

Celebrating the Great Women of Jazz for April of 2010's Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM):

-A Web 2.0 Lesson Plan by Dr. Joseph M. Pisano –<http://mustech.net>

-This Teacher's Lesson Plan may be found online at <http://mustech.net> -Search "women jazz plan"

1. Elvira "Vi" Redd, Stormy Monday Blues (1968):



YouTube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9cM3ALga80>

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Vi Redd (born September 20, 1928) is an American jazz alto saxophone player, vocalist and educator. She has been active since the early 1950s and is known primarily for playing in the bebop, hard bop and post bop styles. She is highly regarded as an accomplished veteran who has performed with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie and Count Basie to Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Linda Hopkins and Marian McPartland.

Find out more about Vi Redd:

<http://www.instrumentalwomen.com/page43.html>

2. Lil Hardin, Riverside Blues 2:52 (1923):



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YouTube Link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_WbQYdQty0

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Lil Hardin Armstrong (February 3, 1898 – August 27, 1971) was a jazz pianist, composer, arranger, singer, and bandleader, and the second wife of Louis Armstrong with whom she collaborated on many recordings in the 1920s. Hardin's compositions include "Struttin' With Some Barbecue", "Don't Jive Me", "Two Deuces", "Knee Drops", "Doin' the Suzie-Q", ""Just For a Thrill" (which became a major hit when revived by Ray Charles in 1959), "Clip Joint", and "Bad Boy" (a hit by Ringo Starr in 1978).

Find out more about Lil Hardin:

<http://www.redhotjazz.com/lil.html>

3. Toshiko Akiyoshi, The Village 5:43 (2007):



YouTube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0t8WSu6Tcc>

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Toshiko Akiyoshi (秋吉 敏子 or 稚吉 敏子, Akiyoshi Toshiko?, born December 12, 1929) is a Japanese American jazz pianist, composer/arranger and bandleader. Among a very few successful female instrumentalists of her generation in jazz, she is also recognized as a major figure in jazz composition. She has received 14 Grammy nominations, and she was the first woman to win the Best Arranger and Composer awards in Down Beat magazine's Readers Poll. In 1984, she was the subject of a documentary film titled *Jazz Is My Native Language*. In 1996, she published her autobiography, *Life With Jazz* and in 2007 she was named an NEA Jazz Master by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts.

Find out more about Toshiko Akiyoshi:

<http://www.berkeleyagency.com/html/toshiko.html>



4. Mary Lou Williams, Baby Dear 3:00 (1930s):



YouTube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LiNvIVimUc>

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Mary Lou Williams (May 8, 1910 – May 28, 1981) was an American jazz pianist, composer, and arranger. Williams wrote hundreds of compositions and arrangements, and recorded more than one hundred records (in 78, 45, and LP versions). Williams wrote and arranged for such famed bandleaders as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, and she was friend, mentor, and teacher to Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and Dizzy Gillespie.

Find out more about Mary Lou Williams:

<http://www.marylouwilliamsfoundation.org/>

5. Ina Ray Hutton, Star Dust/Organ Grinder 2:21 (1937):



YouTube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4IaTwKnpWQ>

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Ina Ray Hutton (March 13, 1916 – February 19, 1984) was an American female leader during the Big band era, and half-sister to June Hutton. Hutton was born as Odessa Cowan in Chicago, Illinois of Irish descent. She began dancing and singing in stage revues at the age of eight. She attended Hyde Park High School on the South Side of Chicago. In the 1930s she appeared on Broadway in George White's Scandals and The Ziegfeld Follies. In 1934 she was asked to lead an all-girl orchestra, the Melodears, which featured musicians including trumpet player Frances Klein during its existence.[1] The group disbanded in 1939. In 1940 she led an all-male orchestra, it was later disbanded in 1946. She married Randy Brooks late in the 1940s. She retired from music in 1968 and died in 1984 of complications from diabetes, aged 67.

6. Blanche Calloway, I'm Gettin' Myself Ready For You 3:13 (1931):



Direct YouTube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLSA4iTk8c0>

Quick Wikipedia Background:

Blanche Calloway (February 9, 1904 - December 16, 1978) was a Jazz singer, bandleader, and composer from Baltimore, Maryland. She is not as well known as her younger brother Cab Calloway, but she may have been the first woman to lead an all male orchestra. Cab Calloway often credited her with being the reason he got into show business. She made her first recordings in 1925, with Louis Armstrong as a sideman on the session. She recorded with a number of groups from the late 1920s through 1935, recording with Ruben Reeves and his River Boys in 1929 and fronting the Andy Kirk band briefly before forming Blanche Calloway and Her Joy Boys (with several members of that organization). In 1938 she disbanded the orchestra and worked as a solo act. In 1939 she converted to the Church of Christ, Scientist. From the 1950s through the 1970s, she worked as a disc jockey and later program director at WMBM in Florida.

Find out more about Blanche Calloway:

http://www.parabrisas.com/d_callowayb.php



40 more amazing women that are important to the history and currency of Jazz:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Alice Coltrane | 15. Ella Fitzgerald | 29. Melba Liston |
| 2. Anita O'Day | 16. Emily Remler | 30. Natalie Cole |
| 3. Betty Carter | 17. Ernestine Anderson | 31. Nina Simone |
| 4. Bessie Smith | 18. Ethel Waters | 32. Norma Carson |
| 5. Billie Holiday | 19. Etta Jones | 33. Patti Bown |
| 6. Carmen McRae | 20. Geri Allen | 34. Rosemary Clooney |
| 7. Cassandra Wilson | 21. Helen Forrest | 35. Sarah Vaughn |
| 8. Chris Conner | 22. Jutta Hip | 36. Sheila Jordan |
| 9. Clara Smith | 23. Kay Star | 37. Shirley Horn |
| 10. Dolly Jones | 24. Kelly Smith | 38. Shirley Scott |
| 11. Diana Krall | 25. Kitty Kallen | 39. Stacey Kent |
| 12. Dianne Reeves | 26. Lena Horne | 40. Terry Pollard |
| 13. Dinah Washington | 27. MA Rainey | |
| 14. Dorothy Ashby | 28. Marian McPartland | |

Potential Project/Assignment:

Collaborate with your friends and make a PowerPoint/YouTube/Web-Search interactive - presentation about any of the great women jazz artists listed here (or elsewhere).

Minimum Assignment Requirements:

- Brief Biography
- Half-dozen integrated pictures
- At least two related-YouTube Videos (if possible)
- A brief written synopsis about what type of Jazz they perform(ed) and what instruments they play(ed) and why they are important figures in Jazz. Write about why you picked her and interesting things that you learned about her in the process

Further Online Resources:

- http://www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time_women.htm
- <http://jazzwomen.org/>
- http://www.npr.org/programs/jazzprofiles/archive/women_1.html
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Women_in_jazz
- http://www.npr.org/programs/jazzprofiles/archive/women_1.html
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQmsJp85z7E>

(Short Clip about *Women of Jazz* on YouTube)

