

FINDING THE MELODYSM -- A LISTENER'S COURSE IN JAZZ APPRECIATION

Part Four:

Standards and Styles

I use the term "Standards" in two ways:

1. A composition that is part of the so called "standard repertoire" of songs composed by the great composers of American popular music from the 1920s through the 1960s:

George and Ira Gershwin; Cole Porter; Irving Berlin; Jerome Kern;
Richard Rogers, who worked with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein;
Harold Arlen; Johnny Mercer

The greatest compositions of these people, along with the compositions of certain Jazz musicians, are so strong, and have been played so often by so many different Jazz musicians, that they have become part of a cannon of songs known and revered by most Jazz musicians.

2. The second way that I use the term "standards" is in a more traditional sense: the criteria that we use to evaluate something. In evaluating a performance, you may want to consider some of the following criteria:

- Does the soloist express an idea or feeling powerfully, and if so how: tone, volume, content of the solo?
- How well do the soloist and the rest of the group relate? Do they seem to share the same approach rhythmically, harmonically? Are they listening to and responding to each other?
- How original are the sound and ideas of the soloist, and of the group?
- Does the performance capture your interest intellectually as well as emotionally?

1. **April in Paris (Sarah Vaughan) (1954)**

2. **April in Paris (Count Basie Band) (1955)**

3. **April in Paris (Wynton Marsalis Quartet) (1986)**
4. **I Got Rhythm (Art Tatum/Tiny Grimes/Slam Stewart) (1944)**
5. **I Got Rhythm (Fred Hersch/Bill Frisell) (1998)**
6. **How High the Moon (Ella Fitzgerald) (1960)**
7. **How High the Moon (“Ornithology”)(Charlie Parker/Miles Davis/Lucky Thompson) (1946)**
8. **My Funny Valentine (Carmen McCrae) (1957)**
9. **My Funny Valentine (Miles Davis/Herbie Hancock/Ron Carter Tony Williams) [Excerpt] (1964)**
9. **Summertime (Ella Fitzgerald) (1960)**
10. **Summertime (Miles Davis/Gil Evans) (1958)**
11. **Summertime (Gene Harris/Ray Brown/Jeff Hamilton) (1989)**
12. **God Bless the Child (Billie Holliday/Roy Eldridge) (1941)**
13. **God Bless the Child (Sonny Rollins/Jim Hall) (1962)**
14. **Time After Time (Cyndi Lauper) (1983)**
15. **Time After Time (Miles Davis) (1985)**
16. **Time After Time (Tuck and Patti) (1988)**

