

Example by StudyDriver

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20th Century Jazz Example

The "20th Century Jazz" composers I have chose to write about their life and music are Dave Brubeck and Wynton Marsalis. Dave Brubeck was one of the best jazz composers in the "20th Century." As an American, Dave Brubeck was a leader in many ways. He loved being a pianist, composer, and a bandleader. He received early training in classical music from his mother, a pianist, and by the age of fifteen was performing professionally with local jazz groups [Jazz Warren]. His father was a rancher and had really nothing to do with music in the family. In 1938 Dave entered the College of the Pacific in Stockton, California to study pre-veterinary. During his Sophomore year he was persuaded to follow his dreams and major in Music. Because of this decision, Dave led a twelve-piece Jazz Band his senior year. That one person that persuaded Dave to follow his dreams might have changed his life forever [Jazz Warren]. After he graduated in 1944 he was sent to Europe to be a rifleman in the infantry until he secured the position as the leader of the band that toured the front lines in Patton's Third Army. After he was discharged from the army in 1946 he went to study at Milhaud at Mills College in Oakland, California. He went to study classical composition which was when you'll develop your compositional personality through the study of a variety of composition techniques, instrumentation, and orchestration (Berklee Composition). This is when his career started. Hence Dave Brubeck was known for his jazz music, and the way he composed it. Brubeck did many things in his career like recorded several large-scale works including two ballets, a musical, and an oratorio, four

cantats, a mass, works for jazz combo and orchestra, and many solopiano peices. In 1958, Brubeck joined a group of musicains that they later called the DaveBrubeck Quartet. The combination of musicains were Joe Morello which was a drummer,double bassist Eugene Wright, and alto saxophonist Paul Desmond. These four men had twomajor hits that are called "Blue Rondo a la Turk", and "Take Five" [Music Brubeck]. Because ofthese hits, millions of young listeners loved to listen to this Jazz music.This quartet lasted from1952 to 2012. 2012 was when the dearly beloved Dave Brubeck died. Dave also was so famoushe performed in the White House in 1964 and 1981, and also preformed at the Moscow Summitin 1988 honoring the Gorbachevs [Music Brubeck]. People loved listening to Dave Brubeck.People loved listening to Dave Brubeck. It was always a battle for him to find somemusic company to sign with. When Dave signed with Fantasy Records, he thought he had a halfinterest in the company and worked as a guy who just scouted musicians. While doing this heencouraged the Weiss brothers to sign other contemporary jazz performers including GerryBulligan, Chet Baker, and Red Norvo. When he discovered what he was sucked into doing forFanatsy records, he quit and signed with another label which was Columbia Records. DuringBrubecks music career this was one of the best decisions he has ever made. Due to his popularityafter signing with Columbia Records, he was featured on the cover of Time in 1959. He was thesecond jazz musician that was honored this privilage [Brubeck Wiki]. Brubeck was so humbleabout this honor that when Ellington knocked on his hotel door to tell him, he commented, Itshould have been you(Brubeck Wiki). This was just one of the reasons everyone loved Brubeck. Hinck3The second composer I have chose to write about is Wynton Marsalis. Wynton Marsaliswas born on October 18, 1961 in the city of jazz music New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time hedidn't know it, but he would be one of the best jazz composers of his time. From an early ageWynton studied jazz and classical music. Wynton was about eight years old when he belonged toa children's marching band led by Danny Barker that performed at the famous New Orleans JazzHeritage Festival [Marsalis Jazz]. This was the first journey of his adventure. At the age offourteen he perfomned in Haydn's Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans PhilarmonicOrchestra. Later on in life he attened the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, Massachusetts.At the age of seventeen Marsalis was the youngest musician ever to be admitted to Tanglewood[Biography Marsalis]. While a student at this school he joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.This was around 1980. In 1981 he toured in a quartet with Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, andTony Williams and recorded his first album as a leader. This was an important event for him.Then in early 1982 he left the Jazz Messangers to

form a quintet with his brother Brandford Marsalis, Kenny Kirkland, Charles Fambrough, Phil Bowler, and Jeff Watts [Marsalis Jazz]. Wynton was the first of many things. Because he was a prolific and inventive composer, he was the first jazz artist to perform and compose across the full jazz spectrum from its New Orleans roots to bebop in modern jazz. He has also composed a violin concerto and four symphonies to introduce new rhythms to classical music canon [Biography Marsalis]. He was always looking for something new. He wanted to be known for many things, and he did just that by inventing new ways to be a jazz musician. Wynton could not have done that if he didn't have a creative mind. Wynton was world renowned jazz composer. Hence, Wynton Marsalis was an amazing jazz composer and musician. He has produced over eighty records in his life which have sold over seven million copies worldwide including three Gold Records. His recordings consistently incorporate heavy emphasis on the blues, an inclusive approach to all forms of jazz from New Orleans to modern jazz, persistent use of the swing as the primary rhythm, and embrace of the American popular song, individually and collective improvisation, and panoramic vision of compositional styles from ditties to dynamic call and response patterns (Biography Marsalis). He has made a living off his music. Wynton's most popular song was "Jim's Jig" followed by "Roots Grove", "I Got Lost in Her Arms, Where or When", and "Cherokee" [Music Marsalis]. So if you are looking for some of the best jazz music, listen to Wynton Marsalis's most popular songs. Wynton Marsalis won many awards for his music. Overall Wynton Marsalis has won nine Grammy Awards in grand style. In 1983 he became the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards for both jazz and classical records. In 1984 he repeated that distinction again. Today Wynton is the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards in five consecutive years ranging from 1983-1987 [Biography Marsalis]. In 1997 Wynton Marsalis became the first jazz musician ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for music with his amazing oratorio "Blood On The Fields". This was an important event because usually the Pulitzer Prize did not recognize jazz musicians. Everybody loved this oratorio because it shows an African American couple going from being slaves, to finally being free. This Oratorio lasted for a long three hours, but showed the real character of Wynton Marsalis's music [Biography Marsalis]. He featured many ups and downs with his music during this Oratorio. Wynton showed his true character through music and by doing so, he won many awards.