

LAMusArt
LIVE!

Swing

The Fabulous Esquires Big Band

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 STUDY GUIDE





HISTORY OF SWING

Jazz music was created out of African-American and Western European musical tradition by African American communities in New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th century. Swing music later would develop as a form of jazz music in the late 1920's and 1930's. In 1935, a sold out concert "Benny Goodman and His Swing Orchestra" would come to be noted as a marker of jazz and swing music gaining full acceptance by American mainstream audiences. This performance also is marked as one of the beginning events of the Swing Era (1933-1947), a period when big band swing music was the most popular music in the US.

One of the earliest stars of the Swing Era was pianist, composer and band leader, Duke Ellington. Much of Ellington's music told of the Black experience and he would go on to become one of the most influential people in jazz, composing over 3000 songs and several jazz standards all while fighting the discrimination he faced as a Black American.

Benny Goodman, a clarinetist and band leader would also become a primary figure in Swing Music, and he would be called the "King of Swing". Notably, his band was one of the first racially integrated groups in the US to play in front of a live audience and help catapult swing music into the mainstream.

Swing music is characterized by these typical musical methods:

- A strong rhythm section that serves as an anchor to the brass, and woodwind section
- An emphasis on the weak beat or "off beat"
- Walking bass line that provides rhythmic and harmonic foundation to the rest of the band, and
- Call and response between instruments

FOR MORE, VISIT:

<https://tinyurl.com/what-is-swing>

SWING AS DANCE MUSIC

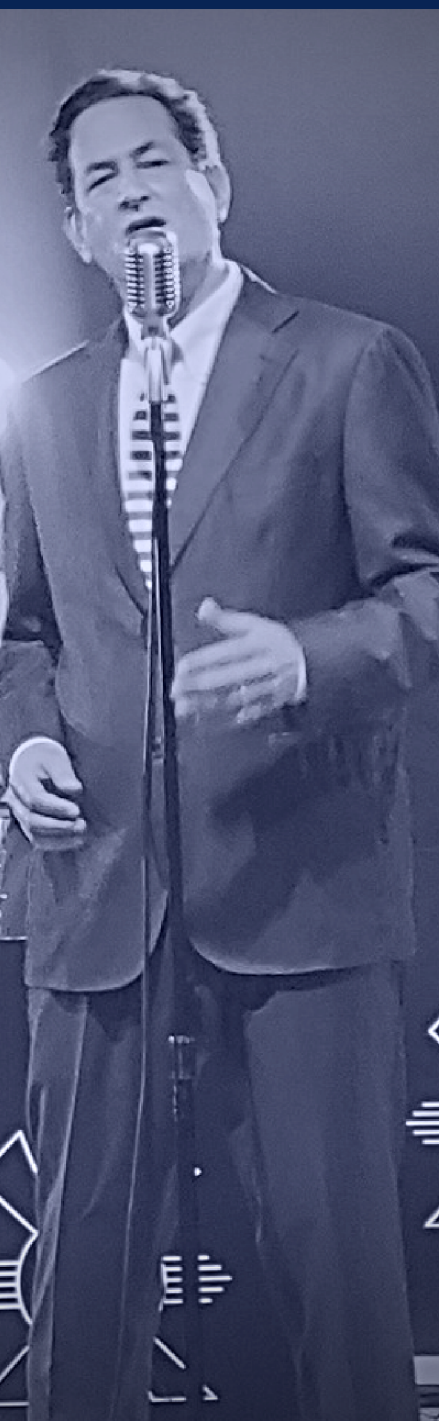
From swing music came swing dance in its many forms. Some of the most popular forms included the Lindy Hop and Charleston.

The Lindy Hop is perhaps the most famous of the many forms of swing dance that developed. It was created by African American communities in Harlem and became famous through many performances at the influential Savoy Ballroom. Like the musical genre it draws on African and European dance tradition. It is a social dance that is typically danced with a partner and is characterized by an embracing hold and breakaway. The Lindy Hop, like many other African-American dances allows room for the dancers to improvise.

Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, was a professional swing dance group that came about in the late 1920's and disbanded at the start of World War II. This group toured throughout the United States and internationally and appeared in many films and Broadway productions, bringing swing dance to a larger and more diverse audience.

FOR MORE, VISIT:





PROGRAM

"LEAP FROG" (1945)

Joe Garland made popular by the Les Brown Orchestra

"FLY ME TO THE MOON"(1954)

Bart Howard

"ALMOST LIKE BEING IN LOVE" (1947)

from Brigadoon by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

"JEEP JOCKEY JUMP" (1944)

Jerry Gray with Bill Conway and Harold Dickinson and made popular by Glenn Miller and the Army Air Forces Orchestra

"TAKEN A CHANCE ON LOVE" (1940)

from Cabin in the Sky by Vernon Duke with lyrics by John La Touche and Ted Fetter

"ORANGE COLOR SKY"(1930)

Milton Delugg and Willie Stein

"AMERICAN PATROL" (1942)

swing version by Jerry Gray Glenn Miller Orchestra by Frank White Meacham

"IF I HAD YOU" (1929)

Jimmy van Heusen, with lyrics by Sammy Cahn

"THE QUEEN BEE" (1968)

Sammy Nestico written for the Count Basie Orchestra

"IN THE MOOD" (1939)

