

MMM 🎵🎵🎵

Monday Music Memo 23 – 28 August 2023

Would you like a definition of soul, swing, reggae, jazz and blues?
And some examples to choose from? This is today's topic.

Soul

Music that originated in black American gospel singing, is closely related to rhythm and blues, and is characterized by intensity of feeling and earthiness.

Soul music is characterised by gospel influence - intense vocals, call and response, an emphasis on the rhythm section and large horn sections (trumpets, saxophones and trombones).



Ray Charles - Georgia On My Mind

<https://youtu.be/ggGzE5KfCio>
3.37 minutes

Swing

In music, swing refers to a specific way of interpreting rhythm, where eight notes are played like triplets to create a galloping sound.

Some swing artists: Bennie Godman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and, of course, Louis Armstrong.



Frank Sinatra and Count Basie - Fly Me To The Moon

<https://youtu.be/fa4UguKRgNg>
2.32 minutes

Reggae

Popular music of Jamaican origin that combines native styles with elements of rock and soul music and is performed at moderate tempos with the accent on the offbeat.

Examples: Bob Marley - No woman - No Cry,
Chaka Demus and Pliers - 'Twist and Shout'
(<https://youtu.be/x90NoBIW87Q>)



Bob Marley - I Shot The Sheriff

https://youtu.be/Qfs-ui_a4AQ
4.57 minutes

Jazz

A music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, Louisiana, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with its roots in blues and ragtime.

Jazz singers' vocal techniques are similar to that of a musical instrument. The jazz feeling of their singing is chiefly imparted through phrasing, melodic improvisation, and rhythmic subtlety.

Examples: Ella Fitzgerald - Mack The Knife, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington.



Dave Brubeck - Take Five

<https://youtu.be/y9aG3wUrfrE>
5.31 minutes

Blues

Blues is both a music genre and a musical form which originated in the Deep South of the United States around the 1860s. It incorporated spirituals, work songs, field hollers, shouts, chants, and rhymed simple narrative ballads from the African-American culture. The blues form is ubiquitous in jazz, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll, and is characterised by the call-and-response pattern, the blues scale, and specific chord progressions, of which the twelve-bar blues is the most common.



Muddy Waters - Got My Mojo Workin'

<https://youtu.be/8hEYwk0bypY>
4.31 minutes

The lyrics often relate troubles experienced within African American society. For instance, Blind Lemon Jefferson's "Rising High Water Blues" (1927) tells of the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927:

*Backwater rising, Southern peoples can't make no time
I said, backwater rising, Southern peoples can't make no time
And I can't get no hearing from that Memphis girl of mine*

Although the blues gained an association with misery and oppression, the lyrics could also be humorous and raunchy:

*Rebecca, Rebecca, get your big legs off of me,
Rebecca, Rebecca, get your big legs off of me,
It may be sending you baby, but it's worrying the hell out of me.*

Examples: John Lee Hooker, Illinois Jacquet, Muddy Waters - Hoochie Coochie Man.

Well, I hope your mojo is working too now!
Pete