OLLI at UNT 100 Years of Jazz

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2017 marks 100 years since the first jazz record was made. This class will provide an overview of the music's changing styles and audiences over the past century, with emphasis on how the music relates to historical trends. The class will end with the current state of jazz, trends for the future, and the question of why a young musician would want to study it in 2017. The talk will be illustrated with videos and discussion will be encouraged.

5 min	Discussion: What do you hope to get out of our session?
40 min	1 Overview of styles and audiences since 1917
15 min	2 Current state of jazz & trends for the future
10 min	3 Why a young musician would want to study it in 2017
20 min	Discussion

This handout links to many more videos than we will be able to watch in the class. We'll sample them at a pace that feels right for the class.

1 Overview of styles and audiences since 1917

Q. What is jazz, anyway?
A. A music style distinguished by:
- swing rhythmic feel (and related rhythmic grooves like Latin (Cuban and Brazilian))
- improvisation
- blues feeling

Early Jazz
Q. When was the first jazz record made?
A. 1917 Original Dixieland Jazz Band
Q. How was it received by audiences?
A. As novelty music, entertainment music. It wasn't appreciated as art music until later.
https://youtu.be/UHZIsfJ-m8U
Q. ODJB might be the first jazz record, but what is an example of the best early jazz?
A. Louis Armstrong, Potato Head Blues
Jelly Roll Morton, Black Bottom Stomp

Swing Era
Jazz as dance music, the country's popular music
Jammin' the Blues https://youtu.be/Hn5d2Q1NJLU
Hellzapoppin' dance sequence https://youtu.be/ahoJReiCaPk
Swing as social commentary: Strange Fruit excerpt from KBJ
Swing as bringing together diverse groups in our society:
The Girls in the Band tour the Jim Crow south (Kanopy)

Modern Jazz/Bebop
The audience got smaller, but more dedicated to listening to jazz as an art form
Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie on Earl Wilson TV show
https://youtu.be/yqorVLscxRI
artist role replaces entertainer role

1950s and 1960s Post-Bop styles
A high point for jazz in a variety of post-bop styles, with a sizeable audience and cultural cachet
Dave Brubeck Take Five https://youtu.be/PHdU5sHigYQ
Blakey Moanin https://youtu.be/YZphhNPkSPI
Bill Evans https://youtu.be/dH3GSrCmzC8
Anita O'Day at Newport https://youtu.be/DcMmVGrzpy8
Count Basie Corner Pocket https://youtu.be/8IVX8BayOCA
Miles Davis So What https://youtu.be/zqNTltOGh5c
John Coltrane Impressions https://youtu.be/03juO5oS2gg

Avant-garde
Experimental, free jazz alienates part of the audience, which prefers rock and other pop styles
Cecil Taylor https://youtu.be/EstPgi4eMe4
Art Ensemble of Chicago with Cecil Taylor https://youtu.be/Ah5OVkgUtF8

Fusion
Jazz musicians playing in pop styles
Miles Davis https://youtu.be/7U0gDkriczc
Weather Report https://youtu.be/pqashW66D7o

Neo-traditional
Return to traditional swinging jazz on acoustic instruments
Wynton Marsalis Embraceable You https://youtu.be/P1dkHuxWI_w

Latin jazz
Cuban-influenced jazz
Tito Puente https://youtu.be/GSciMob1-CI

2 Current state of jazz & trends for the future

Non-U.S., recent
Bobo Stenson Trio plays in the forest https://youtu.be/-HiCop-0jIo
Lionel Loueke Benny's Tune https://youtu.be/KXzgWTZ2NW0
Israeli clarinetist Anat Cohen plays Brazilian choro https://youtu.be/zLBvw50QQ7M

U.S., recent:
Smalls Jazz Club archived stream
Modern jazz as social commentary: Breathless
Terence Blanchard https://youtu.be/ycEjahse9OA about the song
Breathless in the studio https://youtu.be/y9pl1XakxJ8

Ben Wendel & Gilad Hekselman https://youtu.be/uJ-36jqJuwk
Maria Schneider Hang Gliding https://youtu.be/ZXlaXbI0Eqg
Snarky Puppy Lingus https://youtu.be/L_XJ_s5IsQc
Cécile McLorin Salvant I Didn't Know https://youtu.be/G99FfalLFWQ
Esperanza Spalding Sunny Side of the Street https://youtu.be/TQtXo4tiZxs

3 Why a young musician would want to study it in 2017

They enjoy listening to contemporary jazz played by big bands and small groups, and they want to make that kind of music themselves
They want to be able to improvise.
They aspire to a level of musicianship that only jazz can provide.
They view jazz training as a multipurpose preparation for creative music-making.
They have certain jobs in mind, such as high school band director in a program that includes a jazz band, playing jazz in one of the military bands, or teaching jazz performance at the college level.

Discussion
Extra links
Jazz at Lincoln Center
Untamed Elegance: New Orleans, 1920s, 1930s https://youtu.be/OrkiCPdXz74
Jazz of the 1950s: Overflowing with Style https://youtu.be/dsvUK8hvECk
Free to Be jazz of the 1960s set 1 https://youtu.be/KGtaaT-wktc
Free to Be jazz of the 1960s set 2 https://youtu.be/ERG-x-VyFzk
Celebrating Dizzy Gillespie https://youtu.be/Pxv_JR4A3c0