

What Is Jazz?

Jazz is a style of playing music, especially popular music.

Jazz is most typically an **arrangement of a song**.

An **arrangement** of a song is a *sequence*, or *pattern*, of song parts.

A **jazz arrangement** features the following song parts:

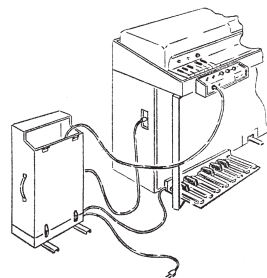
1. The **Introduction/Intro** (The Beginning of the Arrangement);
 - A. *Rhythmic* (An Accompaniment only, no Melody);
 - B. *Thematic* (Featuring the Melody, or a Melody-like musical idea);
2. The **First Play/Head Chorus/In Chorus** (*The First Performance of the Entire Song*):
 - A. The *Original Melody* (Typically played on a Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet, or Saxophone);
 - B. The *Original Accompaniment* (Typically played on a Piano, Guitar or Banjo plus a Tuba or Bass plus Drums);
3. The **Solos/Improv/Improvisation Choruses**:
 - A. The *Improvised Melodies (Solos; Spontaneous Improvisations – Jazz Solos)*;
 - B. The *Original Accompaniment (The Harmony and Rhythm played by the Rhythm Section See 2B)*;
4. The **Final Play/Home Chorus/Out Chorus** (*The Final Performance of the Entire Song*):
 - A. The *Original Melody*;
 - B. The *Original Accompaniment*;
5. The **Ending**:
 - A. The *Tag Ending* featuring *tags* or repeats of parts of the song;
 - B. The *Fade-Out Ending* featuring a softening of the volume to nothing (hard to do live).
 - C. The *Specialty Ending* featuring a familiar/often used musical idea not directly related to a song.

Think of a jazz arrangement as a sandwich consisting of bread—meat—bread. The *first slice of bread* consists of the introduction and the first play/chorus of the original melody with the original accompaniment; the *meat* consists of the improvs (improvisations)/solos—the spontaneous melodies—with the original accompaniment; the *last/final slice of bread* consists of last play/chorus of the original melody with the original accompaniment and the ending. Jazz = Jazz Arrangement of a Song = Intro/Bread—Meat—Bread/Ending.

When jazz musicians play, if you know the song they are playing, listen (and watch) for (1) an introduction, (2) the first play, or chorus, or performance of the entire song by the entire band (you recognize the melody), (3) the improvisations—the solos, the melodies spontaneously created by the soloists while the members of the rhythm section (typically, piano, bass and drums, or guitar bass and drums) continue to play the original accompaniment, (4) the final play, or home chorus, of the entire song by the entire band, and (5) the ending.

Listen for the beat subdivision: (A) the two-part beat subdivision (“*Ev-en*”) for Latin and Rock/Fusion songs; (B) the three-part beat subdivision, (“*Boun-cy*”) for Swing and Rhythm and Blues songs.

Listen for the emotions (happy/sad/angry/fearful) which are conveyed by the musical content of the improvs/solos, and the emotional intensity (tempo, number of notes, excitement v. calmness) with which the musicians/soloists perform. Watch the musicians relax or sweat when they play!

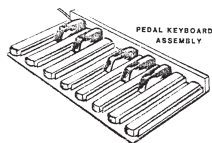


The Pedalbass

A **pedalbass** is a set of footpedals similar to organ pedals upon which a musical artist can play bass notes.

With the pedalbass Bob creates his unique sound of *piano and acoustic bass*.

This special sound of piano and bass cannot be matched by pianists who play only the piano.



Bob Kroepel: Piano and Pedalbass

Bob plays many musical arrangements of songs with the pedalbass creating the sound of piano plus bass.

He plays melodies and improvisations/solos with his right hand, with his left hand he plays intricate accompaniment rhythm patterns which provide the harmony for the support of the melodies/improvisations and which produce some of the rhythms a drummer often plays, and with his left foot (Lefty Foote) he plays bass notes/*bass lines* which are strong and musically accurate.

