

Introduction to Global Music

The [Center for European Studies](#) and other Area Studies Centers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are collaborating with the student-run radio station [WXYC](#) in the production of [“Global Music.”](#)

This monthly hour-long program features music from a particular area of the world combined with commentary by guest scholars, who discuss the music played in the context of the culture and history of the region that produced it.

To support cultural learning, CES has created student listening guides, pre- and post-listening discussion questions, and resource links for several of their Global Music programs. The programs run about one hour, and so listening and discussion would work well for block schedule classes. If your class runs the traditional hour length, you can have the class listen over two periods, and then discuss. Alternatively, you can assign the listening for homework, and hold the discussion during class time.

Music can teach us much about a culture that never appears in a textbook. Use these programs and teaching resources to connect your students with European cultures in a dynamic, new way. Encourage students to continue their exploration of Europe through music.

The Rebirth of the Cool in Italy: Italian Jazz

Sergio Ferrarese, Anita Angelone, and Brice McGowen

Pre-Listening Questions

Ask students to think about these questions before you listen to the program. Write their answers on the board.

1. What kinds of music do you usually associate with Italy? What instruments do you usually expect to hear? What are the Italian songs we're familiar with usually about?
2. In this program, you're going to hear Italian jazz. Make some predictions. How will the music be different from American jazz? What instruments will you hear? What will be the themes of the musical pieces?

Name _____

Read these questions before you start listening to “Rebirth of the Cool in Italy.” As you listen, write down your answers to the questions.

The Rebirth of the Cool in Italy: Italian Jazz

Sergio Ferrarese, Anita Angelone, and Brice McGowen

Clip of Roberto Benini in the Jim Jarmusch film “Night on Earth”

Natalino Otto/"Un sassolino nella scarpa"

Why Did You Die?

Romano Mussolini/"Remember Fats" from album "Minor Blues in St Louis"

Fred Buscaglione/"Che bombele"

Renato Carosone/"Tu vuo' fa l'americano"

Chet Baker/"Motivo su raggio di luna" from album "Chet is Back"

Nino Rota/"Amarcord" from album "The Symphonic Fellini"

Perigeo/"Old Vienna"

Vinicio Capossela/"Notte Newyorkese"

Paolo Conte/"Dancing"

Listening Guide

1. The show begins with excerpt from “Night on Earth,” in which Roberto Benini plays a cab driver in Rome. According to Benini, who stays at the “Hotel Genius”?
2. When did jazz come to Italy? What kind of jazz was it?
3. Why did jazz have to be disguised at first?
4. How did Natalino Otto become familiar with American jazz?
5. What animal do the singers imitate in “Why Did You Die?”? What American swing group does Anita say the performers sound like?
6. What instruments do you hear in “Remember Fats”? Who is Fats? Why did the pianist in this piece have to be trained in secret?

7. When could Italians start to enjoy jazz openly?
8. In “Tu vuo’ fa Americano” (“You want to be American”) the singer makes fun of Italians who imitate American habits. What American habits are mentioned? Even without understanding the words, how do we know that the singer is teasing?
9. American jazz great Chet Baker sings “Motivo su raggio di luna.” What instruments do you hear? How does this piece sound different from the jazz you’ve heard earlier? What is this kind of jazz called?
10. Fred Buscaglione, who sings “Che bombele,” learned jazz during the war. Where did he learn it?
11. “Amarcord” is an excerpt from Nino Rota’s music for Fellini’s film about the nineteen-twenties in Italy. How does it compare to the music from that period that you’ve heard in the program?
12. “Old Vienna” combines jazz with two other musical genres. What are they? What instruments do you hear?
13. “Notte Newyorkese” is the musical expression of a particular place and time. What is it?
14. Paolo Conte draws on jazz from an earlier era for his piece. Professor Ferrarese comments that it evokes the music of a famous American jazz composer. Who is it? What English words can you hear?

Post-Listening Discussion

After the class has listened to “Rebirth of the Cool,” use these questions as springboards for discussion.

1. Look back on your predictions of what you would hear in the program. Were your predictions correct? Did anything surprise you about the music you heard?
2. Professor Ferrarese explains that the comment about jazz musician Charlie Parker and the Hotel Genius expresses Italian feelings about jazz. What does it mean to be a jazz genius?
3. Under fascist rule, Mussolini banned all foreign culture. Why do you think Mussolini forbade Italians any connection to culture outside Italy? What did he hope to gain? In what ways did his plan fail?
4. The Marshall Plan supported the rebuilding of Europe’s economy after World War II. Part of the purpose of the Marshall Plan to revive the American economy through trade with Europe. How did jazz support American connections with Italy?
5. Italians were excited about American jazz, but wanted to preserve their own culture as well. How have Italians made jazz their own?

Activities:

1. Choose four songs from the program for a CD compilation. Give the CD a title and write either a short description of each song you choose or a one page essay on rap and the riots for the album notes.
2. Create your own original poster to advertise “Rebirth of the Cool.”
3. Continue learning about Italian music and culture by exploring these sites:

Background on Italy on the EUROPA site

http://europa.eu/abc/european_countries/eu_members/italy/index_en.htm

Music of Italy on National Geographic World Music

http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/view/page.basic/country/content.country/italy_346/en_US

The Marshall Plan

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/marshall/>

Jazz in World War II

http://www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time_wwii.htm

Mussolini's Definition of Fascism

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/mussolini-fascism.html>