



[THE GOLDEN RULE FOR GOOD THEATER BEHAVIOR]

Theater behavior falls somewhere in between that expected for a church and a movie theater. If you wouldn't do it in one of the above, don't do it here.

The Golden Rule is a concept that was recognized as early as 1780 BCE, and simply states the idea that all human beings should treat each other how they would like to be treated. The concept of the golden rule has been adapted for many specific situations, and one of those situations is the performing arts arena. More detailed rules can be found at www.pasa-online.org. Follow these and you will have the wonderful experience at the theater.



Backstage Pass

STUDENT GUIDE FOR DAYTIME PERFORMANCES 2010/2011 WWW.PASAOONLINE.ORG

SPECIAL THANKS TO

WILKINSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



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STEFON HARRIS & BLACKOUT

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 10:30 AM

AT THE HEYMANN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

EVENING PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 7:30 PM

PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY OF ACADIANA

WITH



PRESENT

Stefon Harris & Black Out Jazz Vibes

Famous Faces of Jazz

Some of the faces of this long-running musical genre are pretty famous. See who you can match to their description!



Louis Armstrong, a New Orleans native and a forerunner of the Jazz movement. He was known as "Satchmo" due to his large "satchel-mouth." Also famous for his playful manner and gravelly singing voice. He popularized scat singing, and the song "What a Wonderful World" became his trademark.



Dizzy Gillespie gained his nickname because he liked to be silly and clown around on stage. He was also known for a bad temper that got his fired from several jobs after fights. Played the trumpet and piano and revolutionized the use of improvisation during performances.



Ella Fitzgerald is called the First Lady of Song and considered one of the most influential jazz singers of the 20th century. Gifted with a three-octave vocal range, she was noted for her purity of tone, near faultless phrasing and intonation, and a "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing. Winner of thirteen Grammy Awards, and was awarded the National Medal of Art by President Ronald Reagan and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George H. W. Bush.



Mindi Abair is a contemporary jazz saxophonist who gained popularity touring with the Backstreet Boys. Also plays the flute and keyboards. Most recent album is In H-Fi Stereo. Hosts a syndicated radio show called Chill, which is (not surprisingly) dedicated to music to chill out to.



Harry Connick, Jr., an American singer, pianist, actor, and humanitarian. His music encompasses jazz, some of it very much in the style of the crooners of the 1940s and early '50s, funk and blues. Married to a former Victoria's Secret model. He is a prime organizer and captain of the Mardi Gras Krewe of Orpheus, a music-based krewe, taking its name from Orpheus of Classical mythology.

[JAZZ TERMS 101]

You'll want to be able to talk the talk... performance talk, that is.

The terms below are used by professionals to describe some of the styles of music and performance you will hear during Stefon Harris and Blackout's jazz performance. Being familiar with these will allow you to accurately describe and evaluate what you see on the stage. Think of these as the jazz ABC's.

ARTICULATION: refers to the way a musician holds or releases a note. Is the note long or short? Accented or unaccented? Separated from or attached to the preceding notes?

COUNTERPOINT: occurs when several instruments play the same melody at the same time but vary the rhythm of their playing.

SOLO: one musician performing or playing alone. In a solo, a musician showcases special talents and lets a personal interpretation shine through.

SWING: extension of beats in jazz that leads to a forward driving sound and moves the listener through a piece.

EMOTION: general categories of feeling in jazz. Traditional jazz is hot (exciting), sweet (soothing), or cool (background music with little feeling).

ENSEMBLE: musicians in a group who work together. In jazz music, which is often unscripted, musicians must have a way to communicate with each other onstage. Often, they do this through eye contact and facial expressions. All members in an ensemble have a chance to take the lead.

IMPROVISATION: creating music or song on the spot. This requires both musical skill and creativity. In jazz, a melody appears that the beginning of a piece that is repeated, developed, and extended throughout the work. Also, solos within a musical piece in jazz are often improvised, and musicians sometimes "duel" to see who can create the best material on the spot.

RICHNESS: the degree of richness in a jazz piece is determined by the interplay between swing and syncopation. When the two work together properly, a piece is considered very rich.

Rhythm: all jazz music is drive by a pattern of soft and strong beats that repeats throughout a piece. The bass player and the percussionist are responsible for marking the beat of the music.

SYNCOPIATION: rhythms that contain accents in unexpected places. Often, these accents fall between beats or in "weak spots" and are expected to create an element of surprise.

TEMPO: speed of the music. Jazz can be played in fast, slow, or varying tempos. Often, the tempo of the piece communicates a great deal about the mood or feeling the piece conveys.

TIMBRE: refers to the type of sound an instrument makes. Words for timbre are much like the words used to describe emotions. Often, the choice of instruments has a great deal to do with the feeling of a piece.

TELLING STORIES

Who is Stefon Harris and Blackout?

Blackout is a group of jazz musicians that specialize in a form of hip-hop, go-go, R&B, and funk-infused jazz that has been described as "jazz for the here and now." Members include Stefon Harris (vibraphone and marimba), Marc Cary (piano), Logan Richardson (alto sax), Justin Brown (drums) and Burniss Travis (bass).

Blackout has been a constant on the jazz scene since their first release, a 2004 album called Evolution. In 2009, the group followed up with the new release Urbanus and a richer, more fused sound. All of the

members of Blackout have urban roots - hence the name Urbanus, which comes from the Latin words for urban. Jazz and the various forms of music that Blackout members cite as influences all have urban roots as well, so this album tells a fully urban story. Stefon Harris, the group's leader says, "Music is about authenticity, telling your story and sharing real-life stories that are from the 'here and now,' not just about the past."

When Urbanus was released, music critics and fans alike noted that the group appeared to have risen to a new level harmony and convergence. This rare, hard to achieve style brought rave reviews.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ALBUM Urbanus

"Gone," a variation on "Gone, Gone, Gone" from George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess

"They Won't Go (When I Go)," a makeover of the 1970's Stevie Wonder hit

"Langston's Lullaby," a huge, improvised collaboration based on a tune Stefon Harris plays for his infant son

"A jazz legend for the next generation."

-ELLE MAGAZINE



hip-hop go-go R&B funk-infused Jazz

Stefon Harris has frequently been asked about this magic and responds "When you have the opportunity to work with people for several years and you're all on the same page, what comes out is something that you could not predict. It's what keeps us together as an ensemble. I think we really inspire one another." All Blackout members write songs and bring their performance ideas to the table. More than an ensemble, these musicians consider each other family.



"One of the most important young artists in jazz." -LOS ANGELES TIMES

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FIND PASA ON





STATS AND STORIES:

BORN: March 23, 1973 in upstate New York

ZODIAC SIGN: Aries

The common qualities of an Aries are.
Adventurous, energetic, pioneering, courageous, enthusiastic, confident, dynamic and quick-witted. Harris – and his music – seem to fit these exactly.

OCCUPATION: Leader of a jazz movement “for the here and now,” vibraphonist, composer, leader of Blackout

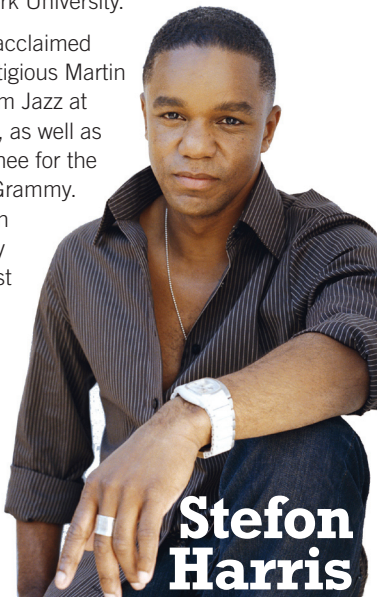
MUSICAL ROOTS: Became interested in music as a child, and started learning to play by ear. Copying the theme from The Pink Panther was an early feat. He credits teachers at his high school for recognizing and encouraging his passion for music and allowing him the opportunity to try out many different instruments.

EDUCATION: Earned a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music. Had originally focused on classical music and hoped to become a member of the New York Philharmonic, but became enamored of the music of Charlie Parker and focused on jazz instead.

INFLUENCES: The diverse list includes British alt-rock group Radiohead, ground-breaking twentieth century composer Igor Stravinsky, and Motown Records’ legend Stevie Wonder. Harris is also a fan of the poet Langston Hughes, leader of the Harlem Renaissance – so much so that he named his own song Langston.

SPECIAL SKILLS: Is rumored to be able to play almost any musical instrument, but chose to focus on the vibraphone due to the influence of a percussionist-mentor. In addition to being a performer, Harris is an educator who conducts clinics and lectures throughout the country. He has served as an artist in residence at many museums and institutions, and currently teaches at New York University.

AWARDS: Is an acclaimed winner of the prestigious Martin E. Segal award from Jazz at the Lincoln Center, as well as a three-time nominee for the Best Jazz Album Grammy. He has received an additional Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Instrumental Solo. He has many times been voted Best Mallets Player by the Jazz Times Critics Poll and Jazz Journalists Association.



