

Objective

- Introduction to cool and modal jazz through student reading and listening example

Materials

- **PowerPoint:** Lesson 12 – *Cool and Modal* page 36
- **JAZZ CLUB Listening Example:** *Take 5* page 37
- **Student Worksheet:** Lesson 12 - *Lesson and Listening Assessments* page 38

I. PowerPoint Cool & Modal

1. Show the students PowerPoint Lesson 12 and have students take turns reading the slides.
2. Have students complete the Lesson ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

Cool jazz (1950 - 1960) was the style that followed bebop. Bebop was fast and furious while cool jazz was calm and laid back often at a moderato tempo (that's why it is called "cool"). Cool jazz songs were sometimes in different meters like 3/4 and 5/4. Cool jazz often borrowed melodies and forms from classical music. The cool jazz album, "Time Out" by the Dave Brubeck Quartet, became one of the best selling recordings in jazz history. The very popular piece "Take Five" from that recording was composed in a 5/4 meter.

Modal jazz (1960-1970), like be-bop, was not meant for dancing and the bands were usually small with 4 to 6 members. Modal jazz emphasized very long improvised jazz solos - some as long as 20 minutes! The tempos ranged from prestissimo (extremely fast) to **largo** (very slow) and although 4/4 was the most common meter, many other meters were used. The sound of the **modal harmony** was very different from other jazz styles. Earlier styles of jazz and most other kinds of music use chords stacked up with notes a third apart. **Modal chords** are three or more notes stacked an **interval** of a fourth apart.

Example: C to E is an **interval** of a third (**C** D **E**)

Normal chord stacked in thirds: **G** A **B** C **D**

Modal chord stacked in fourths: **G** A B **C** D E **F**

Modal musicians like Miles Davis, John Coltrane and McCoy Tyner used **modal harmonies** to create a different mood than Dixieland, swing, be-bop or cool. The mood was very, very intense. The combination of the **modal harmony**, long solos and intense mood made modal music so unique that many people did not like it.

ANSWER KEY Student Reading Lesson ASSESSMENT

1. When was cool jazz popular? (1955-1960)
2. Which style of jazz was popular from 1960-1970? (Modal)
3. Some modal jazz solos last for _____ minutes? (Twenty)
4. Which style of jazz used a new type of harmony?
A. Dixieland B. Swing C. Modal (C. Modal)
5. Name the best selling Dave Brubeck Quartet album. ("Time Out")
6. Which of the following is a modal chord? a.) G B D b.) G C E c.) G C F (c. G C F)

II. JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

Title: "Take Five"

Composer: Paul Desmond

Performer: The Dave Brubeck Quartet

available on: Dave Brubeck Quartet *Time Out* (Columbia/Legacy CK 65122)

YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzpnWuk3RjU [5:20 Process/Assessment below]

iTunes Ken Burns "Jazz" CD 4 track 5 [Process/Assessment below]

Suggested YouTube Search Take 5, Dave Brubeck 1959 [3rd video - other choices: 6, 8]

SUGGESTED TEACHING PROCESS JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

1. Explain that the piece is cool jazz and very sounds very reserved and relaxed. Students will hear:

Woodwind section: saxophone - Paul Desmond

Rhythm section: piano - Dave Brubeck, bass and drum set.

2. Explain that the song is unusual in several ways: 1) the meter, 2) the solo section uses only one section (A) of the song, 3) The solo section uses a two chord ostinato and 4) the piano and bass play along with the drum solo.
3. Review tempo and meter (conduct examples especially 5/4 - include allegro).
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 moderato tempo with a 5/4 meter. *Video locations:*
0:00 Introduction, 0:21 A section, 0:36 B section, 0:49 A section, 1:04 sax solo on A section only, 2:00 drum solo with piano and bass accompaniment, 4:21 A section, 4:36 B section, 4:50 A section
6. Have students complete the Listening ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

ANSWER KEY JAZZ CLUB Listening ASSESSMENT

1. Identify the instruments you hear. (4)
(Saxophone - Paul Desmond, piano - Dave Brubeck, bass and drum set)
2. Determine the tempo and the meter. *(Allegro [fast], 5/4)*
3. Which instruments improvised a jazz solo? *(Saxophone and drum set)*
4. Explain what was unusual about "Take Five."
(5/4 meter, solos on one section only, piano and bass accompany the drum solo)
5. Describe the mood of the song. *(Reserved, relaxed, cool, etc.)*
6. Name the style of this piece. *(Cool jazz)*

Related Activity *JAMMIN' WITH THE JAZZ CATS* Orff Improvisation Songbook
CAT PAWS Pages 29-31

- Orff mallet instrument (recorder) song E F# G A B
- Cool jazz style
- *Performance and Accompaniment* tracks
- Improvisation lesson

