



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Merton U3A Web Resource

U3A MERTON JAZZ APPRECIATION GROUP

PROGRAMME

In keeping with our jazz interest, we are a peripatetic group,
so to learn the month's venue, phone the Group Leader

2016

- 29 January **Stories told in Jazz**
Many jazz song standards tell stories. Members discover at least one (more than one OK) & tell either the true story behind the song or the background to the composition.
- 26 February **A Decade in Jazz: The 1950s**
As the decade progressed, rock 'n roll became increasingly popular (eg *Heartbreak Hotel* & *At the Hop*), & music changed from 32-bar compositions to more R&B-influenced material. Although jazz musicians gravitated towards older material, some original compositions emerged to become jazz standards, as Members will show.
- 25 March **Bossa Nova**
Members explore the lyrical fusion of samba & jazz
- 29 April **"The Girl With the Sun in Her Hair"**
Jazz where Members' 2 chosen track titles are each a girl's name. (This John Barry composition doesn't count - there are around 800 to choose from!)
- 27 May **Exploring *The Great American Songbook: Johnny Mercer***
Members talk about their choices of 2 of Johnny Mercer's lyrics or compositions, either in different versions or as different songs (Around 1500 lyrics to choose from!)
- 24 June **"Let's Get Ella Out of Our System"**
Members choose 2 tracks each by Ella Fitzgerald, explaining its background (including composer, when first recorded & who with), & the reasons for the choices.
- 29 July **The Saxophone**
Jazz played by famous saxophonists – who are/were they?
- 26 August **Desert Island Choices**
What 8 jazz tracks would you like to hear played if asked to appear on *Desert Island Discs*? Bring 2 tracks as examples of those you'd save, even if the others were lost.
- 30 September **2-4-1: British Jazz Plays Fats Waller**
Tracks by UK singers, instrumentalists or bands playing arrangements of compositions by Fats Waller. (There are over 300 of the latter from which to choose!)



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28 October

Cabaret Jazz

Easy listening for an Autumn afternoon.

25 November

“I Don’t Understand the Words, But I Like It Anyway”.

Tracks of foreign language songs that you really enjoy – whether or not you understand what the words are all about!

16 December

Jazz Quiz

Have a guess about all or any of the titles, composer, provenance, performing artists, of a series of jazz recordings. How well you do depends on the conviviality of our Christmas Party!