

Jazz



Writing

- When you see this icon and the text is underlined – copy the important information into your jotter.



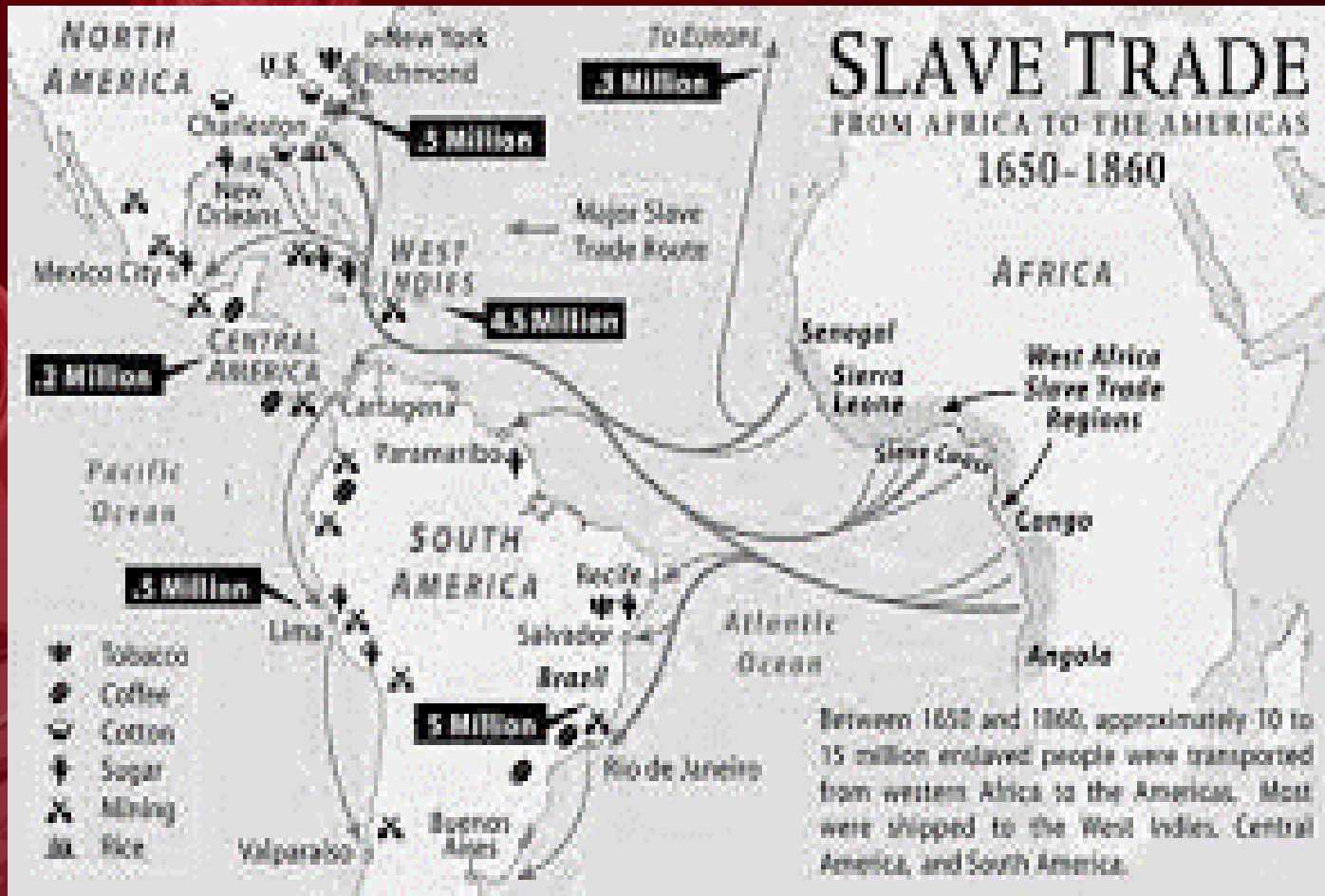
Styles of Jazz



- Jazz is a term used to describe many different styles of music. The styles we will focus on in this unit are...
 - Blues
 - Ragtime
 - Swing
 - Gospel
- Before we learn these, it is important to know and understand the background of the music that we studied, why it was written, what was going on in society around about the music. These are known as the **Social and Cultural influences** on the music.

