

The Age of Classic Jazz, 1905-1935

Six zoom classes, UC Berkeley OLLI, 2023

Early Jazz was America's most original artform shaped by artistic ferment among African Americans, social upheaval and shifting demographics. Classic Jazz bandleaders, instrumental soloists and composers crafted distinctive new musical styles and modes of self-expression drawing from rich personal gifts and the ambient culture.

Duke Ellington composed the most advanced and transcendent sounds of the era becoming a household name via his nationwide Cotton Club broadcasts. Classic Blues singers Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey asserted their power and sensuality, accelerating popular interest in Jazz. The vivid music, dance and vice of Frisco's Barbary Coast is also depicted.

Zoom lecture classes place a dozen audiovisual clips in context, many created expressly for this course. A menu of links leading to related multimedia resources for further exploration is provided with each class.

1. Jazz Origins & the Blues: Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Buddy Bolden, The Barbary Coast.
2. Popular Rise: Louis Armstrong, Ethel Waters, Paul Whiteman, Fats Waller.
3. Creating Form: Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, early jazz guitar and violin.
4. Trumpet's Majesty: Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, King Oliver, Jabbo Smith.
5. The Harlem Renaissance: Duke Ellington, Josephine Baker and the Divas of Paris.
6. Saxophone Matures Late: Sidney Bechet, Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young.

For reading or viewing in advance:

Jazz: A History of America's Music (TV/DVD documentary series, audiobook, book)
Ken Burns & Geoffrey Ward (Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/jazz>

Dave Radlauer Jazz Rhythm website <http://www.jazzhotbigstep.com>

Dave Radlauer channel on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@daveradlauer8642/videos>

Dave Radlauer Jazz Column, *The Legend is True* <https://syncopatedtimes.com/the-legend-is-true>