

How to Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month

CELEBRATE JAZZ

SPONTANEOUS. NEVER ORDINARY.
COMPLETELY GENUINE.



MADE IN AMERICA.
ENJOYED WORLDWIDE.

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HOW TO CELEBRATE

JAZZ

APPRECIATION MONTH



Band Directors

- Contact your local jazz society to see if it offers a jazz education program, and if it is willing to collaborate with you. Perhaps the officers can recommend a guest soloist.
- Invite a professional jazz player to be a guest soloist with your band.
- Join the International Association for Jazz Education (www.iaje.org).
- Join the MENC—The National Association for Music Education (www.menc.org) and utilize its jazz resources. One of them is the 76-page *Teaching Jazz: A Course Study*, created jointly with the International Association for Jazz Education.
- Join the Traditional Jazz Educators Network and introduce your students to early styles of jazz (<http://prjc.org/tjen>).
- Compete in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington High School Band Contest (www.jazzatlincolncenter.org).
- Focus programming on the jazz legends whose birthdays fall in April: Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Dodds, Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus, Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, Freddie Hubbard, Randy Weston, or Herbie Hancock.
- Consider using scores from the Essential Jazz Editions series and have your band perform them. These may be available from your local library.

Churches

- Hold a Jazz Vespers service.
- Commission a concert of a religious work in the jazz idiom, such as Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concerts*, or one composed by Mary Lou Williams or Dave Brubeck.



Collectors

- Collect extra or unwanted jazz recordings or books and donate them to a local high school, college, nursing home, or community center.
- Join the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors (<http://www.geocities.com/iajrc>).

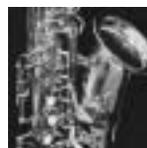
Fans

- Attend a concert by your local high school or college jazz band.
- Listen to a jazz CD that is new to you. Try to stretch your ears. If you need some guidance, consult *The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD*, by Richard Cook and Brian Morton, or Tom Piazza's *Guide to Classic Recorded Jazz*.
- Read a good book on jazz.
- Find a new jazz Web site.
- Listen to a radio station that plays genuine jazz.
- Go to "This Date in Jazz History" (at www.SmithsonianJazz.org), pick an anniversary, and find some music by that musician to explore.
- Pay a pilgrimage to your favorite jazz city, to a jazz museum, or to a musician's birthplace or gravesite.
- View *Satchmo*, *Jazz on a Summer's Day*, *Straight No Chaser*, or another jazz documentary or performance video.
- Listen to the jazz offerings on the radio, or find your local NPR station (www.npr.jazz.org).
- Log onto a distant jazz radio station on the Web. For example, KKJZ (www.kkjz.org), WBG0 (www.wbgo.org), WDUQ (www.wduq.org), or WWOZ (www.wwoz.org).
- If you travel in the United States, use *The Da Capo Jazz and Blues Lover's Guide to the U.S.*, by Christiane Bird, as your guide to jazz clubs and historical locations in 25 cities.



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- Join your local jazz society (for a list, visit www.smithsonianjazz.org). If none exists in your community, organize one.
- Read a jazz magazine, such as *Down Beat*, *Jazz Times*, or *Jazziz*. Others include: *Cadence*, *Jazz Education Journal*, *Jazz Improv*, *The Mississippi Rag: The Voice of Traditional Jazz and Ragtime*, and from Canada, *Coda*, *Planet Jazz*, and *The Jazz Report*.
- Host a jazz listening session in your home or a jazz-themed party in honor of a favorite musician, or to celebrate jazz in general.
- Read a jazz-related poem—such as those in *The Jazz Poetry Anthology*, edited by Sascha Feinstein and Yusef Komunyakaa or their *The Second Set: The Jazz Poetry Anthology, Volume 2*.
- View and think about jazz-related artwork. How does the artwork express jazz culture or the artist's interpretation of jazz language? For an example of jazz-related artwork, look in *Seeing Jazz: Artists and Writers on Jazz*.