Social and Cultural influences on Jazz

- In the early 18th century, many Africans were kidnapped from their homes and villages and taken to America, where they were sold as slaves to work in large cotton plantations.



Social and Cultural influences on Jazz

- These people would sing throughout the day whilst working in the cotton fields.
- These songs called 'spirituals' would influence Blues and Jazz many years later.



Social and Cultural influences on Jazz



- These few slides have given you an overview of the history of Jazz.
- Here is a video about the History of Jazz.

Blues

- Listen to some Blues:





Blues

- The Blues is a musical style that began around the late 19th century.
- Blues songs were sung by African Americans.
- These songs evolved from work songs, folk music and songs that were sung many years earlier by slaves working on cotton plantations. These songs were known as spirituals.

Blues

- **READ – DON'T WRITE:**
- This rich history of Blues music means that Blues songs tend to focus on storytelling and describing the tales of life for these people. As such, people tend to think of Blues as being sad songs, although this is not always the case, especially with Blues as it evolved through the 20th century.

Watch the following video of a Blues song:

Blues

- There are two important musical features of Blues you need to know about:
- A specific chord structure known as **the 12 bar blues**.
- A specific type of scale known as **the blues scale**.

The Blues Scale



- Most Blues pieces use notes from the **Blues Scale** – it has flattened notes to give it a Sad or “Blue” sound!
- The Blues scale in the key of C would have the notes:



The 12 Bar Blues



- A set chord pattern that lots of blues songs use.

