

American Popular Music

# Hotter Than That

# Ragtime

- Altered popular music sound
- Catalyst for changes in music
- After Civil War, Black musicians play ragtime and syncopated music
- **Syncopation:** accents come *between* beats of a rhythm, rather than *with* them

# Scott Joplin

- “Maple Leaf Rag” - 1899
  - First commercially successful piano rag
  - Based on march, added syncopation
  - Complex African-inspired rhythms introduced
  - **Sheet music** = accessibility
  - Joplin’s rags = most enduring music of ragtime era



# Resistance

- Considered immoral
- Fit for saloons and brothels where it was played
- Product of inferior race, lacking European musical sophistication
- People danced to it- scandalous!

# The Phonograph

- 1877- Thomas Edison invents **phonograph**
  - Early record player
- Symbol of upward mobility
- Huge step in development of APM
- *Victrola*- most popular brand synonymous with “phonograph”



# Early Jazz

- New Orleans as birthplace
- Flourished in cultural mix
  - French and English descendants, Blacks, Whites  
Caribbean immigrants
- 1892- Jim Crow legislation affects  
development of music

# New Orleans Jazz Band

- Blended instrumentation from genres:
  - Marching band: clarinet, cornet/trumpet, trombone, tuba, drums
  - Minstrel show: banjo
  - Ragtime: piano, syncopation
- Front Line: cornet, clarinet, trombone
- Rhythm Section: banjo, piano, bass/tuba, drums

# Original Dixieland Jazz Band

- ODJB
  - First “jass” recording in 1917
  - Led by Nick LaRocca
  - White musicians commercialize Black jazz
  - “Tiger Rag”- 1918
    - Syncopation
    - Stop time
    - Interplay of frontline





# King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band

- Joe "King" Oliver
  - Bandleader
  - cornetist
  - "Dippermouth Blues"-1923
    - **Collective Improvisation**
      - Players simultaneously make up music together as they play, rather than playing music that is already written



# Louis Armstrong

- First great soloist in jazz
- Joe “King” Oliver - teacher and mentor
- Regular studio performer for Okeh Records
  - Records featuring him sold better than others
  - “Louis Armstrong’s Hot Five”
- “West End Blues” 1928

# Louis Armstrong



# Paul Whiteman

- Led most successful dance band of 1920s
- Self titled "King of Jazz"
- "Safe" version
  - "Made an honest woman out of jazz"
  - Defended against moral critics
- "Whispering" - 1920



# The Modern Era

## ■ Radio Broadcasting

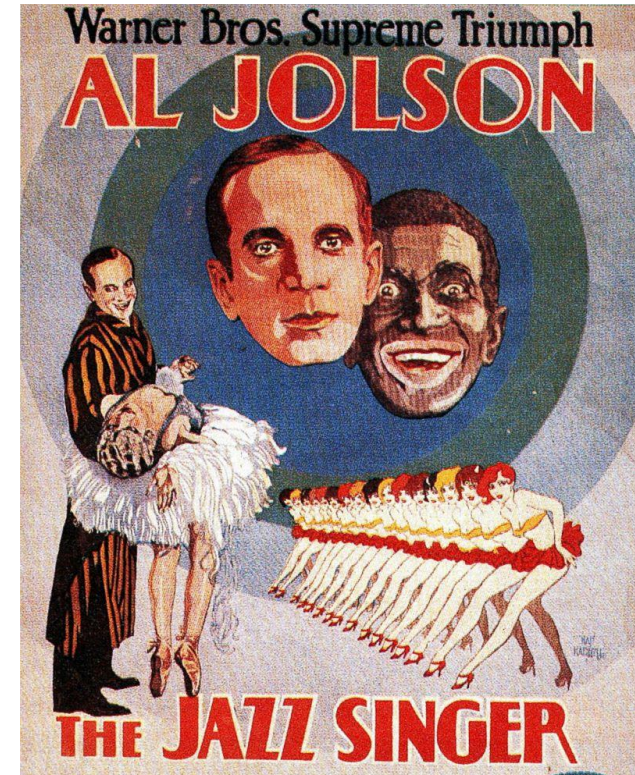
- 1920: first commercial radio broadcast
- Microphones, amplifiers

## ■ Talking Films

- *The Jazz Singer* -first talking picture- 1927

## ■ Crooners

- Dominant Popular singer of 1930s/40s
- Appeared on more recordings, radio programs and films





# Bing Crosby

- Conversational singing style
- “Same room” as listeners
  - Contrast to Al Jolson
- Intimacy through technology
- “I’ve Got the World on a String” - 1933



*"Crosby was the first singer to really use the microphone well"*