

The Road to Jazz

Join me as I trace the development of Jazz, from its genesis in the 18th century to being one of the most popular forms of music in the 21st! Bach's Goldberg Variations show a piece unified by a 32-bar chord progression, just like any standard jazz chart. Composers like Chopin and Debussy wrote music that would inspire many jazz ballades from a melodic and harmonic standpoint. Ragtime was an American music that was popularized by Scott Joplin in the 19th century, eventually making its way over to Europe and into the ears of new composers like Schulhoff who left their own individual mark on the style. Toward the end of World War II, we began to get music like Prokofiev's *Precipitato* from Piano Sonata no.7 that has a mechanistic, intensely chromatic quality while combining jazz and even Rock n' Roll!

Jazz pianists like Bill Evans, Richie Beirach and Joseph Kozma wrote beautiful ballades for the piano, but one of the most iconic pieces of jazz piano music is *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin. This is his seminal work, combining jazz, and classical elements in perfect harmony.

Bach: Goldberg Variations

Aria, Variations, 1, 7, 4, 5

Chopin: Nocturne op.37 no.1

Debussy: *From Preludes Book 1*: La fille aux cheveux de lin

Chopin: Etude Op.25 No.9 in G flat major

Joplin: Maple Leaf Rag

Schulhoff: *Ragtime* from *Pittoresken*

Prokofiev: *Precipitato* from Piano Sonata No.7

Intermission

Bill Evans: Danny Boy

Richie Beirach: Elm

Joseph Kozma: Autumn Leaves

Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue