

Missouri Music Educators Association Conference
Catfish Blues—Soulful Expressions of Jazz Along the Mississippi
Session 3 (Grades 3-5)

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Rationale for Session: Jazz is clearly one of the most important styles of music ever created. Many “jazz greats” played their music in cities situated along the Mississippi River. New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City and Chicago. This is the music history of **our** nation and should be shared with **our** Nation’s children.

Description of Session: This session will introduce students to some of the most important of the jazz standards. More importantly, it introduces certain aspects of the African American culture so that students can better understand why jazz continues to be important today. With Orff instruments, recorders and a little drama, students will become a part of this most fascinating musical style.

Session Outline:

Opening Setting: (Sounds of Water/Crickets/A Bird)

(Alto Recorder Sounds: in Dissonance/Mimicking Steamboat sounds from afar)

Narrator: The sun sets on the Mississippi. One can feel the presence of a river that has existed for centuries--a river that continues to quietly watch and listen to the people and their music.

Alto Recorders: “Old Man River Theme” (2)



Setting: Children playing in their yard near the Mississippi River.

Mother's Voice Yelling out the Window: "Don't go down by that river!" "It looks peaceful, but it's not. It's dangerous. It has currents that will pull you under and drown you. " "Do you hear me? Don't go near that river!"

Children: "Okay Mama," "We hear you." "We won't go near the river. We'll stay in the yard."

Child 1: "What shall we do?"

Child 2: "How about Hide and Seek?"

Child 3: "Okay! That's cool! I'll be it!"

Perform: "All Hid" (Add rhythm ostinato and continue song.)

Last night, Night before, Twenty-five robbers at my door.

I got up to let 'em in; Hit 'em in the head with a rollin' pin.

All hid? All hid? All Hid? All Hid?

Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, All Hid! (Expressions of Freedom/ Hal Leonard)

Narration: The river listened to the joyful and syncopated expressions of the children at play, and time rolled on.

Setting: People gathered at the river singing, "Down by the Riverside"

I'm going to lay down my sword and shield, Down by the Riverside and study war no more. (**Expressions of Freedom, Published by Hal Leonard.**)

Preacher: "Do you promise to do unto others as you would have them do unto you?"

Response: "Yes sir!"

Preacher: Do you promise to live right?

Response: "Yes sir!"

Preacher: "Do you promise to listen to yo' mama and yo' daddy?"

Response: "Yes sir!"

Narrator: The river listened to the voices of the people as they responded to the fiery message of the preacher and time rolled on.

Setting: Suppertime at the house. Children and loved ones gather around talking, laughing and passing dishes of food.

Song: "Shortnin' Bread" (Walking in the Light of Freedom/Hal Leonard)

Father: "Pass me some of that catfish. I spent all day trying to catch that sucker!"

"YUMMMMMM! Coated in cornmeal and deep-fried--Just like I like it! Thank you honey! Pass me some of those collards and sweet potatoes too!"

Narration; The river listened to the conversations of the family. It took pride in the fact that it was the source of the fertile land and muddy

waters that provided catfish, sweet potatoes, mustard, turnip and collard greens.

**The river continued to listen to the people while time rolled on. .
(Chiming of a clock). . . .through seasons of Autumn . . .Winter. . .
Springand the lazy days of Summer.**

Setting: A woman in a rocking chair is lulling a baby:

Song: “Summertime” (See extra hand-out)

Narration: The river listened to the bluesy lullaby and time rolled on. .

Setting: People on a steamboat. Women are holding parasols while walking the decks, arm in arm with their friends. A conversation takes place between two of the people.
(Sounds of the River)

Person 1: The river is extremely muddy.

Person 2: Yes in deedy! It wears the grey and blackish colors of the earth. Sometimes, you can see the rich colors like the skins of those who have worked and played along its banks in the sun.

Person 1: Everybody’s happy, parading around the deck in all of their finery.

Play “Basin Street Blues.” (See extra hand-out)

Narration: The river listened to the music the people made as they promenaded on the deck of the Steamboat, and time rolled on. . .

Setting: A Mardi Gras Parade.

It’s Fat Tuesday yall! Come along and join in the fun! Eat all the Cajun food you want! Let’s have a grand old time.

Sing and move to “Oh, When the Saints.”

Oh, When the Saints

♩ = 88

Boyer

Alto Recorder

Alto Xylophone 1

Alto Xylophone 2

Tambourine

Bass Xylophone

Detailed description: This is the first system of a musical score for 'Oh, When the Saints'. It consists of five staves. The Alto Recorder staff (top) is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, playing a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The Alto Xylophone 1 and 2 staves are also in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, playing rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes. The Tambourine staff is in a drum clef with a 2/4 time signature, playing a steady eighth-note pattern. The Bass Xylophone staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, playing a bass line of quarter and eighth notes.

A. Rec.

AX 1

AX 2

Tamb.

BX

Detailed description: This is the second system of the musical score, starting with a measure rest marked with a '3' above the staff. It consists of five staves. The Alto Recorder staff (top) is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, continuing the melody. The Alto Xylophone 1 and 2 staves are in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, continuing their rhythmic accompaniment. The Tambourine staff is in a drum clef with a 2/4 time signature, continuing its eighth-note pattern. The Bass Xylophone staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, continuing its bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Narration: The river flowed to the pulse of the city and time rolled on.

Setting: A carload of family members. Three in the front and five squeezed into the backseat like sardines.

Dad Driving: “As soon as we get to Route 66, we’ll cross the Mississippi into St. Louis. and go on into Kansas City. If we don’t stop, we can make it to L.A. by Thursday.

Song: Route 66 (Pantomime riding in the car.)

Narration: The river listened to the people as they joyfully headed west, across the Mississippi towards the setting sun .