

## **Fifty Years of San Francisco Jazz, 1916-66**

UC Berkeley Syllabus Fall 2024

San Francisco music and entertainment embraced individuality, innovation and novelty. Early Jazz flourished in the bawdy Barbary Coast quarter. Lu Watters launched a worldwide musical rebellion reviving early Jazz style. Asian singers, dancers and entertainers found liberty in San Francisco's ethnic nightclubs.

Known as "Harlem of the West," The Fillmore district was a dynamic jazz quarter. Oakland, the East Bay and nearby Russell City were a nexus for the West Coast Blues. North Beach nightlife became a world-class entertainment destination while the innovative *Jazz Casual* television series featured the greatest names in Jazz.

Each zoom class offers interpretation of a dozen or more audio-visual clips, many created expressly for the course. Digital class handouts provide detailed playlists and link menus for further exploration.

1. **Overview & Introduction:** Orientation to the key eras, venues and personalities. Wild nightlife, dancing and vice brought New Orleans Jazz to the Barbary Coast before 1920.
2. **Music Uptown, Downtown & Forbidden City:** During 1920s and '30s prestigious hotel orchestras took prominence. In the Chinese nightclubs of San Francisco like "Forbidden City" new means of expression emerged for Asian entertainers.
3. **Frisco Traditional Jazz, 1940s:** Lu Watters' Yerba Buena Jazz Band launched a worldwide musical rebellion reviving early Jazz style. Rediscovered trumpeter and living New Orleans legend Bunk Johnson had a huge local impact, performing and recording.
4. **Second-wave Jazz Revival, 1950s:** Dixieland music was ubiquitous on both sides of the Bay in local nightclubs, jazz dives and jam sessions. Club Hangover was the foremost Dixieland Jazz venue on the West Coast, presenting veteran New Orleans Jazz musicians six nights of the week with a Saturday night radio broadcast. Trombonist and bandleader Turk Murphy became 'Mr San Francisco.'
5. **Jazz in The Fillmore & North Beach Nightclubs:** During the 1950s and '60s, The Fillmore district was known as "Harlem of the West." Nightlife in North Beach became a world-class attraction. Red-Hot Mamas Pat Yankee and Barbara Dane belted out the blues. Oakland and the East Bay had thriving jazz joints while nearby Russell City was a nexus of the West Coast Blues.
6. **Jazz Casual TV, Turk Murphy and Vince Guaraldi:** Produced by music journalist Ralph J. Gleason, the innovative *Jazz Casual* television series crafted an intimate performance and interview format presenting the greatest names of Jazz. North Beach native, pianist Vince Guaraldi gained wide affection via the Peanuts cartoon Christmas specials.