

Listening Journals

Beginning with the **second week of the course**, students are required to listen to **one hour of jazz radio per week** and keep a journal of their listening. (Suggested programs and stations are listed on the following page.) **Listening Journals** also are to be done in Word (.doc). and each week's entry should have the following header:

Source: e.g.: WRNJ *or* wrnjradio.com (depending how you listened)

Program Title (if any): e.g.: "Just Jazz"

Program Host: e.g.: Bob Bernotas

Date & Time you listened: e.g. Sunday, 9/10/17, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Journals are to be handed in three times during the semester, as specified on the course syllabus.

For every hour of programming:

1. Record in your journal the name of the artist and song title for *each* recording you hear. Also try, if possible, to include the names of other musicians on the recording, the instruments they played, and any other information that was provided by the program's host.

2. For *each* recording you hear consider the following questions and see if they apply: Have you heard any of these musicians before? Have you heard this song before? [If you *haven't* you don't need to say so.]

What jazz elements did you hear? What jazz style or genre did it sound like to you? Did it seem like a blues, a ballad, a Latin or Brazilian song, a Broadway show tune, a movie theme, a Top 40 pop hit, etc.? *Above all, say what you think and don't worry about being "wrong."*

3. Report what you thought about the recording and how it made you feel – excited, energized, bored, depressed, etc. – *and why*. [*It is important to say why.*] Does the performance suggest a story or visual image? Include any other impressions you have of the recording. *Listening to music is a subjective experience, so be as opinionated as you like, but provide the reasons for your opinion.*

4. Also note, where applicable, if any of the recordings you heard illustrated concepts that were raised either in the readings or in class, and in what way(s) they did.

Suggestion 1: When doing your radio listening, first take notes for each recording that is played during the hour. Then immediately after, while your impressions are still fresh in your mind, write them up in your journal. Each entry for each recording need not be longer than a paragraph.

Suggestion 2: Most stations that stream their programming have on-line playlists on their websites with the artist/song information. You may find these useful.

Suggestion 3: For variety, try listening to different programs or stations during different weeks.

The journals are intended to demonstrate your progressive understanding of course ideas and objectives. Students are encouraged to keep their entries concise, but are welcomed to be as creative as they wish. Unacceptable journals will lack sufficient detail and/or completeness, or reflect a lack of attention to the assignment.

SUGGESTED JAZZ RADIO PROGRAMS FOR LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

Students are free to listen to any jazz radio programming that they choose. Here are a few suggestions:

“Just Jazz featuring *The Sinatra Hour*” with Bob Bernotas: Sundays 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **WRNJ** and **wrnjradio.com** (Hackettstown, NJ). The station is best accessed via the Tunein Radio app: tunein.com/radio/WRNJ

Please note: The middle hour (11:00 a.m.-noon) of my show is dedicated to Frank Sinatra and other great popular singers, and so is not really appropriate for this assignment. And WRNJ *does not* have an online playlist.

88.3 WBGO (Newark) and **wbgo.org** broadcasts jazz throughout most of the day. With a only few exceptions – “specialty shows” that are clearly not “jazz” programs* – generally any hour of its daily schedule is acceptable.

* For example, Felix Hernandez’ “Rhythm Revue” – heard on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – is an excellent program of classic R&B and soul music, but not appropriate for the assignment.

WRTI (Temple University, Philadelphia) broadcasts jazz at from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., and has a 24-hour jazz webstream at **wrti.org**. Other Internet options include **WKCR** (Columbia University), **WEMU** (Eastern Michigan University), and **Jazz FM.91** (Toronto), all of which feature jazz programming during a major portion of their broadcast schedules and can be accessed via the Internet. And there are many others.

Most programs on **Sirius XM’s “Real Jazz”** channel also may be used to satisfy this assignment.

PLEASE NOTE: Music Choice, Pandora, Spotify, and similar Internet sources are *not* acceptable options for this assignment. If you are not sure whether or not a particular station or program is suitable, just ask.