



Concert Choir Virtual Learning

High School Vocal Jazz

May 6, 2020



High School Concert Choir

Lesson: May 6, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: students will be able to understand the elements of vocal jazz and listen for them in examples

BELL WORK

Write down the following:

- What do you think of when you hear jazz?
- Can you name any jazz musicians?
- Are you familiar with vocal jazz groups?



THE BRIEFEST HISTORY OF JAZZ

- Started in New Orleans 1895
 - a. Buddy Bolden started his band
- 1913-What was called “New Orleans Music” is now called “Jazz”
- 1917-First jazz recording
 - a. The Original Dixieland Jazz Band
- 1924- Duke Ellington made his first recordings
- 1935- Ella Fitzgerald made her first recording
- 1945- Dizzy Gillespie
- 1959- Miles Davis album “Kind of Blue”
 - To this day the highest grossing jazz album
- 1963- Bill Evans records “Conversations with Myself”
 - He recorded over himself to get the effect of talking with himself
- 1976- Thelonious Monk performs for the last time
- 1983- Wynton Marsalis is the first person to win a jazz and classical Grammy in the same year
- 1991- New York Lincoln Center establish jazz division: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

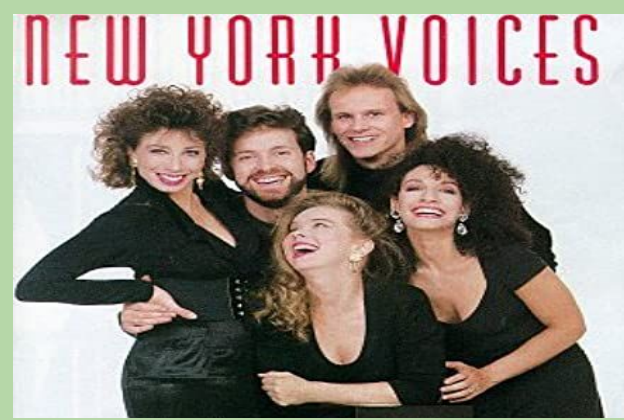
HISTORY OF VOCAL JAZZ

- Louis Armstrong was the first singer to “scat”. Scatting is imitating instruments improvising using nonsense syllables.
- Billie Holiday was an influential jazz singer
- Vocalists began putting together groups and writing jazz band arrangements for vocals.
- Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross performed as a group in 1957
 - A trio
 - With jazz combo
 - Drums
 - Piano
 - Bass



ELEMENTS OF VOCAL JAZZ

1. 3-16 people (size varies)
 - a. Professional Groups
 - i. New York Voices
 - ii. The Real Group
 - iii. Manhattan Transfer
 - iv. Take 6
 - b. High School Groups
 - c. College Groups
2. Standard SATB (with divisi often)
3. Arrangements of jazz standards
 - a. Can be a cappella or with jazz combo



4. Scatting and improvisation are common and key aspects
5. Vocalists are imitating instruments
 - a. “Big Band” style
6. Tuning and balance are very important
7. Usually performs with microphones

THE REAL GROUP

1. Group started in 1984
2. Five members
 - a. Soprano
 - b. Alto
 - c. Countertenor
 - d. Tenor
 - e. Bass
 - f. Have changed over the years
3. Swedish group
4. Around 20 albums recorded
5. They perform vocal jazz, pop, and contemporary a cappella



6. This first song is a contemporary song written by a member of the group

THE REAL GROUP

1. This song is a jazz standard
 - a. There Will Never Be Another You
 - i. Harry Warren/Mack Gordon
2. A cappella
3. They imitate a jazz combo
 - a. Listen for the drums and walking bass
4. Complex harmonies
5. The group has a group scat passage
 - a. Soloists take turns



NEW YORK VOICES

1. Group began in 1987
 - a. Most original members attended Ithaca College in New York
2. Started with five members and eventually became a quartet
 - a. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
 - b. All members have other careers along with this group
 - i. Solo
 - ii. Teaching
 - iii. Writing music
 - iv. Clinicians and guest artists
3. Around ten albums recorded
4. They write their own arrangements and can be purchased



This first video is a jazz standard and you can clearly hear the vocal bass imitating the string bass

NEW YORK VOICES

In this next song, listen for the following:

- This is a contemporary song and style
- Full orchestra
- Starts a cappella
- They pass the melody or solo between the four singers
- Complex harmonies and melody



TAKE 6

1. Group started in 1980
 - a. On campus at Oakwood University in Alabama
2. Gospel group that integrates jazz into their sound and music
3. 8 Grammy Awards
4. Six members
 - a. TTTTBB
5. Around 14 albums
6. The song is originally a hymn that was arranged by a member of the group



7. This is one of my favorite songs. The harmonies and chords are amazing and so interesting!!

COLLEGE VOCAL JAZZ GROUPS

- Can vary in size
- Has a faculty director
 - Picks music
 - Gives suggestions and advice
- University of Miami
 - This group has six members
- Performing with jazz combo



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOCAL JAZZ

- Group Name: The Standard
- Very successful program
- The professional group, M-Pact, is starting a jazz festival at this university
 - High School and College
 - Small choral ensembles, a cappella groups, barbershop groups, and vocal jazz groups



HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL JAZZ GROUPS

- High school group *Two N Four* from Valencia HS in California
- In this video, they are performing at a Jazz festival
- 16 members (this can vary)



MORE PRACTICE

[Sing Sing Sing](#)

['Round Midnight](#)

[Tuxedo Junction](#)

[Folsom HS Jazz Choir](#)

[Bellevue College Vocal Jazz](#)

Here are a couple more awesome vocal jazz groups that you should check out.!

Listen for the specific aspects of the genre we talked about today.