Foundations

- Sponsor a free jazz concert or series in your community or local public school.
- Endow a chair in your local jazz orchestra, or in one of the national jazz orchestras (Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, etc.).
- Support a local or national jazz program. The Smithsonian Institution has one, as do institutions in cities across the U.S.
- Support the preservation of an endangered building where significant jazz events took place.



Historic Preservationists

- Preserve a local jazz shrine, musician's birthplace, etc.
- Erect a plaque or monument to your area's jazz history.
- Raise public awareness about your area's jazz history, through newspaper articles.
- Ask the local museum or historical society if it would do a special exhibition or program during April.
- Collaborate with the local museum, public library, college or public radio/TV station, arts and humanities councils, and performing arts center to create a community-wide celebration.
- Organize a tour of locally significant jazz sites

Jazz Societies

- Ask your local library to feature jazz CDs, books, and videos during April.
- Ask the local museum or historical society if it would do a special exhibition or program during April.
- Create a community-wide celebration by collaborating with your local museum, public library, college, public radio/TV station, arts and humanities councils, or performing arts center.
- Organize a tour of locally significant jazz sites.
- Organize a swapfest.
- Link up with other jazz societies in your state or region to arrange a block booking of a touring jazz band.
- Organize a jazz dance or jazz ball—perhaps encouraging the musicians and dancers to wear vintage clothing. Make it a festive event.
- Organize a "Disc Drive" to collect unwanted jazz CDs to donate to local schools, colleges, and nursing homes.



Libraries

- Display the jazz highlights from your collection.
- Create a flyer listing highlights of your jazz holdings and suggested readings on jazz.
- Subscribe to a jazz magazine, such as *Down Beat*, *Jazz Education Journal*, *Jazz Times*, or *Jazziz*. Others include: *Cadence*, *Jazz Education Journal*, *Jazz Improv*, *The Mississippi Rag: The Voice of Traditional Jazz and Ragtime*, and from Canada, *Coda*, *Planet Jazz*, and *The Jazz Report*.
- Develop a jazz lecture series, jazz film series, or jazz concert series.
- Collaborate with the local museum, college, jazz society, public radio/TV station, arts and humanities councils, and performing arts center to create a community-wide celebration.
- In conjunction with National Poetry Month, which is also held in April (www.poets.org), hold a jazz poetry reading.

Museums and Historical Societies

- Organize an oral history project about the jazz history of your area.
- Curate an exhibition about the jazz history of your area.
- Develop a jazz lecture series.
- Create a jazz film series.
- Offer a jazz concert series.
- Organize a jazz symposium.
- Organize a tour of locally significant jazz history sites.
- Collaborate with the local jazz society, public library, college, public radio/TV station, and performing arts center to create a community-wide celebration.



Parents

- Take your son or daughter to hear “live” jazz, such as the jazz band of your local high school or college.
- Take your child to a nightclub where jazz is being performed, if the local liquor laws permit.
- Play jazz music while driving in the car or sitting at the dinner table with your family and talk to your children about the music.
- Play different tracks from jazz CDs for your children and their friends and ask for their reactions. Try different pieces and when you find some that they like, consider exposing your child to more music by that artist.
- Suggest your child log on to www.smithsonianjazz.org; to www.ArtsEdge.kennedy-center.org; or to another child-friendly jazz site.
- Take your children to visit a jazz exhibition (such as the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, in Washington, D.C.), jazz museum (such as the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City), jazz home (such as Scott Joplin’s house in Saint Louis) or jazz park (the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park), if one is near you.
- If you live in or near New York City, take your child to a Young People’s Jazz Concert, at Jazz at Lincoln Center.
- Display a jazz poster in your home, and talk about it with your children.
- Read to your young child. If you are the parent of a child aged 4-8, read (or get your child to read) *The Jazz Fly* by Matthew Gollub and Karen Hanke, *The Sound That Jazz Makes* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Eric Velasquez, *Once Upon a Time in Chicago: The Story of Benny Goodman* by Jonah Winter and Jeanette Winter, *If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong* by Roxane Orgill and Leonard Jenkins, or Chris Raschka’s *Mysterious Thelonious* or *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*.
- Contact your local jazz society to see if it offers a jazz education program.



