

Dr. Jeff Denson
OLLI@Berkeley
Fall 2017
Wednesdays 2-4pm
Freight & Salvage

Jazz History 1940-59: The Rise of Modern Jazz

A course designed to identify key figures and artistic concepts comprising modern jazz, the period marking the transition of jazz from its role as entertainment, to its role as an art form celebrating individual expression. Beginning with bebop in the 1940s and ending with Miles Davis' iconic recording "Kind of Blue" in 1959, this course examines this groundbreaking music and the artistic innovators who created it – all within the context of notable epoch-making historical events, including WWII and the Civil Rights Movement. This course will utilize audio and video recordings along with special in-class live performance demonstrations.

Week One

September 27th

Class Intro, "WWII, The Ban & The Duke"

Week Two

October 4th

"The Birth of Bebop"

Week Three

October 11th

"The Architects of Bebop: Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie & Thelonious Monk"

Week Four

October 18th

"Progressive Jazz: The Lennie Tristano School"

Week Five

October 25th

"Cool Jazz and the West Coast"

Week Six

November 1st

"1959 – The Greatest Year in Jazz"