Brew*, “Miles Runs the Voodoo Down,” (1969) by Davis
      1. This piece uses a rock-influenced band with some unusual combinations of instruments. What instruments provide the main solos?
      2. Was this piece composed or improvised?
      3. What was innovative about this recording?