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Performing Arts Centers

- Organize a citywide “Jazz Day” or “Jazz Night” and have a citywide JAM session.
- Organize a special concert series during Jazz Appreciation Month.
- For students, offer half-price “rush” tickets to jazz events during April to help build an audience.
- Offer free tickets to students.
- Host a jazz movie night.
- Collaborate with the local jazz society, public library, museum, college, arts/humanities council, and public radio/TV station to create a community-wide celebration.
- In conjunction with National Poetry Month, which is also held in April (www.poets.org), hold a jazz poetry reading. Or a poetry reading with live jazz accompaniment.

Philanthropists

- Donate a musical instrument to your local middle school or high school jazz band.
- If the school doesn’t have a jazz band, ask the principal about establishing one, or work through your local jazz society to offer non-curricular, or after-school, programs.
- Encourage your local high school or college to offer a jazz history/ appreciation course. If needed, offer to financially support the creation of such a course.
- Give money to your local public radio station in support of jazz programming.
- Donate a good overview of jazz to your local library or school. Several possibilities are Tad Gioia’s *The History of Jazz*, John Edward Hasse’s *Jazz: The First Century*, and Alyn Shipton’s *A New History of Jazz*.



Public Radio Stations

- Consider adding another network or syndicated jazz program to your line-up: *Jazz Profiles*, *JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater*, *Riverwalk: Jazz from the Landing*, *Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz*, *Jazz with Bob Parlocha*, etc.
- Create and produce a local jazz radio program.
- Create and air PSAs about Jazz Appreciation Month.
- Commission a documentary or series of brief pieces about the jazz history of your community, or about great jazz artists.
- Collaborate with the local jazz society, public library, museum, college, public TV station, and performing arts center to create a community-wide celebration.
- As a programming hook, focus on the jazz legends whose birthdays fall in April: Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Dodds, Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus, Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, Freddie Hubbard, Randy Weston, or Herbie Hancock.

Public TV Stations

- Re-broadcast a good jazz program, such as the *American Masters* program on Ella Fitzgerald, *Duke Ellington's Washington*, *Frame After Frame: The Images of Herman Leonard*, or *Ken Burns' Jazz*.
- Create and air PSAs about Jazz Appreciation Month.
- Commission a documentary or series of brief pieces about the jazz history of your community, or about great jazz artists.
- To mark JAM, collaborate with the local jazz society, public library, museum, college, public radio station, and performing arts center to create a community-wide celebration.



JAZZ

MADE IN AMERICA.

Students - College

- Fulfill an arts requirement by taking a jazz history or jazz appreciation class. Encourage your friends and peers to take the class with you.
- Consider focusing a project, research paper, or thesis around jazz.
- Join your school's jazz band.
- Create your own jazz band or ensemble. Ask local nightclubs, coffee-houses, and other venues to allow your group to perform.
- Organize a jazz appreciation club on campus. Encourage students with an interest in jazz to gather together and listen or perform music. Gain recognition by sponsoring jazz related events on campus.
- Attend and support jazz events during the month of April.

Students – High School

- Read Gene Seymour's overview of jazz music, *Jazz: The Great American Art*.
- Read Sam Tanenhaus's *Louis Armstrong*, Katherine Preston's *Scott Joplin*, Bud Kliment's *Count Basie* or *Ella Fitzgerald* or *Billie Holiday*, Ron Frankl's *Duke Ellington* or *Miles Davis* or *Charlie Parker* (jazz biographies published by Chelsea House).
- Join your school's jazz band. If you do not have one, ask your music teacher about other possibilities for performing jazz. Suggest some pieces that your regular school band could play.
- Consider incorporating jazz into a class project or assignment.
- Start a jazz appreciation club at your school. Invite students to listen to, discuss, and even perform jazz music after school. Find a teacher who is interested in jazz and ask him or her to sponsor your club so you can become an official school organization.



Students - Middle School

- Learn about jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Carter, or Louis Armstrong by going to the “Learn it” section of www.smithsonianjazz.org.
- Read Langston Hughes’s *First Book of Jazz*.
- Join your school’s jazz band. If you do not have one, ask your music teacher about other possibilities for playing jazz. Suggest some jazz pieces that your regular school band could play.
- Consider incorporating jazz into a class project or assignment.

