

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 6: “In the Mood”: The Swing Era, 1935–1945

Student Study Outline

- I. Swing Era
 - a. **Swing**
 - b. 1935–1945: large dance band orchestras
 - i. Celebrated bandleaders: **Benny Goodman**, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Glenn Miller
 - ii. **Big bands—jukeboxes**
- II. Swing Music and American Culture
 - a. New Deal Era
 - b. **Booking agencies**
 - c. Network radio
 - d. Swing put to political use
 - e. Dance styles
 - i. Lindy hop
 - f. Cultural communication across racial boundaries
- III. Listening Guide: “Wrappin It Up” (The Lindy Glide)
 - a. Composed and arranged by Fletcher Henderson; performed by Fletcher Henderson and His Orchestra; recorded 1934
 - b. **Fletcher Henderson** (1898–1952)
- IV. Benny Goodman: “The King of Swing”
 - a. **Benny Goodman** (1909–1986)
 - b. **John Hammond** (1910–1987)
 - c. **Gene Krupa** (1909–1973)
- V. Listening Guide: “Taking a Chance on Love”
 - a. Composed by Vernon Duke, lyrics by John Latouche and Ted Fetter; arranged by Fletcher Henderson; performed by Benny Goodman and His Orchestra; recorded 1940
- VI. Duke Ellington in the Swing Era
- VII. Listening Guide: “Caravan”
 - a. Composed by Juan Tizol and Duke Ellington; arranged by Duke Ellington; performed by Duke Ellington and His Orchestra; recorded 1937
- VIII. Kansas City Swing: Count Basie
 - a. **William “Count” Basie** (1904–1984)
 - i. **Territory bands**
 - b. **Boogie-woogie**
- IX. Listening Guide: “One O’Clock Jump”
 - a. Composed by William Count Basie; arranged by Eddie Durham and Buster Smith; performed by Count Basie and His Orchestra; recorded 1937
- X. Superstar of Swing: **Glenn Miller** (1904–1914)

- XI. Listening Guide: “In the Mood”
 - a. Composed by Joe Garland and Andy Razaf; arranged by Glenn Miller; performed by Glenn Miller and His Orchestra; recorded 1939
- XII. Jazz Singers: The Boswell Sisters, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald
 - a. **Boswell Sisters**
 - b. **Billie Holiday** (1915–1959)
 - c. **Ella Fitzgerald** (1917–1996)
- XIII. Vocal Harmony Groups
 - a. Swing Era: predominantly instrumental, but several popular vocal groups thrived
 - b. **The Mills Brothers**: most successful and longest-lived vocal group from the era
- XIV. Listening Guide: “Paper Doll”
 - a. Music and Lyrics by Johnny S. Black; published 1915; performed by the Mills Brothers; recorded 1942
- XV. Country Music in the Swing Era: Roy Acuff, Singing Cowboys, and Western Swing
 - a. Appeal of hillbilly performers and their music continued to grow
 - i. New urban audience for hillbilly music
 - 1. **Independent record labels (“indies”)**
 - ii. **Roy Claxton Acuff** (1903–1992)
 - b. Listening Guide: “Great Speckled Bird”
 - i. Written by Reverend Guy Smith; performed by Roy Acuff and His Crazy Tennesseans; recorded 1936
 - c. Singing Cowboy
 - i. **Gene Autry** (1907–1998)
 - d. Listening Guide: “Cool Water”
 - i. Written by Bob Nolan; performed by Songs of the Pioneers; recorded 1941
 - e. **Western swing**
 - a. **Mariachi**
 - ii. **Bob Wills** (1905–1975)
 - f. Listening Guide: “New San Antonio Rose”
 - i. Written by Bob Wills; performed by Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys; recorded 1940
- XVI. Latin Music in the Swing Era
 - a. Swing Era: crucial period for development of Latin music
 - b. **Xavier Cugat** (1900–1990)
 - c. Cuban influence: mambo and Latin jazz
 - i. **Mario Bauza** (1911–1993)
 - ii. **John Birks (“Dizzy”) Gillespie** (1917–1993)
 - iii. **Machito** (1909–1984)
- XVII. Listening Guide: “Brazil”
 - a. Written by Ary Barroso; performed by Xavier Cugat and His Waldorf-Astoria Orchestra; recorded 1943
- XVIII. Listening Guide: “Nagüe”

- a. Written by Luciano (Chano) Pozo; arranged by Mario Bauza and John Bartee; performed by Machito and His Afro-Cubans; recorded 1941
- XIX. ASCAP, the AFM, and the Decline of the Big Bands
 - a. Swing Era lasted almost exactly a decade
 - b. Armed forces
 - c. Struggles among powerful institutions in the music business
 - d. **Charlie Parker** (1920–1955)

XX. Key Terms

Big bands Boogie-woogie Booking agencies	Independent record labels ("indies" Jukeboxes Mariachi	Swing Territory bands Western swing
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XXI. Key People

Benny Goodman Bob Wills Charlie Parker Duke Ellington Fletcher Henderson Gene Autry	Gene Krupa Glenn Miller John Birks ("Dizzy) Gillespie John Hammond Machito	Mario Bauza Roy Claxton Acuff William "Count" Basie Xavier Cugat
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