• C C C C C

• F F C C

• G F C C

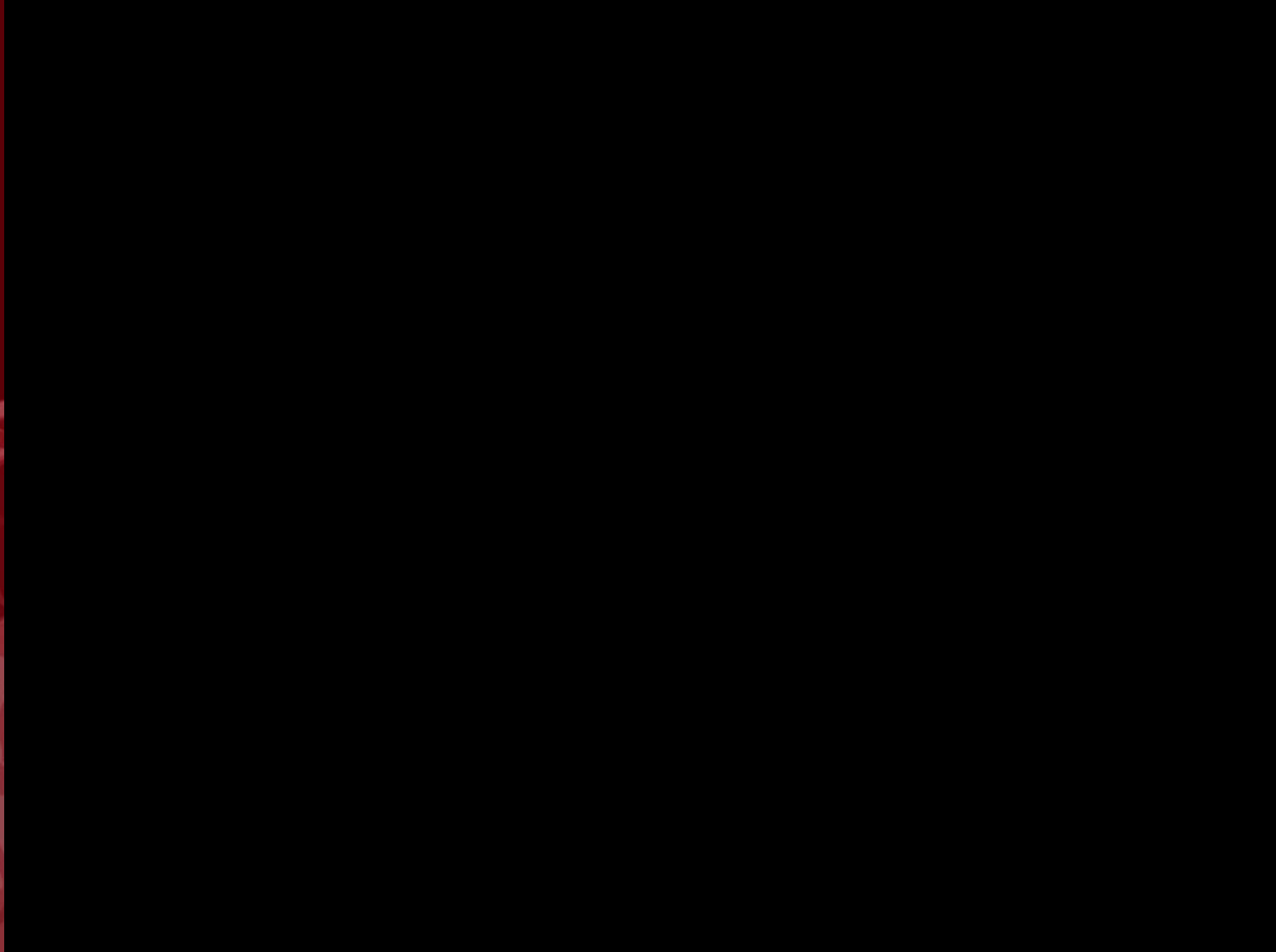
Ragtime



- Ragtime was a style of Jazz which originated in the late 1800s/early 1900s.
- Scott Joplin was one of the most famous ragtime composers and performers and was even given the nickname “The King of Ragtime”.
- The music was almost always written for piano.



Scott Joplin – The Entertainer



Ragtime



- Ragtime music features a strongly **syncopated** melody in the right hand.
- The left hand will have an accompaniment known as a **vamp**.
- The melody often has lots of **chromatic runs**.



Important Ragtime Concepts:



- **Syncopation**

- Strongly accented notes playing off or against the beat.

- **Vamp**

- A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note played on the beat and a chord off the beat. OOM-Cha OOM-Cha

- **Chromatic**

- A run of notes (at least 3) which move by the interval of a semitone.

Characteristics of Ragtime

- The excerpt of music you have just heard also contains another important concept – an **anacrusis**. This is a concept that can be found in any style or period, not just Jazz.

- **Anacrusis**



- The weaker note(s) which appear before the first strong beat of a musical phrase.
- Have another listen to “The Entertainer” and listen out for the anacrusis at the start of every musical phrase.





Swing

- A style developed in the 1930s.
- Swing is played by a **Big Band/Swing Band**. They would provide music to **dance to**.
- Swing bands usually featured soloists who would improvise on the melody over the arrangement.
- Famous Big Band Leaders include **Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman**.



Tempo and Rhythms

- Swing music is most often played at a medium to fast tempo. What Italian words describe these tempos?
- Andante or Moderato for Medium
- Allegro for Fast
- Very little swing music is slow, but do you remember the Italian word for slow from S2?
- Adagio for Slow



Tempo and Rhythms

- The main rhythmic feature of swing is the 'swinging' of the quavers, producing a "lilting" feel.
- Usually the drums would play this groove pictured.



