



SYMPHONIC  
**JAZZ**  
ORCHESTRA

MITCH GLICKMAN MUSIC DIRECTOR



# “What is Jazz?”

## Study Guide

### Kindergarten-2nd Grade



SYMPHONIC  
**JAZZ**  
ORCHESTRA

MITCH GLICKMAN MUSIC DIRECTOR

Spring 2021

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The Symphonic Jazz Orchestra is a 68-member hybrid ensemble combining the worlds of jazz and classical music. The musicians are comprised of Hollywood's leading studio musicians and jazz soloists who have performed the music to such films as *Star Wars* and *The Lion King* and recorded with Beyoncé and John Legend.

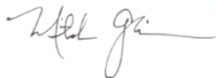
Debuting in 2002, the ensemble has performed in concerts all across Southern California and now makes its home at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center on the campus of Cal. State University Long Beach (CSULB). The group recorded its debut album for Mack Avenue Records featuring new music commissioned by the orchestra from composers George Duke and Lee Ritenour, as well as recording George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

In 2006, the non-profit organization launched its "Music in the Schools" program, which now serve 13 elementary schools across 5 school district in L.A. County. These yearlong residencies are designed for TK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

While we can't bring your students to the Carpenter Center this year to hear the full orchestra perform live in concert, we have assembled a socially distanced group we can present to you online. Our theme for the program is "What is Jazz?" and explores the roots of this uniquely American musical creation which grew out of the Black community.

Please feel free to reach out to the SJO with any questions about our concert programs or "Music in the School" residencies at [info@SJOmusic.org](mailto:info@SJOmusic.org). More information on the organization can be found at [www.SJOmusic.org](http://www.SJOmusic.org) along with the Carpenter Performing Arts Center's programs at [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)

Musically yours,



Mitch Glickman  
Music Director

# Symphonic Jazz Orchestra

## *“What is Jazz?”* concert presentation

### Vocabulary:

**Blues:** a form of American music that originated in the Black community in the late 1800s. The songs are a way to share your tough times.

**Ragtime:** a form of music which was popular in the early 1900s. It's known for its syncopated, or 'ragged', rhythm, with the melodic notes landing largely on the off-beats. It began as dance music in American cities such as St. Louis and New Orleans.

**Brass Band:** a musical group that is made up of brass instruments (such as the trumpet, tuba, and trombone) along with a clarinet and a drum section.

**Mississippi:** the southern state where the blues began.

**New Orleans:** the city in Louisiana where jazz began.

**Improvisation:** the art of playing an instrument (or singing) where the musician makes up the musical notes as they play.

**Scat:** is a type of singing in jazz music created by using the voice to improvise (make up) a solo using nonsense sounds, which is like a musical instrument solo in a song.



# Historical Musicians



**Bessie Smith** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT4z847-hyc>

Nicknamed the “Empress of the Blues”, Bessie Smith was an American blues singer who became famous during the Jazz Age. Her powerful voice moved people to feel deep emotions because she sang about problems they had too. She was the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s.

**Scott Joplin** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U369bEnTjuc>

Nicknamed the “King of Ragtime”, Scott Joplin was an American composer and pianist. The son of a former slave, he wrote over 100 original ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet and two operas. He was one of America’s most popular songwriters in the early 1900s.



**Louis Armstrong** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlk2vA3m1o0>

Nicknamed "Satchmo", "Satch", and "Pops", Louis Armstrong was an American trumpeter and vocalist who was one of the most influential figures in jazz. He was popular through five decades and different eras in the history of jazz. He was also a bandleader, film star, and comedian.

**Duke Ellington** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJT8VluJ\\_Hg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJT8VluJ_Hg)

Originally named Edward Kennedy Ellington and nicknamed “Duke”, Ellington was an American pianist who was the greatest jazz composer and bandleader of his time. He’s one of the most famous American composers of any genre, having composed thousands of songs for the stage, screen and contemporary songbook.



**Miles Davis** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHx1-BPgkkM>

American jazz trumpeter, bandleader and composer. He was one of the biggest influences in the history of jazz and 20th-century music.

**Ella Fitzgerald** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8Ji4uG4cac>

Nicknamed “First Lady of Song”, Ella Fitzgerald was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than fifty years. She was known for her "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing.





## Historical Dances

**Swing Dance** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70E49LrrvZY>

A popular form of social dances that developed with the swing style of jazz music by the Black community in the 1920s-1940s. It's known for being upbeat and lively with lots of lifts, spins and flips.



**Rags** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVbWaAPwJZc>

Ragtime inspired an expressive form of ballroom dancing, with dances that did not need formal training but encouraged individualism.



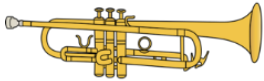
# Musical Instruments & Families



**Violin:** a string instrument which has four strings and is played with a bow. The violin is the smallest and highest pitched string instrument.



**Saxophone:** a woodwind instrument usually in the form of a curved metal tube with keys used to change pitch and a mouthpiece with a single reed.



**Trumpet:** a brass instrument with three valves on a looped tube that ends in a bell shape. The trumpet is the highest pitched brass instrument.



**Trombone:** a brass instrument with a long U-shaped slide that the player moves to produce a wide range of pitches.



**Piano:** a musical instrument with a keyboard and many wire strings. A piano is played by pressing keys that cause small hammers to strike the strings.



**Bass:** the largest and lowest-pitched instrument in the string family. The bass rests on the floor on a metal peg; players often stand when they play it.



**Drums:** a percussion instrument shaped like a cylinder. A drum has a hollow body covered at one or both ends by a tight material. It is played by beating with sticks or the hands.

## Families of the Orchestra:

- **Strings**
- **Woodwinds**
- **Brass**
- **Percussion**

# “When the Saints Go Marching In”

## *Lyrics*



Oh when the saints go marching in,  
Oh when the saints go marching in.  
Oh how I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in.





# United States of America Map



## Map Activities

1. Can you find the city New Orleans on the map?
2. Can you find the state Mississippi on the map?
3. Where is California?
4. Can you find Los Angeles?

# Melting Pot Activities

What does it mean when a place is called a melting pot?

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Can you name a place that is a melting pot?

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Name three foods you like that are from different countries.

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Name three languages that are from different countries

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## Improvisation Questions

Have you ever made up a new type of sandwich or type of food?

Have you ever made up a new game?

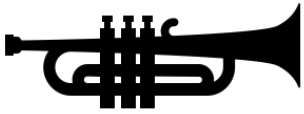
Have you ever made up a new dance move?

## Reflections

What do you think of when you hear the word jazz?

Do you have a favorite instrument?

# Jazz Word Search



Q R A J A Z Z X  
K W A V B A S S  
T D B G Q Y C W  
R R L Y T A H I  
O F U I T I D N  
M F E M J F M G  
B Y S P P X C E  
O H Q R Y E S Q  
N D K O H A T C  
E C O V X F U N

Jazz

Blues

Ragtime

Swing

Improv

Trumpet

Trombone

Bass

