

Indiana Jazz Masters in the Schools

Performance Program Spring 2013 – with support by IAC, AFM, JfB

Indiana Jazz Masters:



Hoagy Carmichael

Born November 22, 1899 in Bloomington, IN - buried December 27, 1981 on Crown Hill Cemetery, famous composer, pianist, actor, primarily known for four of the most recorded songs of all time: Stardust, Georgia, The Nearness of You, and Heart and Soul



The Hampton Family Band

The Hampton family was one of the most important Indianapolis jazz families representing the intergenerational practice of jazz. The family's dedication, persistence and vision are enough to put Indianapolis on the national map of jazz alone. Clarke "Deacon" Hampton and his wife Laura reared twelve children, all of whom Deacon taught to play a variety of musical instruments or perform in some capacity on stage by the age of three. The Hamptons encountered harsh racism travelling through the Midwest, East Coast and American South during the late 1920s and the early 30s, but with few other options for African American entertainers during the era, Deacon ruled with an "iron fist" and determined that "the show must go on" at any cost. The regime included family rehearsal sessions sometimes lasting up to 10 hours a day and sending out sick children covered with makeup to perform on stage anyway. The Hamptons moved from Middletown, Ohio to Shelbyville, Indiana then to Indianapolis in 1938 and held lengthy engagements at Indianapolis' Cotton Club and the Sunset Tavern. This was the early years of Indiana Avenue becoming an important center for jazz and African American businesses and the bustling developments on the Avenue had a profound effect on the Hampton children. In Indianapolis, the Hampton rehearsals became infamous and stretched into jam sessions where aspiring jazz musicians would stop by to participate or just listen in. Mother, Laura Hampton provided soft drinks for visitors and as a child, Paula Hampton (drummer and daughter of Aletra Hampton) turned the attraction into a mini business venture, occasionally charging entrance fees (Taborn 2009). When WWII broke out, the boys, who were old enough, joined the military service and "Deacon" retired from music performance but continued to work for the Hurst Company manufacturing rubber products for the defense industry. During this time, the girls formed their own rhythm and blues band and a singing group while they continued to hold day jobs. When the boys returned from service the siblings reunited and toured the East coast under the direction of multi-instrumentalist, Clarke, Jr., aka Duke Hampton. Locksley "Slide" Hampton eventually became internationally renowned as a trombone player and an arranger.



Wes Montgomery

Wes Montgomery was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He came from a musical family; his brothers, Monk (string bass and electric bass) and Buddy (vibraphone and piano), were jazz performers. The brothers released a number of albums together as the Montgomery Brothers. Although he was not skilled at reading music, he could learn complex melodies and riffs by ear. Montgomery started learning guitar at the relatively late age of 19, by listening to and learning the recordings of his idol, guitarist Charlie Christian. He was known for his ability to play Christian's solos note for note and was hired by Lionel Hampton for this ability.^[1]

Montgomery toured with Lionel Hampton early in his career, however the combined stress of touring and being away from family brought him back home to Indianapolis. To support his family of eight, Montgomery worked in a factory from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, then performed in local clubs from 9:00 pm to 2:00 am. Cannonball Adderley heard Montgomery in an Indianapolis club and was floored. The next morning, he called record producer Orrin Keepnews, who signed Montgomery to a recording contract with Riverside Records. Adderley later recorded with Montgomery on his Pollwinners album. Montgomery recorded with his brothers and various other group members, including the Wynton Kelly Trio which previously backed up Miles Davis.

He didn't have very long to live to enjoy his commercial success, however; on June 15, 1968, while at home in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, he woke one morning, remarked to his wife that he "Didn't feel very well," and minutes later collapsed, dying of a heart attack within minutes. Montgomery's hometown of Indianapolis has named a park in his honor.



Freddie Hubbard

Freddie Hubbard was one of the most powerful and lyrical horn players of the past 50 years. He was born in Indianapolis and mentored by his neighbor, guitarist Wes Montgomery. Hubbard moved to New York in 1958 and quickly rose to prominence as a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.

Freddie Hubbard had extraordinary chops, strong feeling and a progressive impulse. He recorded with some of the most forward thinking jazz stars of that era — John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Ornette Coleman, and Herbie Hancock among them. Hubbard also brought his melodic, experimental sound to more conventional sessions, such as Oliver Nelson's *Blues and the Abstract Truth*.

