-The African American culture contributed significantly to the American musical landscape, influencing nearly all American styles that will follow.

-The blues originated in the rural African American communities of the southern United States, evolving from traditional work songs, field hollers, and spirituals.

-Over the years different types of blues have evolved depending on the beat and instrumentation. Delta Blues, Urban Blues, Electric Blues, Etc.

-Define Blues: typically in a twelve-bar sequence. It developed in the rural southern US toward the end of the 19th century, finding a wider audience in the 1940s as blacks migrated to the cities. This urban blues gave rise to rhythm and blues and rock and roll.

-The 12-bar blues (or *blues changes*) is one of the most popular [chord progressions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_progressions) in [popular music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_music). (don’t write) The progression has a distinctive form in [lyrics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyrics) and [phrase](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrase_%28music%29) and [chord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chord_%28music%29) structure and [duration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duration_%28music%29). It is, at its most basic, based on the [I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonic_%28music%29)-[IV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdominant)-[V](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominant_%28music%29) chords of a key.

-Memphis played an important role in the development of [electric blues](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_blues), [rock and roll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_roll), [blues rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues_rock), and [heavy metal music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music).

-A defining part of the Memphis blues sound is the classic overdrive (distortion) sound of the electric guitar amps.

- Riley B. King (born September 16, 1925), known by the [stage name](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stage_name) B.B. King, is an [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) songwriter, vocalist, and famed [blues](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues) guitarist.

-Booker T. & the M.G.'s is an [instrumental](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrumental_rock) [R&B](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%26B) band that was influential in shaping the sound of [southern soul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_soul) and [Memphis soul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis_soul).

-They also released instrumental records under their own name, such as the 1962 hit single "[Green Onions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Onions)".

-The rural blues eventually evolved geographically; every musician in every small town played a slightly different type of blues.

-By the end of the 19 century there were multiple styles of blues throughout the south.

-The Mississippi Delta area developed a style referred to as the Delta Blues, a highly characterized by it’s intense highly charged performance style that evolved in saloons, \*, and the streets of delta regions.

-Robert Johnson is one of the most famous delta blues guitar players in history.

-Roberts was said to have sold his soul to the devil in return for his incredible musical skills.

-John Clayton Mayer (born October 16, 1977) is an American [pop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop_rock) and [blues rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues_rock) [musician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musician), [singer-songwriter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singer-songwriter), recording artist, and [music producer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Record_producer).

-In the spring of 2005, Mayer formed the John Mayer Trio with bassist [Pino Palladino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pino_Palladino) and drummer [Steve Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Jordan_%28musician%29), both of whom he had met through previous studio sessions.

-Ragtime blues became a popular form of blues heard around the south in the early 1900s.

-Lyrics in the ragtime blues are much lighter and the themes tended to be happy and comical.

-The biggest evolution of blues came when African Americans migrated from the country to the city.

-WC Handy born in Alabama, is considered the “father of the blues”. He lived on beale street and wrote dozens of nationally known hits. (Beale Street Blues, and St. Louis Blues)

-The blues was America’s first native music, but it was just a precursor for what followed, the style that followed, Jazz, would resonate around the globe.

-Jazz music is hard to define, it’s different from rock and roll, however it incorporates elements from both genres.

-Jazz can be played over a swing beat, funk beat, Latin beat, or rock beat.

-Define Jazz: a type of music of black American origin characterized by improvisation, syncopation, and usually a regular or forceful rhythm, emerging at the beginning of the 20th century; styles include Dixieland, swing, bebop, and free jazz.

-The earliest form of jazz music was born in New Orleans between 1885 and 1915. This type of jazz called Dixieland jazz grew out of existing blues, ragtime, brass band traditions.

-Dixieland jazz was unique in that it allowed musicians to embellish or free style the traditional melodies, resulting in arrangements that varied from performance to performance.

-Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed Pops,

He began to become popular in the 1920s as an "inventive” [trumpet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trumpet) player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the focus of the music from collective improvisation to solo performance.

-With his instantly recognizable deep and distinctive gravelly voice, Armstrong was also an influential singer, greatly skilled at [scat singing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scat_singing) (vocalizing using sounds and syllables instead of actual lyrics).

-Louis Armstrong was a recognized, popular figure among both jazz lovers and the general population. He had several vocal hits in the rock era including **Hello Dolly** and **What A Wonderful World**.

(play Louis videos)

-During the 1930s jazz evolves into swing, and most jazz groups grew into big bands.

-Swing music, or simply Swing, is a form of American [music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music) that developed in the early 1930s and became a distinctive style by 1940.

-In the 1930s radio ruled the day and swing music was the most popular radio genre.

-These big swing bands were as popular as any top 40 artist of today. Most were referred to as dance bands, remaining the most popular form until WW2.

-In 1942 The American Federation of Musicians went on strike halting all orchestral recordings through 1943. Jazz waned out of popularity and evolved into a more small group form.

-Miles Dewey Davis III (May 26, 1926 – September 28, 1991) was an American [jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) musician, trumpeter, [bandleader](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandleader), and composer. Miles Davis was at the forefront of several major developments in jazz music, including [bebop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bebop), [cool jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cool_jazz), [hard bop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_bop), [modal jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modal_jazz), and [jazz fusion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_fusion).

-Esperanza Spalding (born October 18, 1984) is an [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [multi-instrumentalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multi-instrumentalist) best known as a [jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) [bassist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bassist) and singer, who draws upon many genres in her own compositions.

-Joseph Harry Fowler Connick, Jr. (born September 11, 1967) is an American singer, conductor, pianist, actor, and composer.

-Jamie Cullum (born 20 August 1979) is a British pop and [jazz-pop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) singer-songwriter. Though he is primarily a vocalist/pianist he also accompanies himself on other instruments including guitar and drums.