Swing

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a swing groove. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff has a bass clef. The groove consists of a series of eighth notes (quavers) on the bass staff, with a dotted eighth note followed by a sixteenth note on the treble staff. The notes are: G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter) on the bass staff; and G4 (dotted eighth), A4 (sixteenth), G4 (dotted eighth), A4 (sixteenth) on the treble staff. There are 'x' marks above the treble staff notes, likely indicating a specific articulation or accent.

Instruments in a typical Swing Band

- Rhythm Section:

- Swing music uses a strong rhythm section of

- Drum Kit
- Double Bass/Bass Guitar
- Piano
- Guitar

- Vocalist

- Male or Female

- Lead Section

- Brass Instruments

- Trumpet
- Trombone

- Woodwind Instruments

- Saxophones

- This is just a 'template' for a Swing Band – every band might be a bit different!



Rhythm Section



Trumpets



- A standard big band might have 4 trumpets.
- The trumpet is a brass instrument which has three valves.
The valves are played in different combinations in order to get different notes.



Trombones

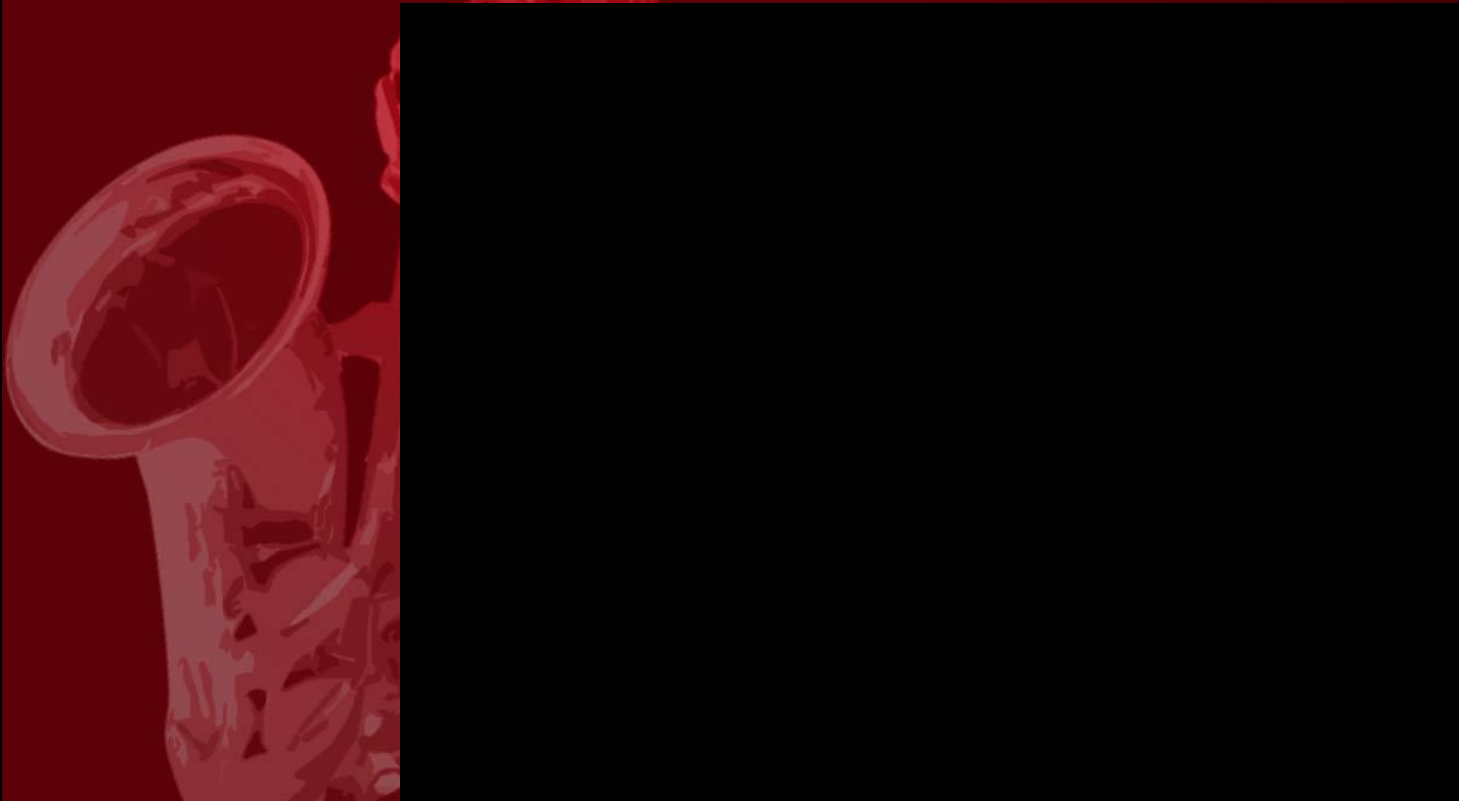


- Again, 4 Trombones would be normal in a Big Band.
- The trombone is a brass instrument which has a slide that is moved to different positions in order to get different notes.

Saxophones



- The Saxophone Section might have 5 saxes: 2 Altos, 2 Tenors and 1 Baritone Sax.
- The Alto is the highest pitched instrument in the section, the tenor is in the middle and the baritone is the lowest.



Scat Singing



- Scat Singing is often heard in Swing music.
- This is when a singer performs nonsense words or syllables.



Singers



- Singers in a big band can be either male or female.
- Can you name any famous Jazz Singers?
- Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Bubl , Jamie Cullum.





Walking Bass



- Swing and other Jazz music often has a Walking Bass
- It is a steady, rhythmical bass-line that moves in steps or small leaps.



