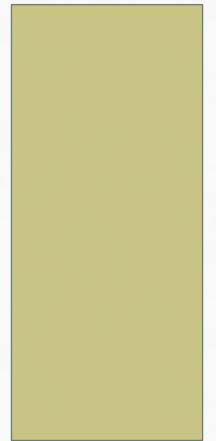


“PLAYING LIKE A MAN”

THE STRUGGLE OF BLACK WOMEN IN JAZZ AND THE
FEMINIST MOVEMENT



INTRODUCTION

- Women's movements
- Jazz
- Separation
- Ella Fitzgerald and Mary Lou Williams
 - Musical ability as empowerment
- Social and economic power

ESTABLISHING THE FEMINIST LENS

- Campaign for suffrage rights
- Feminism as a white movement
- Value of applying this lens to jazz

FEMINIST LENS

- Sex v. Gender
 - Sex = biological
 - Gender = cultural
- Traditional gender roles
 - For men
 - Rational, strong, protective, decisive
 - For women
 - Emotional/irrational, weak, nurturing, submissive
 - 1932 Gallup Poll: 82% women should not work

FEMINIST LENS

- Social spheres
 - Men = public sphere
 - Women = private sphere
- Sisterhood

ELLA AND MARY LOU IN THE FEMINIST LENS

- Women denied power
- Feminism as a white movement/Sisterhood
- Social spheres
- Traditional gender roles

JAZZ

- Began in the United States
 - Not a derivative of Africa
- Jazz community
- Jazz development
 - “BLACK, white, male, FEMALE, European, or American”
(emphasis mine)