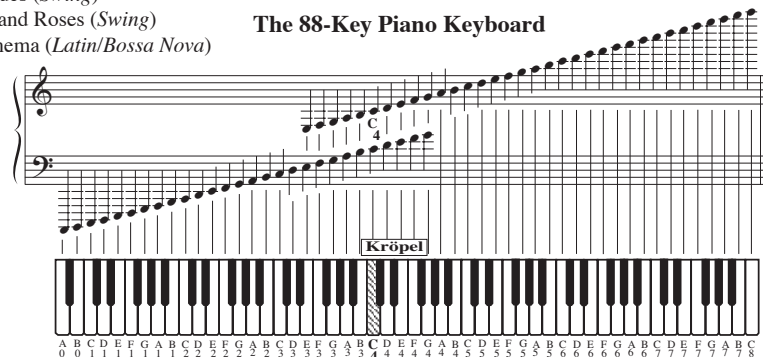
Bob's Jazz Songlist

- A Foggy Day (*Swing*)
- A Hard Day's Night (*Rock/Fusion*)
- Ain't Misbehavin' (*Swing*)
- Again (*Swing*)
- All of Me (*Swing*)
- All The Things You Are (*Ballad*)
- Almost Like Being In Love (*Swing*)
- Am I Blue? (*Ballad*)
- Angel Eyes (*Ballad*)
- April in Paris (*Swing*)
- Aquarius (*Rock/Fusion*)
- Around the World (*Swing*)
- At Last (*Swing*)
- Autumn In New York (*Ballad*)
- Autumn Leaves (*Swing*)
- Basin Street Blues (*Swing*)
- Begin The Beguine (*Latin/Swing*)
- Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered (*Ballad*)
- Blueberry Hill (*Rhythm & Blues*)
- Blues In the Night (*Rhythm & Blues*)
- Blue Room (*Swing*)
- Bluesette (*Jazz Waltz*)
- Blue Skies (*Swing*)
- Body and Soul (*Ballad*)
- Boss Bossa Nova (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- But Not For Me (*Swing*)
- Caldonia (*Rhythm & Blues*)
- Canadian Sunset (*Latin/Swing*)
- Can't Help Lovin' That Man (3/4 Metre/*Jazz Waltz*)
- Can't Help Lovin' That Man (4/4 Metre/*Swing*)
- Charade (*Jazz Waltz*)
- Corcovado (Quiet Nights) (*Latin*)
- Cry Me A River (*Ballad*)
- Cute (*Swing*)
- Day By Day (*Swing*)
- Desifinado (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- Don't Get Around Much Anymore (*Swing*)
- Downtown (*Rock/Fusion*)
- Early Autumn (*Ballad*)
- Embraceable You (*Swing*)
- Fly Me To The Moon (*Latin/Swing*)
- For Once In My Life (*Swing*)
- Free Floatin' Feeling (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- Fever (*Swing*)
- For Sentimental Reasons (I Love You) (*Latin/Swing*)
- Georgia On My Mind (*Ballad*)
- Green Dolphin Street (*Swing*)
- Green Eyes (*Latin/Beguine/Rhumba—Swing*)
- Hang On, Sloopy (*Rock/Fusion*)
- Have You Met Miss Jones? (*Swing*)
- Here's That Rainy Day (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- Hello, Young Lovers (3/4 Metre/*Jazz Waltz*)
- Hello, Young Lovers (4/4 Metre/*Swing*)
- Honeysuckle Rose (*Swing*)
- How High The Moon? (*Swing*)
- How Insensitive (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- I Could Write A Book (*Swing*)
- I Got It Bad (*Ballad*)
- I Just Called To Say I Love You (*Rock/Fusion*)
- I Love Paris (*Latin/Swing*)
- I Only Have Eyes For You (*Ballad*)
- I Remember You (*Swing*)
- I'll Remember April (*Latin/Swing*)
- I'll Be Seeing You (*Swing*)
- I'm Glad There Is You (*Ballad*)
- I've Got You Under My Skin (*Swing*)
- Invitation (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- In A Mellow Tone (*Swing*)
- I Might As Well Be Spring (*Ballad*)
- Just The Way You Are (*Rock/Fusion*)
- Just In Time (*Swing*)
- Kansas City (*Rhythm & Blues*)
- Killing Me Softly With His Song (*Ballad*)
- Laura (*Ballad*)
- Learning The Blues (*Swing*)
- Let's Fall In Love (*Swing*)
- Lollipops And Roses (*Jazz Waltz*)
- Like Someone In Love (*Ballad*)
- Lil' Darlin' (*Slow Swing*)
- Long Ago and Far Away (*Swing*)
- Lover Man (*Ballad*)
- Lullabye of Birdland (*Swing*)
- Mack The Knife (*Swing*)
- Makin' Whoopee (*Swing/Rhythm & Blues*)
- Manhattan (*Swing*)
- Meditation (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)
- Misty (*Ballad*)
- Moanin' (*Swing*)
- Moon River (*Jazz Waltz*)
- Moondance (*Swing*)
- Mood Indigo (*Swing*)
- Moonglow (*Swing*)
- Moonlight Becomes You (*Swing*)
- Moonlight In Vermont (*Ballad*)
- More (*Latin/Bossa Nova—Swing*)
- Mr. Lucky (*Swing*)
- My Foolish Heart (*Ballad*)
- My Funny Valentine (*Ballad*)
- My Melancholy Baby (*Ballad*)
- My One and Only Love (*Ballad*)
- My Romance (*Ballad*)
- Near You (*Swing*)
- Never On Sunday (*Latin/Cha-Cha*)
- Night And Day (*Latin/Swing*)
- Night Train (*Rhythm & Blues*)
- No Moon At All (*Swing*)
- No Regrets (*Swing*)
- Oh! Lady Be Good! (*Swing*)
- On A Clear Day (*Swing*)
- One For My Baby (*Swing*)
- One Note Samba (*Latin/Bossa Nova*)

