Jazz Legends Trivia



Questions 1-4 | Circle one answer

1. Which instrument is most strongly associated with Louis Armstrong?

A. Trumpet
B. Bassoon
C. Harp

2. Which singer was widely known as the First Lady of Song?

A. Patsy Cline
B. Joan Baez
C. Ella Fitzgerald

3. Which instrument did Duke Ellington play as well as leading a band?

A. Piano
B. Oboe
C. Cello

4. Which jazz musician was nicknamed Satchmo?

A. Count Basie
B. Louis Armstrong
C. Dave Brubeck

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Questions 5-8 | Circle one answer

5. Which singer was known as Lady Day?

A. Billie Holiday
B. Doris Day
C. Judy Garland

6. Which instrument is especially associated with Charlie Parker?

A. Violin
B. Alto saxophone
C. Tuba

7. Which trumpeter recorded the album Kind of Blue?

A. Glenn Miller
B. Benny Goodman
C. Miles Davis

8. Which instrument is Benny Goodman especially associated with?

A. Clarinet
B. French horn
C. Double bass

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Questions 9-12 | Circle one answer

9. Which bandleader is closely associated with the trombone?

A. Art Tatum
B. Thelonious Monk
C. Glenn Miller

10. What is creating musical ideas during a performance commonly called?

A. Translation only
B. Improvisation
C. Lamination

11. What is wordless singing with improvised syllables often called?

A. Morse code
B. Recitation
C. Scat singing

12. Which pianist and bandleader was known as Count Basie?

A. William Morris
B. William Basie
C. William Shakespeare

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Answer guide 1-4 | Keep with host

1. A. Trumpet

Louis Armstrong was celebrated as a trumpeter and singer. Naming his principal instrument does not reduce his contribution to only one aspect of musical performance.

2. C. Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was widely called the First Lady of Song. Her reputation includes vocal technique and improvisation as well as performances of familiar popular standards.

3. A. Piano

Duke Ellington was a pianist, composer and bandleader. His work illustrates how an individual musician can shape the sound of a large ensemble over time.

4. B. Louis Armstrong

Satchmo is a familiar nickname for Louis Armstrong. The nickname question offers another route to recognition for participants who remember radio announcements or record sleeves.

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Answer guide 5-8 | Keep with host

5. A. Billie Holiday

Billie Holiday was known as Lady Day. The similarity to another performer's surname is only a distractor, so reveal the answer without making pronunciation a hurdle.

6. B. Alto saxophone

Charlie Parker was a leading alto saxophonist. His association with bebop makes this a useful bridge from individual musicians to the names of jazz styles.

7. C. Miles Davis

Miles Davis led the recording of Kind of Blue. The question identifies the leading artist rather than overlooking the other musicians who contributed to the album.

8. A. Clarinet

Benny Goodman was a clarinetist and bandleader. The instrument's role in jazz provides a contrast with the orchestral associations some participants may know first.

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Answer guide 9-12 | Keep with host

9. C. Glenn Miller

Glenn Miller played trombone and led a famous orchestra. Big-band recognition can come from dance music and broadcasting as readily as from instrumental study.

10. B. Improvisation

Improvisation is central to many jazz performances. It can involve preparation and musical knowledge, so it should not be described as merely random playing.

11. C. Scat singing

Scat singing uses syllables rather than ordinary lyrics. The voice can function in an instrument-like way, making phrasing and rhythm central to the effect.

12. B. William Basie

Count Basie was the professional name of William Basie. His orchestra is a useful example of the strong identity a band can develop around its leader.