Teachers

- Go to “This Date in Jazz History” (at www.smithsonianjazz.org) and find an anniversary that you could use with your students.
- Join the International Association for Jazz Education, Traditional Jazz Educators Network, or MENC—The National Association for Music Education.
- Consider using material from the *Beyond Category: Duke Ellington Education Kit*.
- As a programming hook, focus on one of the jazz legends whose birthday falls in April: Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Dodds, Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus, Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, Freddie Hubbard, Randy Weston, or Herbie Hancock.
- Consider incorporating jazz poetry into the class schedule. Read your class a jazz poem (such as those found in *The Jazz Poetry Anthology*, edited by Sascha Feinstein and Yusef Komunyakaa or their *The Second Set: The Jazz Poetry Anthology, Volume 2*).



- Have your students view and discuss jazz-related artwork. Discuss how the artwork expresses jazz language, music, or culture and the many ways that artists communicate ideas. For an example of jazz related artwork, look in *Seeing Jazz: Artists and Writers on Jazz*, compiled by the Smithsonian Institution's Marquette Folley-Cooper, Deborah Macanic, and Janice O'Neil.
- Offer students the opportunity to complete an assignment or project that relates to jazz.
- Decorate a bulletin board in your classroom or hallway with a Jazz Appreciation Month theme, including books to read and music to listen to. Include posters or pictures of famous jazz musicians and composers.
- Start each day of April by listening to a brief piece of jazz music. Ask students to respond to the piece in a journal or in a class discussion.
- Take your students on a field trip to a local museum, library or historical site that is featuring an exhibition related to jazz. Or take a field trip to a local performing arts center for a jazz performance.

Teachers - General Music

- Join MENC—The National Association for Music Education and look for forthcoming information on *Jazz Appreciation Month*.
- Log on to www.menc.org and look for information on jazz, such as Duke Ellington, Martin Luther King and jazz, and a guide to *Ken Burns' Jazz*.
- Invite a local jazz musician to perform for your class or conduct an in-class workshop on the subject.
- Offer students extra credit for completing a jazz-related project during the month of April.
- Encourage your students to do a book report, write a concert review, or perform a short jazz piece for the class.



Teachers - High School

- Consider using material from *Beyond Category: Duke Ellington Curriculum Kit* (Pearson Learning) in your lessons.
- If you teach history or music, log on to www.jazzinamerica.org for lesson plans on student jazz.
- Have your students write a skit or play based on the life of a great jazz musician. Organize a student production of that play.
- Contact your local jazz society to see if it offers a jazz education program that you can use.

Teachers - Middle School

- Consider incorporating information from *Beyond Category: Duke Ellington Curriculum Kit* (www.PearsonLearning.com) in your lessons.
- Go to the "Learn It" section of www.smithsonianjazz.org to find classroom lesson plans to introduce your students to jazz through the lives and music of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Carter, and Louis Armstrong.
- Ask your school library for the special issue of *Cobblestone Magazine* (a history magazine for students aged 9-14) on *Duke Ellington: A Musical Genius* (May 1993) or *Louis Armstrong and the Art of Jazz* (October 1994).
- Contact your local jazz society to see if it offers a jazz education program accessible to you.



JAZZ

ENJOYED WORLDWIDE.



Working Musicians

- Donate a concert to your local elementary, middle, or high school. After the concert, be available to talk with students about jazz and encourage their interest.
- Explore the work of a musician who is new to you.
- Go to "This Date in Jazz History" (at www.smithsonianjazz.org) and find an anniversary around which you could perform a piece, dedicate a tune, etc.
- Ask the Music Performance Trust Funds to pay for special concerts during JAM.
- Get together with fellow musicians and organize a citywide "Jazz Day" or "Jazz Night" and have a citywide JAM session.
- Feature music of the jazz legends whose birthdays fall in April: Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Dodds, Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus, Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, Freddie Hubbard, Randy Weston, or Herbie Hancock.



Smithsonian
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www.smithsonianjazz.org