

Grooving in Jazz

- Steady beat in $\frac{4}{4}$
- Jazz swing feel

Preparing for Success

Jam Session

Students will learn to feel a steady beat in $\frac{4}{4}$, and will independently find the jazz groove (swing feel) on beats 2 & 4 through listening, responding, moving and vocalizing to selected musical examples. Students will respond to the jazz groove of 2 & 4 on classroom instruments.

Activity 1: Steady Feet (Marching)

Activity 2: Swinging Feet (That's Swing)

Activity 3: That's Jazz (combine)

Activity 4: *Jazzy Hands* (pass the beat)

Activity 5: *Jazzy Band* (pass the instrument)

Activity 6: *Jazzy Ride* (add ride cymbal)

Link: New Orleans Brass Bands

Vocabulary

Jazz, swing, feel, steady beat, jam, jam session, accent, ride cymbal, drumset

Materials

- *Chop-Monster Jr.* CD1-Tracks 1–7
- Worksheet 1: Musical Instruments
- Worksheet 2: Drums and Jazz
- Ride cymbal with drumstick (a suspended cymbal on a stand and one drumstick)
- F Boomwhacker (an F Boomwhacker tuned percussion tube with Octivator cap)
- Boomwhacker alternatives: clave, beanbag, or plastic shaker

Indicators of Success

Students are successful in finding beats 2 & 4 through movement, vocalizing, playing classroom instruments, listening and responding to selected jazz examples.

Concert Time

Students will demonstrate their internalization of jazz swing feel through independent performance of *Jazzy Ride*.

Sitting In

Students will learn about the historical development of the jazz swing feel, brass bands and social traditions in New Orleans through suggested learning links.

Unless specified, you will need to supply the referenced audio or video recordings.

Link to Jazz Masters

"Oh, Lady Be Good," George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin. *Eureka Brass Band: New Orleans Funeral and Parade*, Eureka Brass Band. American Music Records, audio recording. www.jazzology.com

"Oh, Lady Be Good," recorded by Jones-Smith Incorporated is featured on *Ken Burns Jazz: The Story of America's Music*, Disc 2, Columbia/Legacy 5-CD set (from *Essential Count Basie Vol. 1*, Columbia/Legacy), audio recording. www.legacyrecordings.com

"Oh, Lady Be Good," George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin. *Best of Early Basie*, Count Basie Orchestra. Decca, audio recording. www.vervemusicgroup.com

Link to Literature

The Jazz of Our Street, Fatima Shaik, pictures by E. B. Lewis. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Putnam Inc., 1998. www.penguinputnam.com

Link to History

Archival film featuring "Oh, Lady Be Good," recorded by Artie Shaw and His Orchestra, 1939, is included in *Jazz: A Film by Ken Burns*, Episode 6, Florentine Films/PBS/Warner Home Video, 10-episode video series (also DVD). www.pbs.org/jazz

Jazz for Young People Curriculum, Lesson 1, Marsalis, New York: Jazz at Lincoln Center, 2002, teaching curriculum with 30 student guides, 10-CD set audio recordings and video recording. www.jazzatlincolncenter.org



✓ Jam Session

Introduction

"We are going to explore an exciting style of music called **jazz**. Who can tell me what they already know about jazz?"

Students should give a variety of answers such as "You can dance to it," "It is fun," or "It is happy music."

Reproducible Worksheet 1: Musical Instruments

Optional: Make transparency from Worksheet 1 and show/discuss instruments commonly played by jazz musicians.

"Jazz is fun to move and dance to because of a special rhythmic feel called **swing**. Let's listen to a jazz tune that features that great quality called swing. As you listen to the music, tap two fingers in your opposite palm on beats 1, 2, 3, 4."

CD-1



Swinging

Play CD1-Track 1 and model tapping a steady beat in the palm of your hand.

"Tell me a little about what you heard in that jazz recording. What was the beat like? Why do you think jazz musicians say that their music **swings**?"

Reinforce answers that relate to the swing feel.

Activity 1 / Steady Feet

"Let's see if we can learn to feel the swing of jazz in our feet. To begin, let's make sure we all have steady feet."

CD-1



Marching

Using CD1-Track 2 have students march to beats 1, 2, 3, 4, coaching them to feel and maintain a steady beat.

Activity 2 / Swinging Feet

"Now let's see if we can swing our feet."

CD-1



That's Swing

Step 1:

Have students listen to CD1-Track 3, *That's Swing*. The feel is now swing, with an emphasis on beats 2 & 4.

Step 2:

Listen again to CD1-Track 3 and model tapping all four beats with two fingers in the palm of the opposite hand, inviting students to try it. After listening ask,

"Where does this music make you want to clap? Let's see if you can figure that out while we listen to this again."

Children should be clapping on beats 2 & 4.

Worksheet 3: Jazz Masters

Full Name _____



Louis Armstrong



Duke Ellington



Mary Lou Williams



Ella Fitzgerald



Count Basie



Benny Goodman



Dizzy Gillespie



Charlie Parker



Miles Davis

Dizzy Gillespie photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Carl Van Vechten Collection.
Charlie Parker photo © Robert Parent.
All other photos courtesy of the Institute of Jazz Studies.

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