

"The music, possible feeling, is here. Where ever you are.
All you have to do is listen. Listen!"

--LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka)
from Black Music, ©1967



Created by:

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Seeing Jazz
Western Gallery
Western Washington University
April 25-July 3, 1998

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To: _____

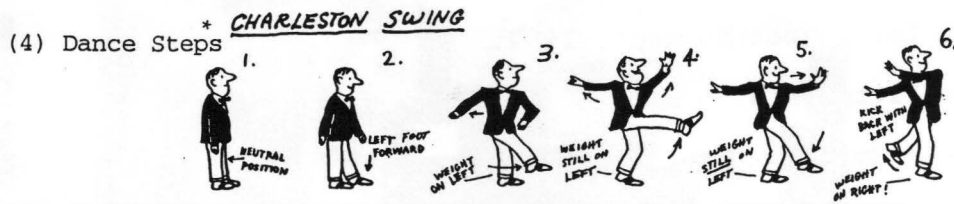
Stuart Davis
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Rhythm: a pattern or regular or irregular pulses caused in music by the recurrence of strong and weak melodic and harmonic beats.

(1) Find *Untitled (Sketch to Charlie Parkers Music)* by Norman Lewis. Describe the lines in the work.

(2) How do these lines make you feel?

(3) How might these lines show music?



"The rhythm of life is a jazz rhythm..."

--Langston Hughs, poet

* from The Swing Era: 1941-1942, by Time Life Records, New York, 1970.

Improvisation:

(1) Start walking around the gallery while counting to 20. Stop. Turn to the nearest piece. Quickly write down the first 3 words that come to mind when you look at this piece.

(2) Now, think of a familiar sound that describes this piece.

(3) Now use your 3 words and your sound to finish this phrase: "I was walking down the street one day..."

With your words and sounds you have just created an improvisation.

Improvisation: to compose, perform, play, or sing on the spur of the moment; to deliver without previous preparation.

"Each thing that you hear determines the direction that you go. You just follow the music, and if you follow the music you can go anywhere."

--Steve Lacy, musician

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Call and Response:

(1) Go to the photograph, *Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman Listen to Ella Fitzgerald*, by Herman Leonard. Imagine... You walk into a smokey room. Breaking the darkness of the room is a spotlight hitting the side of the face of singer, Ella. She whispers into the mic, calling out to the audience in song.

What could she be singing?

Ella sings:

An audience member, Duke, clasps his hands and smiles.

How might he respond back to Ella?

Duke responds by saying:

Through communication we call and respond. Everyday we communicate with words and gestures. This communication forms life. Jazz is not just music, it's a way of life.

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Book References

Charlie Parker Played bebop, by Chris Raschka, 1992.

Duke Ellington, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, 1998.

If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong,

by Roxane Orgill, 1997.

Jazz: An American Saga, by James Lincoln Collier, 1997.

Music References

Wynton Marsalis Septet, "Blue Interlude", 1992.

John Zorn, "Bar Kokhba", 1997.

Ella Fitzgerald

Bessie Smith

Miles Davis

Cab Calloway

When you walk out the gallery door, go find the jazz
in your life.