Props: Hats, glasses, eyeliner

Goals:

- Learn about selected Indiana Jazz Masters and their works
- Learn about Indiana historic jazz landmarks, such as Indiana Avenue, Gennett Studios, historical markers around Bloomington
- Experience the principles of improvisation
- Understand the process of performing in a jazz combo
- Hear and describe the essential elements of a composition: melody, harmony, rhythm in contrast to the variables: tempo, instrumentation, texture

Performance Outline (in Story Format, meet one artist who will grow older and pass legacy on to next generation artist)

1. Perform **“Heart and Soul”** with the band - ask for the name of the song and facilitate realization that most people don't know the name nor the composer nor the middle section of the song (*slide of sheet music*)

2. Introduce the history of Hoagy Carmichael (*slide of Hoagy*), with pictures from his grave at Crown Hill Cemetery, the plaque in front of Gables, statue next to the IU Auditorium, Hoagy Carmichael Room (*slide of historic markers*)

3. (*Props: hats*) Role play Bix Beiderbecke (Janiece) coming to Bloomington to perform for a dance on the crossroads of America (*slide of Bix*), meets Hoagy (Monika) Carmichael (*slide of both with bands*) who tells him how he wrote a song late at night at the Book Nook (*slide of Stardust sheet music*), Bix invites him to come record with him at the Gennett Studios (*slide of studio*) and Hoagy tells kids that he's nervous and asks if he should really go with them (Spring 1924). As they arrive he explains to the band who will do what and just when they get started a train comes by, they wait, then do a recording take (*slide of Georgia sheet music*).

The band performs **“Georgia (Bb)”** – ask children to be recording engineers (bring an ipad?) – Hoagy asks kids if they think the recording went ok and thanks Bix for this special opportunity.

4. Hoagy (Monika) walks down Indiana Avenue (a bit aged, telling about being a great film composer in LA) (*slide of Indiana Avenue*) and walks into the Sunday afternoon jam session at the Hampton house (*slide of family band*). They introduce themselves and their siblings (band take role of Carmelita, Virtue, Aletra, Dawn, Slide, Maceo, Deacon, Duke, Lucky), offer a Cool Aid, and invite him to jam with them. Hoagy doesn't know the song – they teach him (and the kids) **“C-Jam Blues”** (*slide of sheet music*). Invite Orff players to the jam session, make up words, Janiece leads Blues improv with kids.

5. *Props: Glasses, Eyeliner*: Two Hampton siblings (Aletra – Monika, Dawn – Janice, put on glasses, draw on mustache, to look older and get in clubs) walk down the Avenue and point out club jams and musicians they meet on the way, remarking on their special abilities (*slide of Indiana Avenue musicians*): J.J. Johnson, Wes, Buddy, Monk Montgomery, David Baker, Larry

Ridley, Freddie Hubbard, Carl Perkins, Al Kiger, David Young, Pookie Johnson and Jimmy Coe, Willis Kirk, Reginal DuValle, etc and run into Cannonball Adderly (Tom). They invite him to come along to the Missile Room for a late-night jam. Play out story of Wes Montgomery discovery by Cannonball and perform **“Westcoast Blues”** in the background.

6. Wes (Monika) assembles a band to record for Riverside Records (*slide of his recordings*). He auditions the instruments (everyone introduce their instruments), then his neighbor Freddie Hubbard walks in who plays the trumpet (Janiece imitates a trumpet) – he wrote a song called **“Little Sunflower”** (*slide of sheet music*). Wes agrees to have a jam session on that tune – invite kids to perform Orff solos (even on keyboard white keys if possible)

7. The band comes back from touring, unfortunately Wes died way too young, and they find themselves in an elementary school. They talk about how Wes taught them by ear and in jam sessions, now you can learn jazz in schools – that’s cool (*slide of David Baker*)! Learn to sing **“Back Home Again in Indiana”** (Janiece leads one or two trial runs, *slide of words*), review what they learned about historical figures, sing together and parade out in Dixieland Style. Also introduce David Baker’s contrafact on the song.