ELLA FITZGERALD AND CHICK WEBB

- Chick Webb Band
- Musical ability
- Place as female vocalist



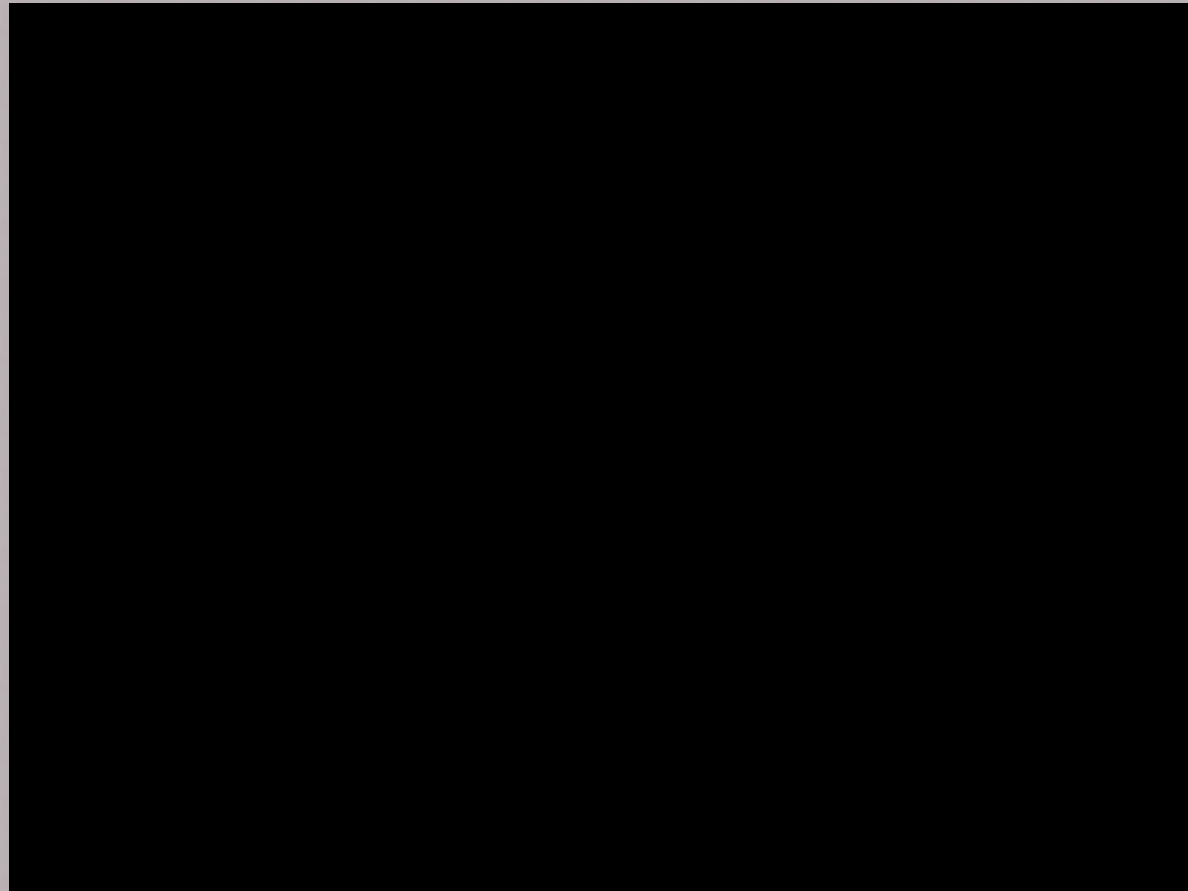
ELLA FITZGERALD AND THE WOMAN QUESTION

- Traditional gender roles in song
 - [Black Coffee](#)

Now a man is born to go a lovin'
A woman's born to weep and fret
To stay at home and tend her oven
And drown her past regrets
In coffee and cigarettes

ELLA FITZGERALD AND THE WOMAN QUESTION

- A-Ticket, A-Tasket



MARY LOU WILLIAMS AND RACE

- Segregation
- Bel Canto Foundation



Mary Lou
working at
the thrift
shop. %10
of all
proceeds
went
towards the
Bel Canto
Foundation

MARY LOU WILLIAMS AND THE WOMAN QUESTION

- Stereotypes for women jazz musicians
- Hits n' Bits



Photo taken from Rutgers State Univ. of New Jersey. "Mary Lou Williams: Soul on Soul."

