

The Evolution of Jazz in Britain 1880 - 1935: A Journey Through Time

Jazz, a genre that originated in the African-American communities of the United States in the late 19th century, quickly spread across the Atlantic and took root in Britain. By the early 20th century, jazz was a well-established part of British popular culture, and it has continued to evolve and thrive in the decades since.



The Evolution of Jazz in Britain, 1880 - 1935 (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series) by Mary Bertun

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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This article will provide a detailed overview of the evolution of jazz in Britain from its earliest beginnings to the mid-1930s. We will explore the different styles of jazz that emerged during this period, the key figures who shaped its development, and the impact that jazz had on British society and culture.

The Early Years (1880-1910)

The earliest documented evidence of jazz in Britain dates back to the 1880s, when African-American minstrel shows began to tour the country. These shows featured a variety of African-American music and dance, including early forms of jazz.

In the early 20th century, jazz began to be played in British music halls and dance clubs. The first British jazz band was formed in London in 1912, and by the mid-1910s, jazz was a popular dance music throughout the country.



The Jazz Age (1920-1935)

The 1920s was a golden age for jazz in Britain. The genre was embraced by the upper classes and the working classes alike, and jazz clubs sprang up in cities and towns across the country.

During this period, a number of British jazz musicians made a significant impact on the development of the genre. These included trumpeters Rex Stewart and Nat Gonella, saxophonists Coleman Hawkins and Benny Carter, and pianists Fats Waller and Duke Ellington.



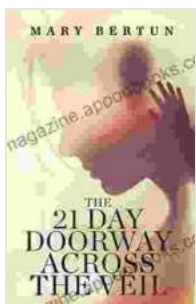
The Impact of Jazz on British Society and Culture

Jazz had a profound impact on British society and culture. It helped to break down class barriers, and it gave a voice to the marginalized and disenfranchised. Jazz also influenced other forms of popular music, such as pop and rock and roll.

In the 1930s, the rise of swing music led to a decline in the popularity of traditional jazz. However, jazz continued to be played and enjoyed by a small but dedicated audience.

Today, jazz is a thriving and vibrant part of the British music scene. There are jazz clubs in every major city, and there are numerous jazz festivals held throughout the year. British jazz musicians continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the genre.

The evolution of jazz in Britain is a fascinating story that spans over a century. From its humble beginnings in the music halls of the late 19th century, jazz has become one of the most popular and influential genres of music in the world. British jazz musicians have made a significant contribution to the development of the genre, and jazz continues to be a vibrant and thriving part of the British music scene today.



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