Our Day Will Come (Swing)
 Our Love Is Here To Stay (Swing)
 Out Of Nowhere (Swing)
 Pennies From Heaven (Swing)
 Penthouse Serenade (Swing)
 Perdido (Swing)
 Poor Butterfly (Ballad)
 Quando, Quando, Quando (Latin/Samba)
 Route 66 (Rhythm & Blues)
 Ruby (Ballad)
 Satin Doll (Swing)
 'S Wonderful (Swing)
 Scotch and Soda (Swing)
 Secret Love (Swing)
 Sentimental Journey (Swing)
 Serenata (Swing)
 Shiny Stockings (Swing)
 So Nice (Summer Samba) (Latin/Bossa Nova)
 Soft Summer Breeze (Swing)
 Someday My Prince Will Come (Jazz Waltz)
 Someone To Watch Over Me (Ballad)
 Something You've Got (Rock/Fusion)
 Sophisticated Lady (Ballad)
 Speak Low (Latin/Beguine)
 Stella By Starlight (Ballad)
 Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most (Ballad)
 St. James Infirmary (Rhythm & Blues)
 St. Louis Blues (Swing)
 Stardust (Ballad)
 Summertime (Jazz 3/4 Metre/Jazz Waltz)
 Summertime (4/4 Metre/Swing)
 Stormy Weather (Swing)
 Sunny (Rock/Fusion)
 Take Five (Jazz 5/4 Metre/Five beats per measure!)
 Take The "A" Train (Swing)
 Taking A Chance On Love (Swing)
 Tangerine (Swing)
 Tea For Two (Latin/Cha-Cha)
 Teach Me Tonight (Swing)
 Temptation (Latin/Beguine/Bossa Nova)
 That's All (Ballad)
 The Birth of the Blues (Swing)
 The Days of Wine and Roses (Swing)
 The Girl From Ipanema (Latin/Bossa Nova)

The Lady Is A Tramp (Swing)
 The "In" Crowd (Rock/Fusion)
 The Look Of Love (Rock/Fusion)
 The Man I Love (Ballad)
 The More I See You (Swing)
 The Nearness of You (Swing)
 The Party's Over (Ballad)
 The Shadow of Your Smile (Latin/Bossa Nova)
 The Song Is You (Swing)
 The Sound of Silence (Rock/Fusion)
 The Summer Wind (Swing)
 The Swinging Shepherd Blues (Swing)
 There Will Never Be Another You (Swing)
 There's A Small Hotel (Swing)
 They Can't Take That Away From Me (Swing)
 They Say It's Wonderful (Swing)
 Time After Time (Swing)
 This Masquerade (Rock/Fusion)
 Unforgettable (Ballad)
 Up A Lazy River (Swing)
 Violets For Your Furs (Swing)
 Watch What Happens (Rock/Fusion)
 Watermelon Man (Rock/Fusion)
 Wave (Latin/Bossa Nova)
 What A Diff'rence A Day Made (Ballad)
 What Is This Thing Called Love? (Swing)
 What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life (Ballad)
 What Now, My Love (Swing)
 What's New? (Ballad)
 When I Fall In Love (Swing)
 When Lights Are Low (Swing)
 When Sunny Gets Blue (Ballad)
 When Your Lover Has Gone (Ballad)
 Witchcraft (Swing)
 Wives And Lovers (Jazz Waltz)
 You Are The Sunshine Of My Life (Rock/Fusion)
 You Do Something To Me (Swing)
 You Go to My Head (Ballad)
 You Make Me Feel So Young (Swing)
 You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You (Swing)
 You've Changed (Ballad)

The 88-Key Piano Keyboard



If you have a favorite song not on Bob's Jazz Songlist, ask him if he knows it, or if he has it in his "book"; he might pleasantly surprise you!



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What Is Music?

Music is an art form utilizing controlled or organized sounds to express emotions or to set an emotional background or mood for other art forms such as comedy (musical comedies/light operas) or drama (operas).

Musical notes are combinations of *pitches*, or *tones*, ranging from low to middle to high pitches (left to right on a piano keyboard), and *rhythms*, or durations of notes; **musical rests** are *silences*—no notes, no pitches, but rests have rhythms—durations of silence. Music thus has notes (pitches/tones) and rests (silences).