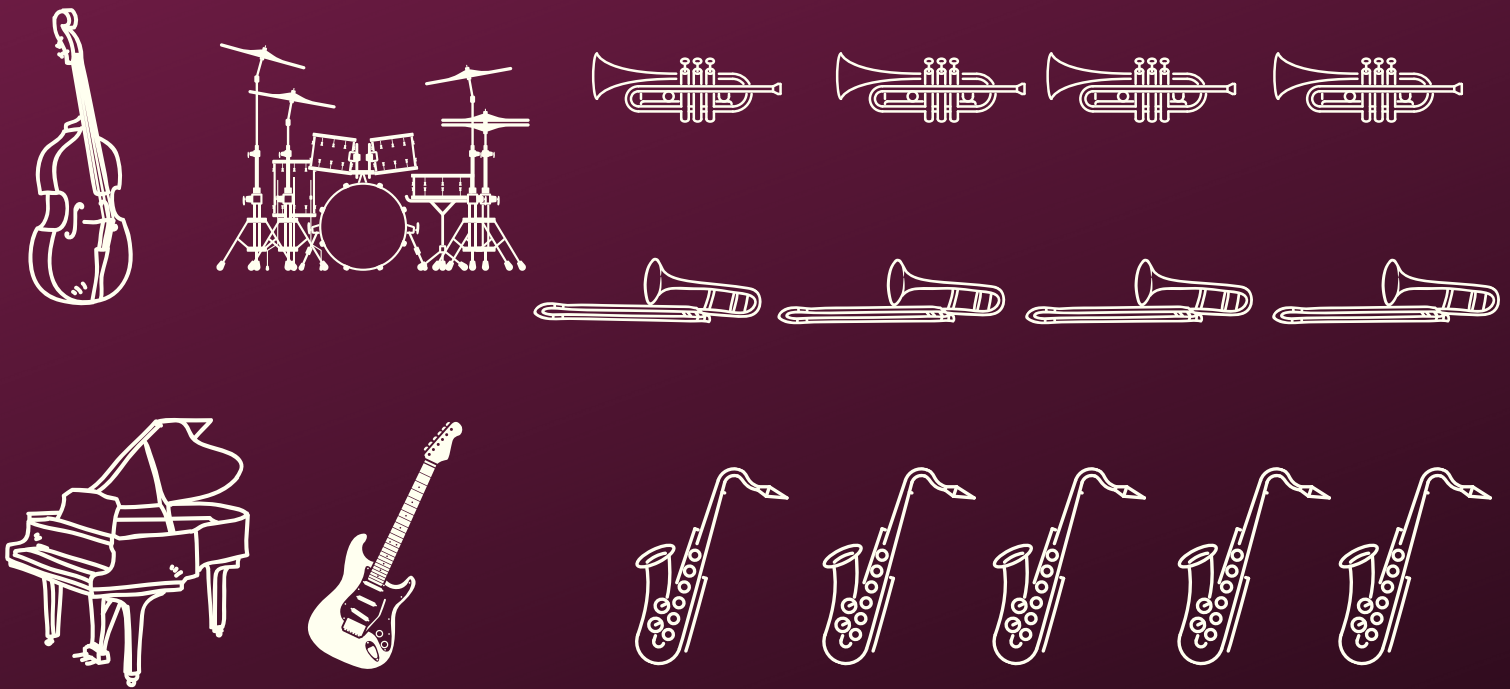
Arrangement by Joe Garland

"ALL OF ME" (1931)

Irving Berlin

Dancers: Adolfo & Cat: Time2Swing Saxophones: Mike Munson, Crystal Raymond, Darren Atkins, Ben Sachs, Ellen Engelke
Trumpets: Henry Mitchell, Ale Hille, Rich Gosset Trombones: Sarah Brown, Tucker Ward, Megan Brundin Rhythm: Ori Huberman,
Harmony Forsythe, Mel Flores Vocals: Dan Fryer, Kathleen Jequinto
Band Leader: Eric Brundin

