

Objective

- Introduction to bebop jazz through student reading and listening example

Materials

- **PowerPoint:** Lesson 9 - *Bebop* page 27
- **JAZZ CLUB Listening Example:** *Ko-ko* page 28
- **Student Worksheet:** Lesson 9 - *Lesson and Listening Assessments* page 29

I. PowerPoint Bebop

1. Show the students PowerPoint Lesson 9 and have students take turns reading the slides.
2. Have students complete the Lesson ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

Bebop was the style that followed swing/big band jazz. Bebop (later shortened to bop) was most popular from 1945 to 1955. Bebop bands were much smaller than big bands, usually consisting of 4 to 6 musicians. Bebop was the first jazz music played for a listening audience not for dancers. The music was very difficult to play as the tempo was often **prestissimo** (extremely fast). The meter was mostly 4/4. Unlike big band music, long improvised jazz solos were an important part of this style of jazz. These changes, especially the tempos that were too fast for dance music, led to a decline in the popularity of jazz.

Charlie Parker (“Bird”) and “Dizzy” Gillespie were considered the creators of bebop music. Bird, Dizzy, pianist Thelonious Monk, and drummer Kenny “Klook” Clark polished their creation at after hours **jam sessions** at a jazz club called Minton’s in New York City.

Although jazz musicians getting together to play for fun at **jam sessions** was an old tradition, the Minton’s **jam sessions** were unique. They featured the birth of a new style of music created by the ultimate “**hipsters**,” Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. A **hipster** was any person considered “cool” because they either played or appreciated bebop.

The decline of bebop in the mid 1950s coincided with the growing popularity of rock’n’roll. The simple blues based music of rock’n’roll appealed to dancers and listeners. The complexity of bebop brought jazz to a new era of jazz music for concert halls, not jazz music for dance halls.

ANSWER KEY Student Reading Lesson ASSESSMENT

1. When was bebop most popular? (1945-1955)
2. Which style of music was **NOT** composed for dancing? **A. Bebop B. Swing C. Dixieland** (A.)
3. Define the word prestissimo. (Extremely fast tempo)
4. Define hipster. (Person who played or appreciated bebop)
5. Define jam session. (Musicians getting together to play for fun not income)
6. Why was bebop less popular than swing? (Because bebop was very fast, with long solos and meant for listening, swing was meant for dancing)
7. Which style do you prefer, swing or bebop? Why?

II. JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

Title: "Ko-ko"

Composer: Charlie Parker

Performer: Charlie Parker's Re-Boppers

available on: Charlie Parker *The Complete Savoy and Dial Studio Sessions* (Sony CK 92911)

YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT-KxxIS5sA [2:56 Process/Assessment below]

iTunes Ken Burns "*Jazz*" CD 3 track 11 [Process/Assessment below]

Suggested YouTube Search Ko-ko, Charlie Parker [4th video - other choices: 2, 3, 7, 10, 12]

SUGGESTED TEACHING PROCESS JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

1. Explain that the piece is bebop jazz and that students will hear:

Brass section: trumpet - Dizzy Gillespie

Woodwind section: saxophone - Charlie Parker

Rhythm section: piano - Dizzy Gillespie, bass and drum set.

2. Explain that the saxophone improvises much of the melody. Explain that Dizzy Gillespie plays piano during the sax solo because the group's pianist didn't show up.
3. Review tempo and meter (conduct examples - include prestissimo).
4. Instruct students to listen for the instruments, tempo, meter, mood, style and which instruments improvise a jazz solo.
5. Play recording while conducting a prestissimo tempo with a 4/4 meter.
Video locations: 0:00 Introduction, 0:06 trumpet & sax trade 8's, 0:25 A section sax, 0:51 sax solo starts on B section, 2:08 drum solo, 2:30 Introduction, 2:37 trumpet & sax trade 8's
6. Have students complete the Listening ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

ANSWER KEY JAZZ CLUB Listening ASSESSMENT

1. Identify the instruments you hear. (5)
(Saxophone – Charlie Parker, trumpet & piano – Dizzy Gillespie, bass and drum set)
2. Determine the tempo and the meter. *(Prestissimo [extremely fast], 4/4)*
3. Which instruments improvised a jazz solo? (3)
(Saxophone, drum set, trumpet [short solo at beginning and end])
4. Why does Dizzy Gillespie play piano? *(The pianist didn't show up)*
5. Are the jazz solos memorized? *(No, the melodies are made up on the spot)*
6. Describe the mood of the song. *(Exciting, intense, etc.)*

Related Activity *JAMMIN' WITH THE JAZZ CATS* Orff Improvisation Songbook
JAZZ IT UP Pages 32 – 35

- Orff mallet instrument (recorder) song E G B^b B C E
- Swing jazz style
- *Performance and Accompaniment* tracks
- Improvisation lesson

