

Chapter 2
What is Jazz?

1. What two elements do most jazz styles share in common?

- a. The absence of a steady tempo and rhythm
- b. Improvisation and swing feeling
- c. Completely preset parts and a straight-eighth note feel
- d. The use of saxophones and a drum set

Correct answer: b. Improvisation and swing feeling

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2. When are jazz musicians doing when they improvise?

- a. Making up the music as they go along
- b. Performing preset melodies and solos learned from sheet music
- c. Performing parts exactly as played on recordings
- d. Trying to precisely recreate parts played at previous performances

Correct answer: a. Making up the music as they go along

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3. Music that is described as swinging tends to make the listener:

- a. Sit still and relax
- b. Dance, clap or tap their feet
- c. Feel sad
- d. Feel restless and agitated

Correct answer: b. Dance, clap or tap their feet

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4. Which of the following help to create swing in the general sense?

- a. Fast tempos and blues based musical patterns
- b. Varying tempos and dynamics
- c. Constant tempo, a cohesive group sound, rhythmic lilt and spirited performances
- d. The use of a drum set to keep time

Correct answer: c. Constant tempo, a cohesive group sound, rhythmic lilt and spirited performances

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5. Which conditions create swing in the jazz sense?

- a. The use of straight-eighth note patterns, fast tempos and improvised solos
- b. The use of steady tempos and technically difficult musical parts
- c. An abundance of long tones, soft musical passages, and the use of the guitar
- d. An abundance of syncopated rhythms, swing-eighth note patterns and a continuous rise and fall in tension

Correct answer: d. An abundance of syncopated rhythms, swing-eighth note patterns and a continuous rise and fall in tension

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6. The term “swing-eighth notes” refers to eighth notes that are: