

Marching to a New Beat

Early jazz bands got their start in the funeral traditions of New Orleans. It was common in those days to have a small marching band accompany the family and the body as they walked to the grave. While they walked, the band played a very somber song, usually a hymn or a **dirge**. After the family said their goodbyes, they would “cut the body loose,” and as they made their way back to town, the mood was one of joy as they celebrated the life of their loved one. The music the band played reflected that mood and people would follow the band, dancing to its infectious **groove**.

ACTIVITY: Listen up!

EXAMPLE 2.1: JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE (traditional) FORM: AB (16 bars)

WHERE YOU ARE	INTRO (4)	1 ST CHORUS (16)	2 ND CHORUS (16)
WHAT YOU ARE HEARING	Drums	Melody	Melody with Collective Improvisation



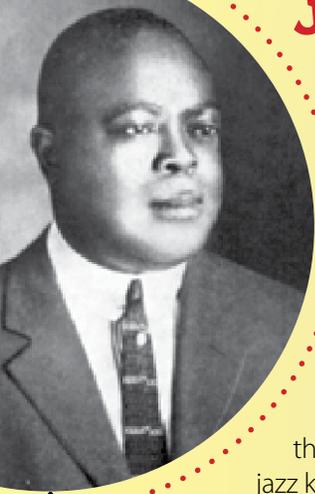
EXAMPLE 2.2: DIDN'T HE RAMBLE (traditional) FORM: AA (16 bars)

WHERE YOU ARE	INTRO (8)	1 ST CHORUS (16)	2 ND CHORUS (16)	3 RD CHORUS (16)	4 TH CHORUS (16)	5 TH CHORUS (16)
WHAT YOU ARE HEARING	Drums	Melody with Collective Improvisation	Melody with Collective Improvisation	Trombone Solo	Clarinet Solo	Collective Improvisation

6 TH CHORUS (16)	INTERLUDE (8)	7 TH CHORUS (16)	ENDING (4)
Collective Improvisation	Drum Solo	Melody with Collective Improvisation	

HISTORICAL PROFILE:

Joe “King” Oliver



Cornetist, bandleader and composer, Joe “King” Oliver, was Louis Armstrong’s mentor and main musical influence. He pioneered the use of mutes and wrote many early jazz tunes, some of which are still played today (“Dippermouth Blues,” “West End Blues” and “Dr. Jazz”). Born in Aben, Louisiana, on December 19, 1885, Oliver played in the brass bands and dance bands that were popular in and around New Orleans. In 1919, Oliver decided to leave the south for Chicago and by 1922 he was the jazz king of Chicago. Throughout the 1920s, Oliver continued to play and rise in popularity, despite some bad business decisions. The Great Depression, however, did not treat the King well. He lost his life’s savings when the Bank of Chicago collapsed, leaving him stranded in Savannah, Georgia. There he worked as a janitor until he died on April 10, 1938.

Vocabulary

Rhythm Section
 Groove
 Collective Improvisation
 Front Line
 Second Line
 Solo
 Dirge
 Improvisation

HISTORICAL PROFILE: **Jelly Roll Morton**

Jelly Roll Morton was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 20, 1890. Morton was a very talented pianist, and he knew it. By the age of 15, he was making a living as a piano player, playing in New Orleans' many establishments of questionable reputation. At one point he even claimed to have invented jazz all by himself! Like others, Morton played the popular tunes of the era, which included blues and ragtime. Jelly Roll, however, could improvise in a new style people called jazz. A gifted composer as well, his compositions were some of the first to include grooves from different styles of music. His music showed people all over the country that New Orleans jazz was an art form worthy of study. Morton died in Los Angeles, California, on July 10, 1941.



ACTIVITY: **Listen up!**

EXAMPLE 2.3: **SECOND LINE (traditional) FORM: 12-bar blues**

WHERE YOU ARE	INTRO (4)	1 ST CHORUS (12)	2 ND CHORUS (12)	3 RD CHORUS (12)	4 TH CHORUS (12)
WHAT YOU ARE HEARING	Trumpet and Voice	Melody	_____	Clarinet Solo with Breaks	_____ _____

5 TH CHORUS (12)	6 TH CHORUS	ENDING (4)
Collective Improvisation with Breaks	_____ _____	

EXAMPLE 2.4: **I WANT YOU BACK (MIZELL, GORDY, RICHARDS AND PERREN) FORM: Verse-Chorus**

This example is only on the cd (track 10)

Traditional New Orleans funeral procession