Music consists of three **elements**—**The Elements of Music**::

- (1) **Melody**—the combination of pitches and rhythms which is the *tune*, the music a person would sing or whistle if he were alone; the *song*; the part a piano player plays with his right hand; the tune the *singer* sings or the *soloist* (*solo instrumentalist*—an instrument player/non-singer) plays;
- (2) **Harmony**—the combination of pitches and rhythms which support—*harmonize* or *accompany*—a melody; the *accompaniment*; the part a piano player plays with his left hand, or the *rhythm section* of a band (*piano/bass/drums*, or *guitar/bass/drums*) plays while the singer sings or the soloist plays the song's melody;
- (3) **Rhythm**—the duration of a single note or rest or the *sequence* or *pattern* of the durations of notes, pitches, and rests, for a melody or a harmony/accompaniment.

Think of a **singer** and a **band**. The *singer* sings the *melody*—the pitches and rhythms along with the *lyrics*, or words, which are the tune, the *band* plays the *harmony*, the *accompaniment*—the pitches and rhythms which accompany the melody; thus, the *singer* sings and the *band* accompanies the *singer*. By rhythm—the duration of notes or rests—singers and musicians communicate and work to start together, to stay together, and to end together.

The *heart of music* is *rhythm*, the **beat**, the **pulse**, which provides the synchronization/coordination of melodies and harmonies/accompaniments. Musicians communicate primarily through rhythm for beginnings and endings.

There are two *beat subdivisions* (divisions of a beat) in music: (A) the *two-part (duple) beat subdivision*, which is found in Latin music and Rock & Roll songs [think of the word "even" as "**ev-en**" and listen for the beats sounding as "**ev-en; ev-en, ev-en, ev-en,**" etc.] (B) the *three-part (triple) beat subdivision*, which is found in Swing, Bebop, and Rhythm & Blues songs [think of the word "bouncy" as "**boun-cy**" and listen for the beats sounding as "**boun-cy, boun-cy, boun-cy,**" etc.]. A song has either a duple or triple beat subdivision.

Musical **tempo** is musical *speed*—how slow or fast a song is played—how many *beats per minute (bpm)* from 40 bpm/slow to 60 bpm (the human heartbeat at rest)/medium to 120 bpm/fast to 210 bpm/really fast.

Musical **metre (meter)** is the *number of beats in a measure*, a short section of music. Most popular music has either three beats per measure [you can check by counting "**One,**" "**Two,**" "**Three**" to match the metre] or four beats per measure [you can check by counting "**One,**" "**Two,**" "**Three,**" "**Four**" to match the metre].

A musical **key** is the *range of pitches about a central tone*, or *tonic note*, or *keynote*, within which a song's melody and accompaniment are played. The key of a song is usually based upon a musical **scale**, a *sequence of pitches*, including *major scales* (which sound mostly "happy") or *minor scales* (which sound mostly "sad").

Musical **style** is the way the *melody and accompaniment of a song are played*.

Musical **genres** are generally categorized as (A) *Classical Music*, which includes liturgical (religious) music, operas (musical dramas—dramas set to music), light operas (musical comedies—comedies set to music) symphonies, concertos, oratorios (music written for singers and instrumentalists), and (B) *Popular Music (Pop Music)*, which includes Folk, Country, Rhythm & Blues, Rock (Rock & Roll), Latin (Latin American), Swing, and Jazz, which includes Dixieland, Ragtime, Swing, Bebop, Latin, Blues (Rhythm & Blues), and Rock (Fusion)..

Music with words can convey the story in the content of the words—the *lyrics*. Music without words cannot tell a story. If you heard the music to "Mary Had a Little Lamb" but did not know the story of how "Mary had a little lamb" and how "It followed her to school one day" then you would not *learn* the story from the music. Music without words can convey *emotions*—happy/sad/angry/fearful—by combinations of musical keys and tempos. Happy = Major scales/keys, bright/fast tempos; Sad/Angry/Fearful = Minor scales/keys, draggy/slow tempos.

When listening to *music*, listen for the *melody* as the *song/tune* (and its *story*) sung by a *singer* or played by an *instrumentalist*, or a *piano player's right hand*, the *harmony* in the accompaniment played by the rhythm section (piano/bass/drums or guitar/bass/drums) or a *piano player's left hand* (while he plays the melody with his right hand), and the *rhythm* of the melody and the harmony/accompaniment; listen for the *beat*, the *beat subdivision* (two-part or duple/"**ev-en**" or three-part/triple/"**boun-cy**"), the *tempo* (slow/medium/fast), the *metre*, or number of beats per measure (three beats or four beats), and the *key* (major/"happy" or minor/"sad").