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Vocabulary Word Bank

A cappella Singing without instrumental accompaniment. *The choir sang a cappella.*

Accompaniment A vocal or instrumental part that supports another part. *The piano provided accompaniment for the solo singer.*

Album Before CDs, iTunes and mp3 players, music was recorded on vinyl, and was referred to as an album. *The Miles Davis album called Kind of Blue sold more than 500,000 copies.*

Arrangement In music, an arrangement means there are specific, written out parts for each performer. *The composer wrote an arrangement of the song Autumn Leaves for the band.*

Art Song A vocal music composition for solo singer and piano intended for recital or other “formal” performance. *She sang a Franz Schubert art song at the concert.*

Backbeat When a piece of music is accented on beats 2 and 4. *The drummer on that rock and roll song is playing a strong backbeat.*

Bebop A type of jazz music started in the late 1940s that is characterized by fast tempos and difficult melodies. *Charlie Parker was an important force in the development of bebop and jazz.*

Blues A sad or mournful kind of song with a specific lyric structure and form. *Saint Louis Blues by W.C. Handy is a famous blues chart.*

Big Band Ensembles of 12–18 musicians (including saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a rhythm section) that play written out jazz swing arrangements. *In the 1920s and 30s, Duke Ellington led his own big band.*

Break-beats Percussive sections of songs played back-to-back on multiple turntables. *The break-beat style is extremely popular in clubs and dance halls because break dancers can use it to show their skills.*

Carnegie Hall Built in New York City in 1891 (and refurbished in 1986), this performance space is recognized the world over as one of the ultimate places to hear serious music. *Sharon got to hear the New York Philharmonic Orchestra perform at Carnegie Hall.*

Chords A musical term, a chord is three or more different notes played at the same time. *There are hundreds of chords that may be played on the piano.* A “chord progression” describes how chords change during a piece of music. *The blues has a specific chord progression.*

Classical Music This refers to all “serious” music in the Western European tradition. *Jennifer and James went to hear an orchestra play a classical music concert.*

Louis Armstrong

Please note: Louis Armstrong (Dixieland) and Miles Davis (Jazz-rock) are both identified with several other styles as well as ones used as examples in this book. Armstrong helped move Dixieland toward the “Swing” Era, and Davis was an important figure in swing, bebop and “cool” music along with being an innovator in the jazz-rock style.

One of the greatest jazz musicians of all time began his career playing Dixieland music in New Orleans. Trumpet player and singer Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong (1901–1971) was playing professionally by age 16 and his style of playing and improvising has inspired hundreds of musicians from the 1920s through today. For example, people from Elvis Presley to trumpet great Wynton Marsalis often mention the influence Armstrong’s playing and singing had on their own performance.



Louis Armstrong

Some of the most important recordings Armstrong made during his life include *Saint Louis Blues* (the W.C. Handy composition) with singer Bessie Smith and The Hot Five and Hot Seven recordings he made in 1927 and 1928. A piece called *Potato Head Blues* from the Hot Seven record demonstrates Armstrong’s sure sense of time and rhythm as he improvises over a long section of “stop time.” Listen to the music example to hear how “stop time” sounds.

Potato Head Blues



Stop Time

Armstrong

Musical notation for the 'Stop Time' section of 'Potato Head Blues'. It consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Armstrong' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Band'. Both staves are in 4/4 time. The 'Armstrong' staff shows a melodic line with various notes and rests. The 'Band' staff shows a rhythmic accompaniment with accents (^) over the first, third, and fifth measures, indicating a 'stop time' effect where the band plays a single note or rest while the soloist plays.

Another noteworthy Armstrong recording was the 1963 hit *Hello, Dolly*. This record became a number one single, and knocked the Beatles off the top of the rankings that year. In 1968, *What a Wonderful World* was another number one hit for Armstrong.

Few people in music history have had the impact on their genre that Louis Armstrong had. He provided the culmination of the Dixieland era and helped pave the way for the next generation of jazz musicians.

Name _____

Date _____

Song Styles

Match each of these songs with their music styles.

Song	Style
Deep River	
Memphis Blues	
Take My Hand, Precious Lord	
Washington and Lee Swing	
In a Mellow Tone	
Birds of a Feather	
City Streets	
The Twist	
Johnny B. Goode	
I Got You (I Feel Good)	
Respect	
Wheels of Steel	
Golden Child	

Style Bank
Hip-hop
Soul
Jazz-rock
Rock and Roll
Dixieland
Spiritual
Big Band Swing
Bebop
Blues
Gospel

