Jazz History Essentials

Music History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In which American city did jazz music originate during the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

A) New York City
B) New Orleans
C) Chicago
D) Los Angeles

2. Which brass instrument is Louis Armstrong most famous for playing?

A) Trombone
B) Tuba
C) Trumpet
D) Saxophone

3. What is the term used to describe making up music on the spot during a jazz performance?

A) Improvisation
B) Composition
C) Orchestration
D) Transcription

4. Duke Ellington was a famous composer and bandleader known for playing which instrument?

A) Drums
B) Piano
C) Guitar
D) Bass

5. Which decade is often referred to as the 'Jazz Age'?

A) 1920s
B) 1950s
C) 1980s
D) 1910s

6. What style of jazz, popular in the 1930s and 1940s, was designed for large dance bands?

A) Bebop
B) Swing
C) Free Jazz
D) Cool Jazz

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7. Which famous jazz singer was known as the 'First Lady of Song'?

A) Billie Holiday
B) Ella Fitzgerald
C) Nina Simone
D) Sarah Vaughan

8. What rhythmic technique, where notes are played with a uneven, 'long-short' feel, is a hallmark of jazz?

A) Staccato
B) Legato
C) Swing
D) Syncopation

9. Miles Davis was a major figure in which subgenre of jazz?

A) Ragtime
B) Dixieland
C) Cool Jazz
D) Big Band

10. Which jazz musician was nicknamed 'Bird' and was a leading figure in the development of bebop?

A) Charlie Parker
B) Thelonious Monk
C) Count Basie
D) Benny Goodman

11. What is the primary musical structure often used as a basis for jazz improvisation?

A) Sonata
B) Blues
C) Overture
D) Concerto

12. Which instrument is typically used to provide the 'walking bass' line in a jazz rhythm section?

A) Double Bass
B) Acoustic Guitar
C) Cello
D) Clarinet

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