What is Jazz and Why it is Important to the World

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Musical Elements of Jazz

1. **Syncopation** the accenting of beats that are not “naturally” accented; the accenting of "upbeats"
2. **Jazz Sounds**
   1. “jazz” instruments
   2. the way each instrument is played
3. **Improvisation** spontaneous composition; composing the music as you are playing; extemporaneous soloing; “musical conversing”
4. **Rhythm** steady tempo; swing
5. **Form** the repeated and contrasting sections in the design of a composition; the tune’s harmonic (chordal) “blueprint”

"Song for My Father"

Form: A A B (24-Bar Tune)

A: I F- I I Eb7 I I Db7 I C7sus I F- I I

A: I F- I I Eb7 I I Db7 I C7sus I F- I I

B: I Eb7 I I F- I I Eb7 Db7 I C7sus I F- I I

Glossary

1. **Chord** two or more notes played at the same time; the music that accompanies the melody, setting the mood (AKA "change," i.e., the "changes" of a song are the chords that accompany the song)
2. **Head** the (written) melody
3. **Chorus** one time through the chords of a song (AKA “tune”); one time through the tune’s form
4. **Intro** optional introductory music that comes before the first chorus
5. **Coda** optional ending music that comes after the last chorus (AKA “outro”)
6. **Vamp** one chord (or a brief chord progression) which is played over and over

The Values of Jazz

1. Teamwork
2. Unity with Ethnic Diversity
3. The Correlation of Hard Work and Goal Accomplishment
5. Persistence
6. Tolerance
7. The Vital Importance of Really Listening to One Another