Stefon Harris

FROM THE JAZZ AGE ONWARD

Although the origins of the word jazz are hotly debated, scholars tend to agree that the musical form grew out of the combination of African gospel, Caribbean rhythms, and blues that has co-existed in New Orleans since Reconstruction. Jazz truly began to take form around 1917, which would make this musical form 90 years old. Read on to see how jazz developed alongside, and often in response to, changes in American culture.

	JAZZ FACTS	HISTORICAL EVENTS
1910 – 1920's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Original Dixieland Jazz Band makes the first publicly available jazz recording Coronet player Louis Armstrong is hired by Kid Ory and begins learning to read and write music Dizzy Gillespie becomes the first known jazz musician to earn a living by playing the piano Jazz musicians are eventually flushed out of New Orleans when the city's red-light district, Storyville, is closed. Many relocate to Chicago and jazz takes root there. At this time, jazz is strongly based in the blues and expresses the feelings and emotions of the African-American people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F. Scott Fitzgerald writes The Great Gatsby and names “The Jazz Age” The “Flapper” look is in Prohibition drives people into Speakeasies/ Women begin to drink alcohol in public Young people revolutionize the idea of “courtship” and set new moral standards
1930's – 1950's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz begins to develop into “bebop” Large orchestra-type groupings develop into smaller groups (rarely more than 10) that allow musicians more solo time The newly formed smaller groups encourage improvisation Innovators like Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, and Charlie Parker begin to break musical rules during their performances. Musical phrases are played in odd lengths, swing rhythms are used, and scat singing (using the mouth to imitate instruments making sounds, not words) becomes popular Towards the 1950's, “Cool Jazz” develops. It is more subtle, less emotional, and often moody and muted. Cool Jazz is said to be encouraged by classical musical composers like Debussy and Stravinsky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Depression rages and the average American income is reduced by 40% Mystery Novels and the New York Yankees baseball team enjoy nationwide popularity The Great Depression ends World War II dominates Antarctica is discovered to be a continent The Supreme Court rules that African Americans have the right to vote The Cold War rages Baby Boom Begins Jonas Salk develops the polio vaccine Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus Alaska and Hawaii become U.S. states
1960's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin Jazz, which has technically existed since the 1930's, becomes extremely popular Bongos, timbales, and congo drums are added to orchestras Dances and dance rhythms like the salsa, mambo, cha-cha, and bossa-nova take over Experimental, provocative Free Jazz emerges but, is not widely popular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Rights Movement is going strong President John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert Kennedy, and Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr are assassinated Men walk on the moon for the first time Summer of Love & Woodstock
1970's – 1990's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Jazz is better developed, but never gains widespread acceptance Jazz-rock, also called Fusion, combines jazz improvisation and chord progressions with the rhythms of rock Jazz-rock is more electronic than acoustic, and features synthesizer, electric bass, electric guitar, electronically-processed woodwind and brass instruments, and a great deal of percussion In 1993, the acid-jazz movement in Britain revives interest in groups like Pucho and the Latin Soul Brothers Successful jazz-rock groups include Weather Report, Chicago, Blos, Sweat and Tears and Chase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Reagan works on ending the Cold War with Russia Number of single parent families increases “Shop till you drop” becomes a way of life for some Sandra Day O'Connor joins the Supreme Court PUNK is in! Operation Desert Storm The World Wide Web is born in 1992 Grunge rock and grunge styles have their day Bill Clinton's presidency is marked by controversy
2000 – 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Orleans musician Irvin Mayfield makes the statement that “musicians need to ‘stand together’ and work to change the perception of jazz and the perpetuation of good music, versus much of what passes for “music” today on the radio, on TV and in stores.” He founds the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, and uses music to spread his message in the wake of Hurricane Katrina Blackout continues the jazz evolution with their release of Urbanus which was recorded in a period of excitement and optimism in the days leading up to the historic 2008 presidential inauguration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downloading revolutionizes the music industry Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans Bill Gates becomes a household name The United States is engaged in an ongoing conflict in the Middle East Barack Obama is becomes the first African-American elected president of the United States

