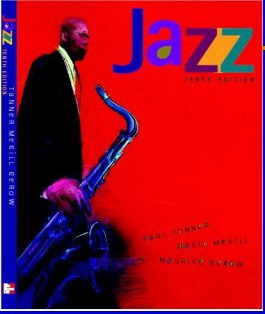


Jazz

Tenth Edition

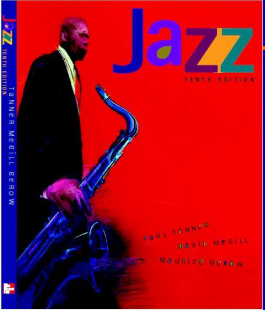
Chapter 1

PowerPoint
by
Sharon Ann Toman, 2004



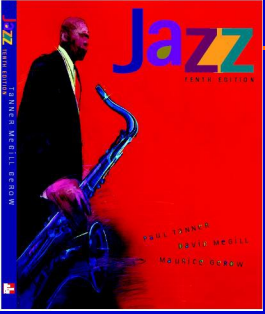
An Overview

- **Jazz** is defined as a balance between the *individual voices* that constitute an ensemble and the *collective expression* unique to that ensemble
- Jazz is a history of performers more than composers



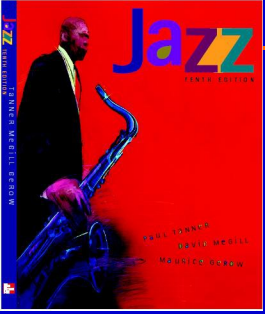
An Overview

- Early on...all music that was not clearly classical was generally considered jazz
- Jazz was often called “America’s classical music”
- Jazz was the 1st to claim a dominant foothold in the American identity.



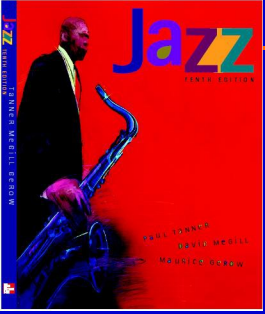
An Overview

- Jazz: was a blend of musical and cultural events like:
 - African oral tradition of the Negro slave culture
 - Practices from the Western European musical tradition
 - Urban and rural folk music
 - White and black church music practices
 - Songs of “Tin Pan Alley”....the “Roaring Twenties”



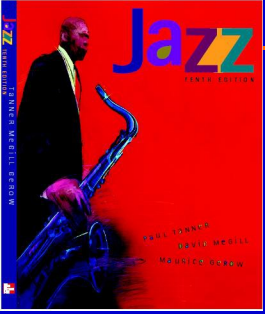
An Overview

- Jazz: was a blend of musical and cultural events like:
 - Marching bands
 - Jug bands
 - Religious fervor of the Great Awakening
 - Hopelessness of slavery



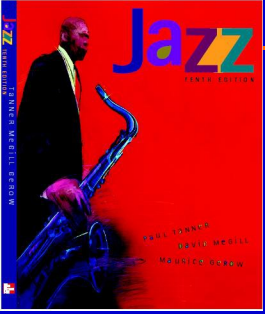
Understanding Jazz

- Understanding jazz requires an understanding of the jazz performer
- Jazz is defined by the personal voices of its performers and only secondarily by its composers
- Jazz is about personal, and unique expressions



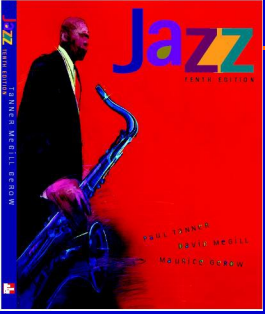
What To Listen For In Jazz

- To appreciate music, the listener must be actively involved, and understanding and enjoyment go hand and hand
 - Mental concentration
 - Concentrate on the nonvisual elements
 - Music moves in time
 - Memory



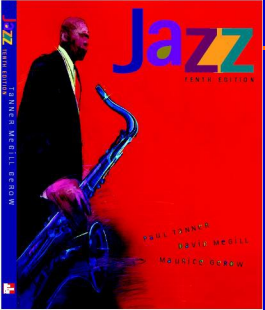
Sounds Associated with Jazz

- Certain sounds peculiar to jazz have their origins in oral tradition
 - Result of instrumentalists imitating vocal techniques
 - Like growls, bends, slurs, and varying shades of *vibrato*



Sounds Associated with Jazz

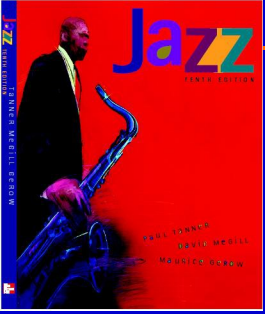
- Distinctive jazz instrumentation produces unique sounds
 - Like a saxophone section or a rhythm section
- Sounds of jazz are personified and identified through the musical interpretation of specific artists



Improvisation and Composition

The performer:

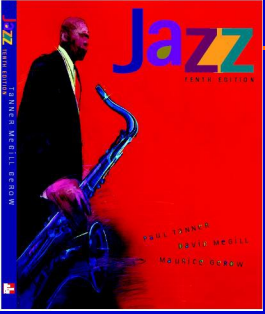
1. is expected to play exactly what is written
2. may play a melody that is an accurate reflection of the notation but place a distinctive interpretive style of bending notes
3. may make so many changes in the melody that it is barely recognizable
4. may play over chords of a song but not try to include any of the given melody at all
5. may create the entire musical performance without any reference to any known musical melody or composition
6. may improvise “collectively” to create new musical performances



Rhythm-Syncopation

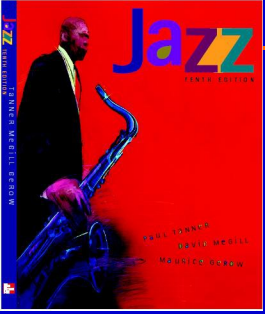
- Emphasis on rhythm has always been an integral part of jazz
 - Sometimes jazz players do not always play exactly in rhythm with the pulse

- Jazz makes use of a specific type of rhythmic treatment called *syncopation*
 - *Syncopation* places accents between the basic beats



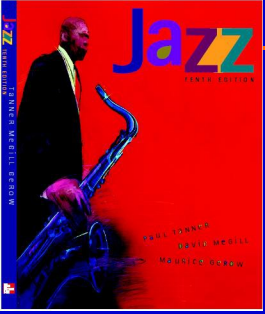
Syncopation and Swing

- *Syncopation* is when the notes between the beats are accented more than the notes on the beat
- *Swing* is a combination of delayed notes and their accents give the performance its swing
- Jazz performances are usually very rhythmic and syncopated and have varying amounts of swing



Form

- *Form* is the overall structure of a musical composition or performance
 - Most jazz pieces have simple forms
 - Example the blues is made up of three smaller *phrases*
- *Repetition* is the same musical material in two or more parts of a composition
- *Contrast* is the introduction of different musical material



Conclusion

- Listening to jazz is an active endeavor that benefits from knowing the historical context of this art form as well as the identifying characteristics that set it aside from other styles of music