

A Brief Overview of Jazz Piano History

Pre-Jazz

Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869) "The Banjo" (ca 1850)

Ragtime

Scott Joplin (1868-1917) "father" of ragtime; his immediate followers were
James Scott
Joseph Lamb

Early Jazz

Jelly Roll Morton pianist/composer/arranger/bandleader
Earl "Fatha" Hines trumpet-style playing and solos
Lil Hardin Armstrong played w/ Joe King Oliver
Fats Waller wrote over 400 songs, including *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Honeysuckle Rose*

Stride

James P. Johnson father of stride piano (*Carolina Shout*)
Willie "The Lion" Smith combined boogie/woogie w/ stride styles
Mead Lux Lewis

Boogie Woogie

Pine Top Smith
Jimmy Yancey

Early and progressive swing (1930s-'40s)

Duke Ellington bandleader/composer/arranger over 900 charts
Count Basie Kansas City style swing, great rhythm section
Art Tatum master virtuoso of solo swing piano
Teddy Wilson played w/ Benny Goodman & Billie Holiday
Nat King Cole underrated as jazz pianist-sang his way to popularity
Milt Buckner "locked hands" style adopted by George Shearing
Errol Garner wrote *Misty* and had a unique, appealing style

Kansas City Swing

Mary Lou Williams first early jazz female band leader and pianist
Jay McShann great KC master of swing, blues and bop

Be-bop/hard bop (1940s-)

Thelonious Monk one of the greatest innovators of all time
Bud Powell revolutionized be-bop piano
Al Haig recorded w/ Bird
Oscar Peterson Art Tatum tradition; passed in Dec. 2007
Horace Silver "Funky" legendary hard-bop leader/composer
Tadd Dameron leader/composer/arranger ; wrote *Ladybird*

Cool (late 1940s-)

Lennie Tristano one of the innovators of the "Cool" school
Andre Previn famous conductor; numerous jazz recordings
Dave Brubeck Dave Brubeck Quartet: *Time Out*
John Lewis leader, Modern Jazz Quartet for 30+ years; 3rd stream

Additional pianists from the '50s

Red Garland recorded with Miles Davis in the '50s
Wynton Kelly Wynton Marsalis is named after him
Phinnias Newborne, Jr. listen to: *A Whole World of Piano*
Tommy Flanagan worked w/ Ella Fitzgerald; played on *Giant Steps*
Sonny Clark knew Lennie Tristano and Bill Evans
Bobby Timmons composer of *Moanin'*
Herbie Nichols innovative composer/arranger

Modern innovators (late '50s-early '60s)

Bill Evans most influential jazz pianist after Bud Powell
Chick Corea fusion pioneer; Latin and Spanish styles
Keith Jarrett classical; solo improvisations; straight ahead

Living legends (currently still performing)

Dave Brubeck NPR "Piano Jazz" show
Marian McPartland played in John Coltrane's quartet in '60s
McCoy Tyner played w/ Miles Davis in '60s
Herbie Hancock played w/ Dizzy & Bird, still plays beautifully
Dick Hyman

Not actively performing

George Shearing
Billy Taylor

Compiled by Michael Pagán, 2008