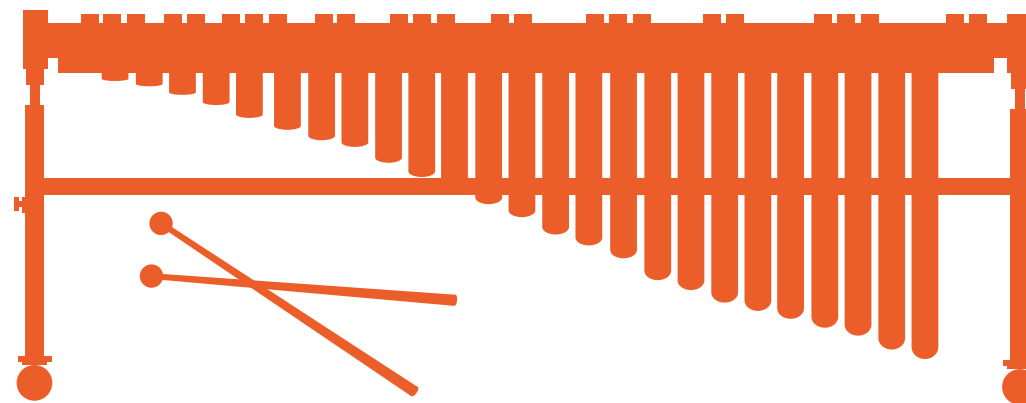


Master your musical instrument terminology



Band vs. Ensemble

Chances are, you are already familiar with lots of bands. A band can be a musical group that works together, such as the legendary band The Beatles or punk rock superstars Green Day. Many bands rely heavily on guitars, drums, and singing to make their music. You might also know that even solo artists, like Michael Bubl  or Faith Hill, have a backup band that presents music for the artist to sing with. Finally, there are a few unique artists, such as Alicia Keyes, who can accompany themselves on an instrument while singing. Blackout the group that performs with Stefon Harris, is an ensemble, a group of musicians who play together on various instruments, usually including strings, woodwinds, brass instruments, and percussion instruments. The members of an ensemble share responsibilities for creating music and take turns taking the lead. Often, jazz ensemble members can play more than one instrument and do so whenever new musical effects are needed.



Musical instruments are divided into 4 categories. These categories are determined by how the instrument makes its sound. There are some common instruments in each category that used by many musical groups. Others are seen only in orchestras or in specific types of music. Examine the categories of instruments below. Do you know what instruments are used in the music you listen to? And how does the use of instruments in that music compare to what you hear used in the performance of Stefon Harris and Blackout?

Percussion Instruments

Percussion instruments are played by being hit or shaken. Although most people probably think of the drum when asked about percussion, there are lots of different percussion instruments. Common percussion instruments are the drum, cymbal, xylophone, marimba, triangle, bells, tambourine and wood block. Percussion instruments can be hit with sticks like the drum, or the hand like the bongo drum, or against themselves like cymbals. A percussion instrument's sound is made by it vibrating once it is hit or shaken. Materials

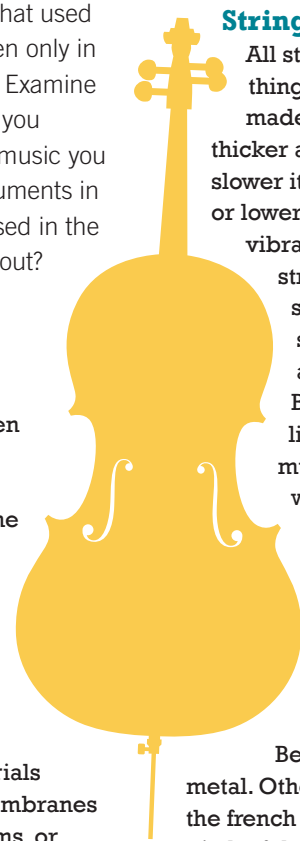
like membranes on drums, or wood, vibrate slowly and so make a lower pitched sound. Metal cymbals, triangles and bells can vibrate much faster. They make higher pitched sounds.

Wind Instruments

The sound from wind instrument is made by air vibrating in a pipe or tube. A pipe organ is a good example of a wind instrument. Other wind instruments are the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone. The musician blows in one end, and the music comes out the other end. The pitch of the note depends on the frequency of the air vibration as it goes through the instrument. In turn, the frequency of the air vibration depends on the size of the air chamber, or the size and length of the tube. The larger the instrument, the deeper the resulting sound will be. Often the musicians' fingers cover holes or work keys on the instrument to change the resulting sound.

String Instruments

All string instruments have one thing in common: their sound is made by a vibrating string. The thicker and heavier the string, the slower it vibrates, and the deeper or lower its pitch. The faster a string vibrates the higher its pitch. Shorter strings vibrate faster than longer strings. In some instruments, such as the piano, the strings are made in different lengths. But in other instruments, like the guitar and violin, the musician presses on the string with his finger to shorten it.



Brass Instruments

Brass instruments, such as the trumpet, make sound as a result of a musician blowing into them. So, why are they called brass instruments?

Because they are made of a brass metal. Other brass instruments include the french horn, trombone and tuba. The pitch of the sound these instruments make is related to the size of the air chamber. The size of the air chamber relates to the size and length of the pipes, or tubes, on the instrument. The musicians change the notes they play by pressing different keys or moving a slide on the instrument. Musicians can also be done by changing the position of their mouth. Trumpet players like Irvin Mayfield are experts in this technique.