

Jazz as Social History

With Andy Williams

Spring 2023
Online Workshops

Course outline



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Jazz as Social History - About the teacher



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Andy Williams passion for music will not cease to amaze you. This music and art curator has been creating the right mood for decades.

A passionate jazz specialist and educator, he is a captivating public speaker. Many of his monthly musical events are still remembered by club goers.

His McGill University courses The Diaspora of Jazz, and Jazz & The Civil Rights Movement are still remembered by his students for his meticulous research of little known content.

From Addis Ababa to Cape Town all the way to Milan, Andy's music and art passion made him part of creative and global productions. Activist at heart, Andy is all about promoting talent no matter their background. His vinyl library of over 10 000 titles is only matched by his incredible memory about everything music related.

Jazz as Social History

Course format:
11 am-1 pm (GMT-4)
75 min of lecture,
15 min break,
30 min Q&A



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Andy Williams examines the ‘Diaspora of Jazz’ from Jamaica’s Swing band era and its connection to America’s Big Bands, to the popularity of Jazz-Rock luminaries such as Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.

This narrative will also include an overview of Jazz’s contributions to civil rights movements (which will be discussed later in more detail) with particular attention given to Duke Ellington’s “Black, Brown & Beige”, Oscar Peterson’s “Hymn to Freedom” and Charles Mingus’ “Fables of Faubus”.

This musical journey will consider the evolution, popularity and enduring viability of this most significant of musical traditions.

Jazz as Social History

Module 1 / Diaspora of Jazz



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Saturday, April 15th

Jazz and the musical alumni of the Alpha Boys School

Evolution of Cu-Bop

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Saturday, April 22nd

Jazz & Civil rights



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Saturday, April 29th

Miles Davis' Bitches Brew

Miles Davis's ground breaking album

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Saturday, May 6th

Cry of Jazz

Film by Edward O. Bland (featuring Sun Ra & His Orchestra) 35 minutes/Discussion

In 2010, The 'Cry of Jazz' was restored and re-mastered with a grant from the Film Foundation, a process spearheaded by NYC's Anthology Film Archives. The film was inducted into the Library of Congress' National Film Registry in 2010, further solidifying the film's importance to American culture and beyond.

The film is now recognized as an early and influential example of African-American independent filmmaking.

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Saturday, May 13th

Politics and race in Jazz

Enforcement Act
Jim Crow Laws

"We Shall Overcome"

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Saturday, May 27th

Cu-Bop Cuban influences in Jazz

The roots of Reggae, and its influence on Rap music

From Bomba to Hip-Hop: Puerto Rican contributions to the America cultural landscape

An overview of 21 crucial Hip-Hop albums

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Saturday, June 3rd

Yoruba in Jazz

Black oral traditions - Griots

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Saturday, June 10th

Jazz & The civil right movement

- The Uncle Tom phenomena and Louis Armstrong's "Black and Blue"
- Billie Holiday and the tactics of white supremacy in America
- Benny Goodman, Teddy Wilson and crossing the colour line
- Duke Ellington's "Black Classical Music" and the Harlem Renaissance
- Max Roach and the founding of Be-bop
- Charles Mingus' "Fables of Faubus"
- Oscar Peterson's "Hymn to Freedom"
- John Coltrane and the Civil Rights Movement

FEES



8 week session----- CA\$245
One Session/One week-----CA\$ 35

Workshops done with Zoom Course format: 75 min of lecture, 15 min break, 30 min Q&A

Payments by e-Transfer/paypal : bchiarab@yahoo.com

Inquiries and payments: info@biafrablue.com