

Teacher's Curriculum for *The Birth of Bebop*

The AJW's mission is to perform for and with public school students in order to encourage their participation in band, orchestra, and choir programs; to uphold and promote the American jazz tradition; and to enhance quality of life for all ages through live performances employing area musicians and collaborations with nonprofit organizations and student ensembles in central Texas.

This year's season is dedicated to the early days of Bebop, the jazz style that brought the music from the 1930's Swing Era into the modern day. We will focus primarily on works by saxophonist Charlie Parker and trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, the early pioneers of Bebop.

Workshop Logistics:

You will be contacted by your workshop clinician about two weeks prior to your scheduled assembly. Ideally, workshops should take place during the assembly week. They are aimed at grade levels three and higher, with a budget of **three class periods per campus**. Classes may be combined, but a maximum of fifty students in the room at one time is preferred. Workshops are designed to take place in the music classroom. They are intended as an opportunity for some of your students to get acquainted with jazz concepts and history before the full group performs on your campus, but the workshop is not required for students to enjoy the assembly performance.

Necessary Equipment:

Our clinician will need a CD player and a laptop or desktop with PowerPoint viewing capability from flash drive that we provide.

Assembly Performance Logistics:

The AJW will set up on the floor this year, if possible. The group is a quintet consisting of trumpet, saxophone, keyboard, bass, and drums. The band will need three chairs and electric piano if available. Otherwise, we can bring our own electric piano. Also, we will use the projector/screen in your cafetorium to project lyrics for a singalong to two original songs, *Bird's Confirmation* and *Parker Came Along*.

The following is intended to help you prepare your students for the Austin Jazz Workshop experience on your campus. It is divided into three parts: **Classroom Prep** (done by you before the clinician's visit), **Workshop Experience** (done by the AJW clinician in your classroom), and **Performance Experience** (done by the full group during the assembly).

Classroom Prep for *Bird's Confirmation* and *Parker Came Along* (optional): Sheet music and practice recordings for both tunes are available for download from our website here: http://austinjazzworkshop.com/?page_id=16. Students can sing on both numbers, and play recorders on *Bird's Confirmation*.

Workshop Experience for *Bird's Confirmation* and *Parker Came Along*: The clinician will lead your classes in singing these songs, and play along with them as they play recorder on *Bird's Confirmation*, if they are ready.

Performance Experience for *Bird's Confirmation* and *Parker Came Along*: The audience will be led in song with lyrics projected. Recorder students who are ready will be brought up to perform with the band.

Other workshop components:

Terms for this year: *Swing, Improvisation, Bebop*. The clinician will demonstrate the concepts of swing and improvisation for students.

Historical Context: How Bebop revolutionized jazz music while still working with familiar Swing Era tunes, recasting the melodies to fit the new melodic and harmonic approach favored by the beboppers. Parallels to the visual arts will be discussed.

Question/Answer: The clinician will leave some time for questions at the end of the presentation. Generally during this portion, the clinician will encourage students to become involved in band, orchestra, and choir programs in middle school.

Video Selection: If time permits, the clinician will direct the class to relevant YouTube clips of some of the songs to be presented. TV and Internet access will be necessary for this to occur.

FYI: video of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie playing “Hot House”. This is the only existing film footage of these two musicians performing together, and there is no other live performance film of Parker, who died in 1955.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJYO6_t4d08

Suggested Discography

(There are many fine recordings of bebop jazz. What follows is just a sampling.)

Charlie Parker, *The Complete Savoy and Dial Recordings*. Uptown Jazz.

Charlie Parker, *Bird: The Complete Charlie Parker on Verve*. Polygram.

Dizzy Gillespie, *The Development of an American Artist*. Smithsonian.

Dizzy Gillespie, *The Complete RCA Victor Recordings, 1947-49*. RCA.

Bud Powell, *The Genius of Bud Powell*. Verve.

Fats Navarro, *His Best 1946-49*. Best of Jazz/FRA.

Participation in AJW Jazz Jubilee or AJW @ Texas Community Music Festival.

Austin ISD teachers who are interested in having students from your school participate in either of these two annual events are welcome to download the *AISD Jazz Jubilee 2019 Letter of Intent* to register or gain more information.

Questions? Contact Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255 or ausjazz@gmail.com.