UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

International Jazz Day

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INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY – EDUCATOR GUIDE

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz music's unique ability to unite people in all corners of the globe.

International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz music's roots and history, as well as its wide-reaching impact and enduring influence.

Here are some ideas and resources for exploring jazz with your students on April 30:

- Play jazz recordings in your classroom. Discuss with your students what they like or don't like about the music.
- Play video clips of jazz performances.
- Invite a local expert to conduct a listening session or give a talk to your class.
- Schedule a jazz-themed performance or concert by your school band or choir.
- Use one of the many lesson plans available at www.jazzinamerica.org.
- Decorate your classroom with jazz posters, or pictures of jazz artists.
- Ask your students to draw or write about how jazz makes them feel or think.
- Have students research the local roots of jazz in your town or city. What made jazz unique in your local environment?
- Ask your students to interview older relatives about their experiences with jazz, and encourage them to listen to these relatives' favorite jazz songs. They can then share the results of their interviews with the class.
- Have students write a skit or play based on the life of a great jazz musician.
- Encourage students to explore some of the jazz websites in the resource list below.

Resources

- Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz
- Jazz In America
- Jazz Education Network
- Kennedy Center ArtsEdge: Jazz in Time
- DownBeat Jazz School
- JazzTimes Education
- JazzEd
- Jamey Aebersold Jazz Handbook
- Jazz Standards
- Jazz – A Film by Ken Burns
- PBS Kids Go! Chuck Vanderchuck's "Something Something" Explosion
- NPR Jazz
- Smithsonian Jazz