Advanced Jazz History Exam

Jazz History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which jazz musician was the first to receive a Pulitzer Prize for Music for a body of work, specifically 'Blood on the Fields' in 1997?

A) Wynton Marsalis
B) Ornette Coleman
C) Duke Ellington
D) Henry Threadgill

2. The 'Birth of the Cool' sessions, led by Miles Davis, were primarily arranged by which musician?

A) Gerry Mulligan
B) Gil Evans
C) John Lewis
D) Lee Konitz

3. Which jazz club in Harlem was famous for its 'cutting contests' and served as a primary site for the development of bebop in the early 1940s?

A) The Cotton Club
B) The Village Vanguard
C) Minton's Playhouse
D) Birdland

4. What is the title of the 1957 album by John Coltrane that served as his first recording as a leader for Blue Note Records?

A) Blue Train
B) Giant Steps
C) Coltrane
D) Soultrane

5. Which big band leader is credited with composing 'Mood Indigo' and 'Sophisticated Lady'?

A) Count Basie
B) Benny Goodman
C) Fletcher Henderson
D) Duke Ellington

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6. The 1926 recording of 'Heebie Jeebies' by Louis Armstrong is historically significant for popularizing which vocal technique?

A) Sprechgesang
B) Scat singing
C) Falsetto
D) Operatic vibrato

7. Which legendary jazz bassist was nicknamed 'The Bishop of Jazz' and recorded the album 'Mingus Ah Um'?

A) Ray Brown
B) Charles Mingus
C) Paul Chambers
D) Jimmy Blanton

8. In 1960, which free jazz pioneer released the album 'The Shape of Jazz to Come'?

A) Cecil Taylor
B) Don Cherry
C) Ornette Coleman
D) Sun Ra

9. Who was the primary stride pianist known for the composition 'Carolina Shout' and as a mentor to Duke Ellington?

A) Fats Waller
B) James P. Johnson
C) Willie 'The Lion' Smith
D) Art Tatum

10. The 'Cool Jazz' movement was significantly influenced by the West Coast scene; which trumpeter is most associated with this specific subgenre?

A) Chet Baker
B) Clifford Brown
C) Freddie Hubbard
D) Lee Morgan

11. Which iconic jazz standard, composed by Thelonious Monk, is noted for its unconventional chord progressions and was originally titled 'I Found a Million Dollar Baby'?

A) 'Round Midnight
B) Straight, No Chaser
C) Epistrophy
D) Ruby, My Dear

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12. What was the name of the weekly radio broadcast that helped launch the career of Benny Goodman in 1935?

A) The Camel Caravan
B) Let's Dance
C) The Jazz Hour
D) Swing Street

13. Which album by Miles Davis is recognized as the best-selling jazz record of all time?

A) Bitches Brew
B) Kind of Blue
C) Sketches of Spain
D) Nefertiti

14. Mary Lou Williams was a prolific composer and arranger; for which big band leader did she compose the hit 'Roll 'Em'?

A) Benny Goodman
B) Chick Webb
C) Andy Kirk
D) Cab Calloway

15. Which jazz pianist is widely considered the pioneer of the 'locked hands' or 'block chord' style?

A) Bud Powell
B) George Shearing
C) Oscar Peterson
D) Horace Silver

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