



Swing music is a style of jazz that developed in the United States during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The name derived from its emphasis on the off-beat or nominally weaker beat. For the better part of the 1930s and 1940s, swing music artists and bands were among the most popular musicians in the world. Using brass instruments and percussion, the best swing music consisted of arrangements that were easy to dance to and was considered the hippest sound, even surpassing jazz music. Soloists in swing bands were the rock stars of their time.

Swing is played with the same instruments you would find in a jazz band: there is a rhythm section consisting of piano, bass and drums, a brass section with trumpets and trombones, and a wind section with saxophones and clarinet, and, very occasionally, string instruments, such as the violin and the guitar, might also be found. Swing is mostly played with a medium tempo. Generally speaking, the melodic riffs free the drums from any rhythmic restrictions that might have occurred up until now.

Key Vocabulary

staff notation	the written format of a piece of music which includes shows the notes, length of notes and pitch of notes
pitch	how high or how low sounds are
dynamics	how loud or how quiet a piece of music is
expression	feelings portrayed when playing music or singing songs
scales	a set of musical notes ordered by an increase in pitch
breathe	draw air into the lungs (inhale) and expel it out of the lungs (exhale)
harmony	the combination of similar sounding musical notes which produce a pleasing effect

Famous examples:

'Sing, sing, sing' by Benny Goodman



'In the Mood' by Glenn Miller

'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' by The Andrew Sisters



Staff notation is a way of writing music down. Performers use this to learn about the pitch and length to sing musical notes.

Performers must be able to read staff notation to ensure consistency between them and the instrumental accompaniments.

Drums

Sing Sing Sing

Moderately Fast
Swing

Written by Benny Goodman
For Jazz Big Band
Arranged by David B.

To sing a long phrase, singers need to breathe at different times so that the sound keeps going. You need to breathe very deeply so you have enough air to finish the phrase with the right sound. If you are singing quietly or softly, it is even harder to sing a long phrase as you need to use your energy in a different way to singing loudly. This is because when you are singing quietly, you need more effort to control your breathing. Two things that can really help you to improve your breathing when singing are:

1. Stand tall
2. Sing from your diaphragm