MARY LOU WILLIAMS AND THE WOMAN QUESTION

- “Playing like a man”
- Woman on the bandstand
- Mary active as a woman

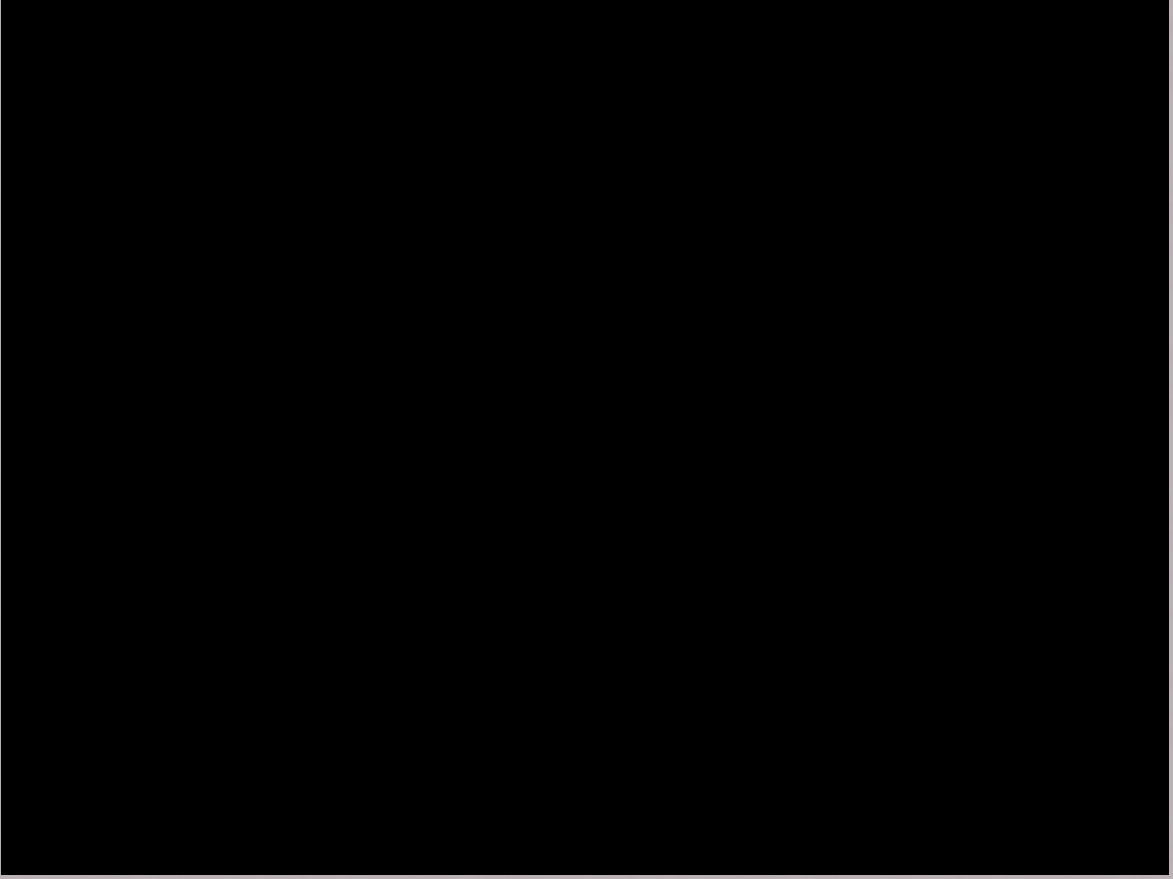


Mary Lou sits center with Andy Kirk and the Clouds of Joy

SPIRITUAL JAZZ

- Conversion
- *Mary Lou's Mass*

A 2010
performance
at the Brooklyn
Academy of
Music by Alvin
Ailey American
Dance Theater



CONCLUSION

- Separate from women's movement
- Female role models

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baggenaes, Roland. *Jazz Greats Speak: Interviews with Master Musicians*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2008.
-
- Bailey, Alison and Chris Cuomo Eds. *The Feminist Philosophy Reader*. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill, 2008.
-
- Banfield, William C. *Cultural Codes: The Making of a Black Music Philosophy*. Toronto: The Scarecrow Press, 2010.
-
- Colebrook, Claire. *Gender*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
-
- Cook, Mervyn and David Horn eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Jazz*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
-
- Dahl, Linda. *Stormy Weather: The Music and Lives of a Century of Jazzwomen*. New York, NY: Limelight Editions, 1992.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Fritts, Ron and Ken Vail. *Ella Fitzgerald: The Chick Webb Years & Beyond*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2003.
-
- Grouse, Leslie. *Madame Jazz: Contemporary Women Jazz Instrumentalists*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1995.
-
- Handy, Antoinette D. and Mary Lou Williams. "First Lady of the Jazz Keyboard." *The Black Perspective in Music* 8, no. 2 (Autumn 1980): 194-214. *JSTOR* (accessed February 2, 2011).
-
- Hannam, June. *Feminism*. New York, NY: Pearson/Longman, 2007.
-
- Kernodle, Tammy L. *Soul on Soul: the Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams*. Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 2004.
-
- Marcic, Dorothy. *Respect: Women and Popular Music*. New York, NY: Texere, 2002.
-

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- McPartland, Marian. *All in Good Time*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1987.
-
- National Public Radio. "Jazz Profiles from NPR: Ella Fitzgerald."
- http://www.npr.org/programs/jazzprofiles/archive/fitzgerald_e.html (accessed October 12, 2011).
-
- Nicholson, Stuart. *Ella Fitzgerald: The Complete Biography*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2004.
-
- Norman, David. *The Ella Fitzgerald Companion*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.
-
- Rutgers State University of New Jersey. "Mary Lou Williams: Soul on Soul."
- <http://newarkwww.rutgers.edu/ijs/mlw/intro1.html> (accessed October 7, 2011).
-
- Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2006.

