

History of Jazz Violin, OLLI, Berkeley – Winter 2019 -
Jan. 28 - Mar. 11, 10 am – 12 pm, University Hall Room 41B
Mr. J. Kit Eakle – presenter, email: kit@musickit.com

Class Description: Though sometimes considered an anomaly in jazz, violinists have been central to creating some of its most exciting, innovative music. Discover the reasons for this disconnect, the influential jazz violinists of the past century, and how their music reflects the social, racial, technological, and musical influences of their times. We will trace the violin's influence from the eras of African prehistory, slavery, and "pre-jazz," to the birth of the blues, swing, be-bop, and beyond through vintage recordings and live demonstrations.

CLASS 1: (Mon., Jan. 28) – 1700 and before – 1900: Pre-History to Pre-Jazz: Violin/Fiddle in Africa, slavery in the "New World," to Will Marion Cook, Anton Dvorak and the beginnings of Jazz

CLASS 2 (Mon., Feb. 4) – 1900- 1925: The Birth of Jazz in NEW ORLEANS Uptown/Downtown and the Territory Bands - Violinists as the first Jazz Band Leaders to James Reese Europe, WW I and the 'New Negro.'

CLASS 3 (Mon., Feb. 11) – 1925 – 1950: Moving Up to Chicago - Violin Stars of SWING: Joe Venuti, Eddie South, Stéphane Grappelli, Claude Williams, to Stuff Smith, Harry Lookoffsky and the beginnings of BeBop

CLASS 4 (Mon., Feb. 25): 1950 – 1975: Modern Jazz, The Birth of the 'Cool' and Third Stream to Free Jazz and Fusion

CLASS 5 (Mon., Mar. 4): No Instrument OR Genre Is An Island: Influences of (and on) classical, country, blues, bluegrass, latin, and popular musical genres and developing sound and recording technologies

CLASS 6 (Mon., Mar 11): The Post-Modern (Post-Racial???) Generation: 1975 to the present.