The image displays three staves of walking bass notation in 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notation consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a steady eighth-note pulse. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: C7, F7, C7, F7, C7, G7, F7, C7, G7. The first staff has four measures, the second has four measures, and the third has four measures ending with a double bar line.



Improvising

- Improvisation is a major part of most styles of Jazz, including Swing.
- This is music made up on the spot. In swing music there was no music written out for these solos, and the players didn't plan what they would play in advance.



Gospel



- Music written with religious lyrics, often in praise or thanksgiving to God.
- Gospel has its origins in Afro-American culture.
- Think of the film Sister Act!





Jazz Unit Knowledge Check



Question 1: Tick one box from column A and column B

• Ragtime

• Blues

• Swing

• Gospel

• 12 Bar Blues

• Scat Singing

• Improvisation

• Syncopation

Jazz Unit Knowledge Check



Question 2: Tick one box from column A and column B

• Ragtime

• Blues

• Swing

• Gospel

• Walking Bass

• Scat Singing

• 12 Bar Blues

• Blues Scale

Jazz Unit Knowledge Check



Question 3: Tick one box from column A and column B

• Ragtime

• Blues

• Swing

• Gospel

• 12 Bar Blues

• Scat Singing

• Improvisation

• Syncopation

Jazz Unit Knowledge Check

Question 4 & 5: Name the style of music.

- Question 4



- Question 5



Jazz Unit Knowledge Check

- Question 6
- Question 7
- Improvising is when.....
- Scat singing is when....

Jazz Unit Knowledge Check

- **Question 8:** Name as many instruments as you can in the following excerpt.



- **Question 9:** Write the pitch/letter names in for the Blues Scale below.



Answers

- 1 Ragtime and Syncopation
- 2 Swing and Walking Bass
- 3 Blues and 12 Bar Blues
- 4 Ragtime
- 5 Gospel
- 6 Improvising is when music made up on the spot.
- 7 Scat singing is when a singer performs nonsense words or syllables.
- 8 Trumpet, Drumkit, Piano, Double Bass, Trombone, Clarinet
- 9 C Eb F Gb G Bb C
(or the word flat i.e. E flat etc.)