BIG BAND INSTRUMENTATION

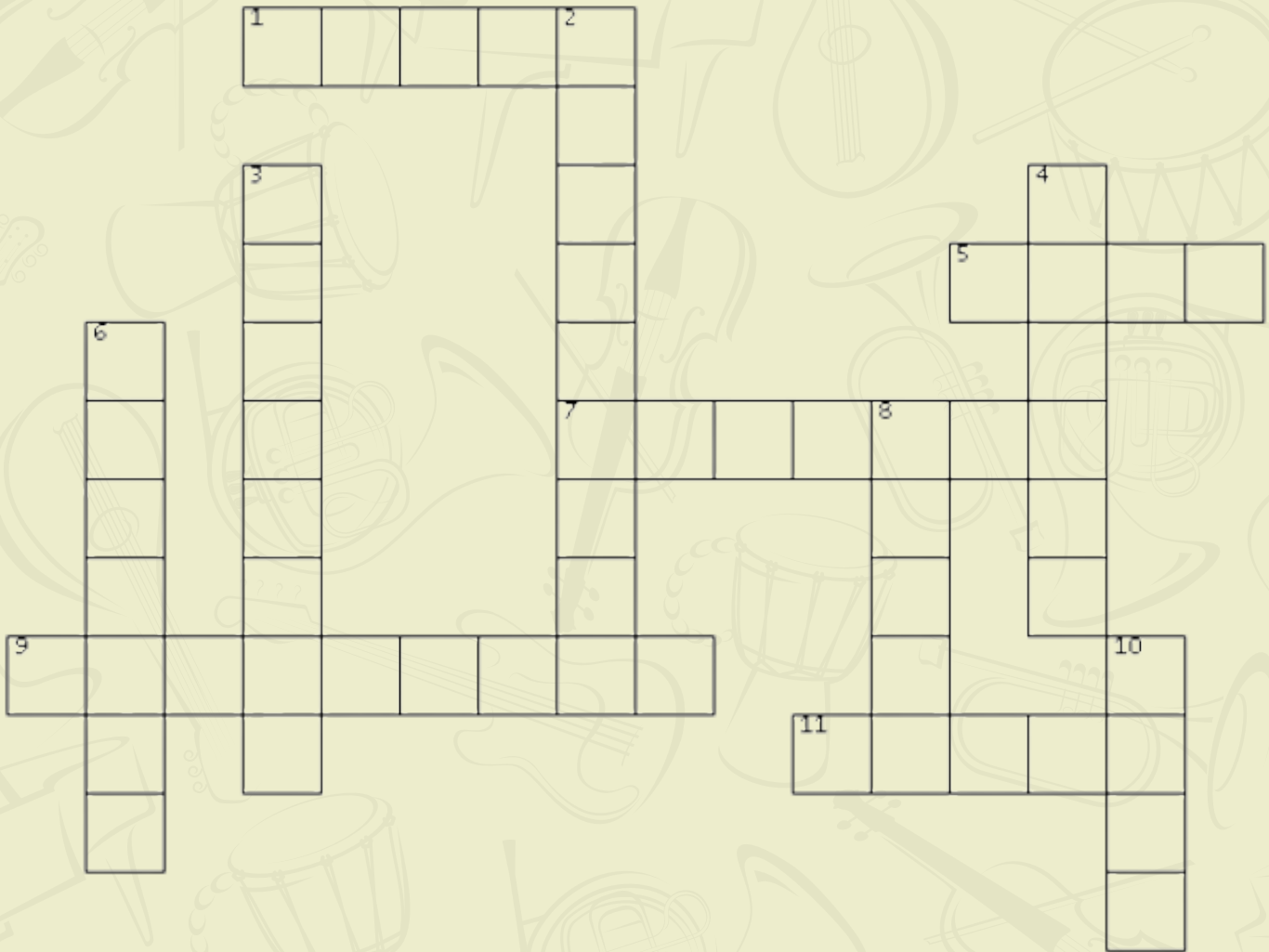


A big band was a type of musical ensemble that was typical of the Swing Era. Any band with 10 or more players could be considered a big band, but 17 players became what was most common. Typical instrumentation consists of a "rhythm" section, of bass, drums, piano and guitar, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones and 5 saxophones (2 alto, 2 tenor and 1 baritone).

FOR MORE, VISIT:

<https://tinyurl.com/bigbandswingera>

ACTIVITY



Across



5. first name of important Black pianist, composer and conductor in swing and other forms of jazz music



11. first name of a dancer known as "The Queen of Swing" who helped popularize the Lindy Hop in Broadway shows, movies, etc.

Down

2. the most common number of instruments in a big band

3. name of a style of swing dance that was created by African-American communities Harlem, New York City in the early 1930s



6. a type of musical ensemble of jazz music that often has 17 instruments



10. a vast music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, Louisiana

VOCALISTS OF THE BIG BAND ERA



Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was a jazz singer born in Newport News, Virginia in 1917. She has been referred to as "The First Lady of Song" and was the most famous female jazz singer in the US for over 5 decades. She began her singing career after winning one of the Amateur Nights at the Apollo theater and soon after began performing as part of the Chick Webb Orchestra where she found musical success and performed across the country. The Chick Webb Orchestra became the house band of the Savoy Ballroom in the company of swing troupe the Lindy Hoppers. After Chick Webb's death she took over the role as band leader and the band was renamed Ella and Her Famous Orchestra. In 1942 she started her solo career, managed by Norman Granz, one of the most influential jazz record producers. With Granz she would go on to record one of her most celebrated projects, Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Song Book. Fitzgerald remains one of the most well known jazz artists and has received fourteen Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/ellafitzgeraldslife>

Frank Sinatra

Frank Sinatra was a jazz singer and actor born in 1915 in Hoboken, New Jersey to Italian immigrants. His singing career began in his teenage years where he was a part of his high school glee club, and later in 1935 he joined a local singing group that would be named the Hoboken Four. He soon rose to fame singing big band numbers in swing era with bandleaders Harry James and Tommy Dorsey. This was just the beginning of his career and Sinatra would go on to launch his solo career after signing to Columbia Record in 1942. By this time Sinatra was already solidified as a star and gained popularity especially among young women. He went on to try his hand at acting and his breakthrough role was in musical film "Anchors Aweigh" in 1945. His popularity waned at the end of the 1940s due to rumors of ties to the mafia and a declining reputation, but the release of film "From Here to Eternity" put him back in the public's good graces and helped to revive his career. A multitude of successful albums and films followed and Sinatra solidified himself as one of the most successful entertainers in the United States, having sold over 150 million records and winning 11 Grammy Awards.

Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/ellafitzgeraldslife>





Nat King Cole

Nat King Cole was a singer, actor and pianist who was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1917. He began taking formal piano lessons at the age of 12 and at the age of 15 he dropped out of school to pursue a career in music. He started recording professionally with his brother Eddie who was also a musician. In 1937 he formed the King Cole Trio, they performed many great hits such as Paper Moon.

He became a crossover pop smash when he went solo in the 1950s with songs such as "Unforgettable" and "Mona Lisa". In 1956 he became the first African American performer to host his own variety show. He was victim of many racially motivated attacks, he was assaulted at a show in Birmingham and had a cross burned in front of his house by the KKK when he moved into all white neighborhood of Hancock Park in Los Angeles. For his lasting contributions to music he was posthumously awarded a grammy lifetime achievement award and was inducted into the Rock and Roll and jazz halls of fame.

Helen Forrest

Helen Forrest was born in 1917 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She began first taking piano lessons as a child but her piano teacher saw her potential in singing and encouraged her to focus on singing instead. At age 17 she began singing for a radio station in New York and then soon found a singing job at a club in Washington DC where she stayed for two years. She caught the attention of big band leader Artie Shaw and was invited to go on tour with his band. She then joined Big Band leader Benny Goodman in 1939, and recorded several songs with him before quitting in 1941. She then worked with another big band leader Harry James who unlike Shaw and Goodman, featured her more in songs and constructed arrangements around her singing. It was with Harry James Orchestra that she recorded some of her most popular songs such as "I Had the Craziest Dream". At the height of her career, was she the most popular female singer in the United States and is known as "the voice of the name" bands due to her work with three of the biggest swing bands.



Mel Tormé

Mel Tormé was an American singer, songwriter, composer, arranger, pianist, drummer and actor. He began singing at a very young age, performing with the Coons-Sanders Orchestra at four years old and by the age of 15 had already composed his first hit, "Lament to Love". He began touring as a singer, drummer and arranger at the age of 16 with Chico Marx's band. He soon made his first movie debut and by 1937 his appearance in film musical Good News made him a teen idol. In 1944 he formed one of the first jazz-influenced vocal groups, Mel Tormé and His Mel-Tones. He went on pursue a solo career and recorded several jazz records while also being respected for his arranging skills. Perhaps his most famous song he composed and co-wrote is "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)", which was recorded by Nat King Cole and continues to be a Christmas classic.



LAMusArt LIVE!

SEASON OF PERFORMANCES

DANCE: VERSA STYLE

Featuring Anthony Berry, Brandon Juezan, Cynthia Hernandez, Ernesto Galarza, Harry Weston, Jessi Pontillas and Leigh Foad
Saturday, August 28 at 8pm

EASTSIDE MUSIC PROJECT

Benefit Concert featuring the Sounds of
East LA's Latin Music Landscape from 1940 to Today
Saturday, September 25 at 8pm

CABARET: MUSICAL THEATRE & POP NIGHT

Featuring Chris Bona, Paul Rico, Charlotte Mary Wen
accompanied by Richard An
Saturday, October 23 at 8pm

CLASSICAL: AN EVENING WITH ESTHER RAYO

Featuring Esther Rayo and Brendan White on Piano
Made Possible with support from the Colburn Foundation
Saturday, November 20 at 8pm

RSVP TODAY
LAMUSART.ORG/SEASON



LAMusArt

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Support:



The Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMusArt) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to offer the community of East Los Angeles, primarily its K-12 population, with equitable and affordable access to multidisciplinary arts education programs.

The services we provide as a cornerstone of arts education are integral to the community's cultural identity. Since its founding in 1945 by Ms. Pearle Irene Odell, LAMusArt has served over 100,000 students, employed over 200 Teaching Artists, and provided over 2,000,000 lessons.

We believe affordable and accessible arts education programs work to benefit the students and the community by expanding one's world outlook, sharpening one's creative skills, and contributing to one's social, behavioral, and academic development.

