

ORIGINS OF JAZZ

1. The slave trade 1619 - 1865
2. Slaves brought a musical culture quite different from the prevailing “white” European culture
3. African music was both religious and functional. It included all members of that culture. Prayer to harvest god, or song to celebrate a victorious battle
4. Slaves entered a world where language traditions and music were suppressed

HOW SLAVES ADAPTED

1. Took to Christianity. Adapted the new religion musically by taking familiar African melodies and changing the words to fit.
2. But the rhythms, harmonies and vocal inflections remained African . The Negro **spiritual** took root - the first example of Afro-American music
3. This let the slaves express themselves to peers without being understood by white people

PROBLEMS OF ADAPTING

1. **Drums!** These were feared by the white men. In Africa they were used to wake people up, greet visitors, attack enemies. Used to accompany dancers, workers and funeral processions.
2. **Work Songs.** In Africa songs were common and usually reflected the rewards of labour. Happy because it was for tribal gain.

PROBLEMS OF ADAPTING

3. **Work Songs.** In America no rewards! But it did encourage improvisation (the essence of jazz)
4. When emancipation came in 1865 it was traumatic and a myth. They were still **African Negroes.** The “freedom” and the “promised land” meant they experienced Railways, Cities, Saloons, Stage coaches, Indians, seaports, poker, police, whorehouses and VD.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE **BLUES**

1. The slaves' songs now had more to tell and spoke of earthly pleasures as well as heavenly ones!
2. The pattern was simple, melodic content = work song repeated over and over again. **Blues** could be of three to fifteen bars long, with each singer telling his/her own story.
3. Although the African origins had been obscured around 1900, the **Blues** had developed into a standard poetic and musical form

Typical Blues Words and Harmony

1. **I woke up dis mornin an` my head felt bad
I woke up dis mornin an` my head felt bad
I was dreamin` `bout my baby an` what a time
we had**
2. The chord pattern of the 12 bar Blues is usually
Tonic (4 bars) Subdominant (2 bars) Tonic
(2 bars) Dominant (2 bars) Tonic (2 bars)
(see my musical work sheet for.....)
3. Within this simple form singers fill the
measures with an endless variety of details
about life. Instrumentalists also fill the
measures with a variety of musical phrases

New Orleans and the 'Delta' area

- By 1900 New Orleans was a major urban area a world trade center dealing with coffee, sugar, bananas, lumber and petroleum.
- Steamboats carried the various ethnic peoples, Black, Indian, French, and English speaking groups. Of course the bosses were White and the workers were Black, Indian and poor White.
- White culture was high fashion, refined cuisines, concerts, theater, formal dancing co-existing with medicine shows, rodeos, burlesques and band concerts

New Orleans and the 'Delta' area

The Black culture was strongly represented by the Church, revival of African drumming, dance, minstrel shows, and the **Blues**.

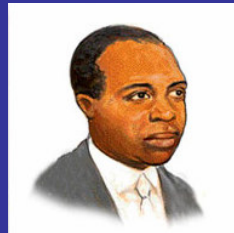
RAGTIME

This was a hit around the turn of the Century. It was an amalgam of Marching music, Polkas, Saloon ballads, and formal music teaching

Scott Joplin (1868 –1917)

Maple Leaf Rag

It was eventually printed and anyone could play it!



The Cultural Trade-off !

European music influenced black music in two ways:

- ♪ formal study of the “great masters” resulted in **Ragtime** and
- ♪ adaptation of European instrumental techniques (particularly the trumpet, clarinet, and trombone) resulted in **Jazz**

Early Band Music

Although there were a number of “JASS” bands before 1917 and a number of famous players including:-

Buddy Bolden, Bunk Johnson, Freddie Keppard, and King Oliver



Early Band Music

All we have in most cases is a dark black and white photograph no music!!

In 1917 The Original Dixieland Jazz Band (an all white band!!) recorded through the **Talking Machine Company**. “Livery Stable Blues” and “Dixie Jass Band One Step”



Early Band Music

Other recordings followed and by 1923 one the most famous names in the Jazz Band world was recording frequently. **King Oliver`s Creole Jazz Band**.