

Introduction

The basis of this research is an introductory historical investigation of radio and the Jazz genre of music. The radio is the main type of media that delivered Jazz worldwide during the 1900s. Although Jazz was born at the end of the 1800s, Jazz was most popular from the 20s to 40s. The radio was developed late-1890s. (Peretti, 2001).

During the 20s, the United States was faced with many developmental progressions, while advancements in radio were stagnant. There was little development until the television. Some major events during the Jazz era were the uses of the radio during both World War I and World War II. It was vastly popular and continued to be a staple of American culture until it fell off after the 70's due to the arrival of Synth-Pop and Rock.

Major Events / Points

During the golden age, there weren't many notable improvements to the radio. However, there were many events that had effects on both radio and Jazz. Both world wars had a huge effect on radio. Until 1945, Jazz was on the radio in Germany (not by choice) while at the same time providing support for Americans across the globe. (Kater, 1989) Also, around the time of the Cold War, the US State Department used many tactics in the Jazz industry to convey messages to other countries. African-American artists were "sponsored" to raise the public image of the still-segregated US. The 1950's Jazz period was one of institutions. (Devlin, 2015)



Origins

Early versions of Jazz were first heard in the 1890s, hidden in the dissonance between blues and ragtime. New Orleans was most credited for the birthplace of Jazz, even though cities in other regions of the United States were also known for the creation of the genre. West African folk and variations of European classical fused, creating ragtime, swing and early blues. (Jazz Timeline) Jazz today is mainly known for the swing music made popular during the 30s and 40s. Eventually, this same type of music was transported to overseas regions during the world wars, especially in European regions such as Germany.

The biggest milestone for this genre is the creation of the radio, which was invented shortly after the initial birth of early Jazz. Because of this, Jazz was the most widely spread form of entertainment on the radio until the golden age of the radio (music, theater, news, etc) and the "end" of Jazz. Although still prominent, it started to decline after both world wars and the creation of newer/more popular music genres. (Peretti, 2002)

References

- Devlin, P. (2015). Jazz Autobiography and the Cold War. *Popular Music & Society*, 38(2), 140-159. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03007766.2014.994319>
- Helm, S. M. (1965). Jazz: Music History in Miniature. *Music Educators Journal*, 51(4), 53-180.
- Jazz Timeline. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.apassion4jazz.net/timeline.html>
- Kater, M. H. (1989). Forbidden Fruit? Jazz in the Third Reich. *American Historical Review*, 94(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1862076>
- Peretti, B. W. (2001). Speaking in the groove: oral history and jazz. *Journal of American History*, 88(2), 582.
- Peretti, B. W. (2002). The Red Hot Jazz Archive: A History of Jazz Before 1930. *Journal of American History*, 89(3), 1181
- Snelson, T. (2017). They'll Be Dancing in the Aisles!: Youth audiences, cinema exhibition and the mid-1930s swing boom. *Historical Journal of Film, Radio & Television*, 37(3), 455-474. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01439685.2016.1187850>
- Studwell, W. E. (1997). Intergenerational Flow of Popular Music: The Positive Example of Glenn Miller. *Popular Music & Society*, 21(4), 1. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03007769708591685>

Development

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the romantic period in music was just ending after surviving nearly 70 years. This led creators to produce music that could be enjoyed by wide audiences and newer generations, focusing on horizontal writing instead contrapuntal vertical writing. (Helm, 1965)

The development of the music is also of great importance. The backgrounds of those in the genre and on the radio must be considered. Artists' backgrounds such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie play a role in the music they create and publicize. Music is from their histories, feelings and personality traits. (Peretti, 2001) No matter what Jazz was, its unpopular today because the current generation differs from previous generations in music preference. (Studwell, 1997)

Advancing Technology

Evolution is a normal part of the human lifestyle. As newer technology comes out, the old is retired. The decline of Jazz started in the 50s when barbershop styles of music flooded charts. Jazz lived on and mainly started to fizzle out when musical Synth was developed and Rock became mainstream. After the Jazz rush of the 70s, a new genre of music took over the radio industry and was broadcast on TV. MTV and cinema made popular by the 20s and the audience of the entertainment industry changed to serve the television market. It was destined to replace the radio. (Snelson, 2016) Even today, media continues to advance and be replaced by newer tech.

