

## Year 9 Music Major

### All that Jazz

#### Investigation Task

Throughout this unit of work you have analysed, performed and improvised music in a number of Jazz styles. Using this music as a reference point, choose a jazz performance (this could include a performance, even your own, of one of the pieces learnt in class) and discuss the following

- What is the specific jazz style of your song?
- What type of ensemble is performing the music (combo, big band, Dixieland band, fusion, etc)
- What is the instrumentation?
- When was it written?
- Has it been recorded by other well-known artists?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the music more for dancing or listening?
- What sort of venue can you imagine this song being performed in?
- How does your chosen song treat the musical elements of
  - Pitch
    - Harmony
      - What is the chord progression of the song?
    - Melody
      - How does the melody move from one note to the next?
      - Is it conjunct (smooth and stepwise) or disjunct (angular and jumpy)?
      - Does it have a wide or narrow range?
      - Is any of the melody improvised, and if so, how does it relate to the underlying harmonic progression?
      - Tonality
      - What key is the song in?
  - Structure
    - What is the form of your song? Sections should be outlined in numbers of bars, for example
      - 12 bar blues
      - 32 bar AABA song form
    - How are the phrases structured within each section?
    - Are there any motifs which are developed throughout the song, and if so, how are they developed?"
  - Duration
    - Rhythm
      - What are the main rhythmic features of your song? What sort of a 'feel' is used (straight, swing, shuffle, etc)?

- Meter
  - What is the time signature? Does it change?
- Tempo
  - What is the tempo of your song? Does it change?
- Dynamics
  - Is there dynamic variation in your song?
- Texture
  - What is the musical texture of your song? Hint... Most jazz songs use a homophonic texture, which means they have one main melody with the rest of the parts providing accompaniment.
- Timbre or Tone Colour
  - Describe the sound of each of the instruments
  - How are the sounds produced (plucked, strummed, struck, blown, etc)?
  - What techniques/equipment is used to alter the timbre of the instruments (brushes, mallets, mutes, vibrato, etc)?

Your investigation will be uploaded to your e-portfolio as a word doc, pdf or PowerPoint