

Dizzy Gillespie, *Manteca*  
Dizzy Gillespie, *Salt Peanuts*, and  
Tito Puente, *Tito's Theme*

Dizzy Gillespie - Middle School level, grades 6-8

**Objectives:**

1. The student will contrast two compositions by Dizzy Gillespie.
2. The student will identify Latin percussion instruments in Afro-Cuban jazz.
3. The student will compare percussion in *Manteca*, *Tito's Theme*, and *Salt Peanuts*.
4. The student will identify elements of bebop style.

**Optional Objectives:**

1. The student will learn about the music and life of Dizzy Gillespie through exploring selected web sites.

**Time:** One class period

**Materials Required for Objective:**

Computer access to Internet recordings and speakers for playback to class (or individual headphones for students to listen on their own). "Comparing Two Songs" worksheet.

**Procedure:**

**Activity 1** - Using the "Comparing Two Songs" worksheet, listen to two compositions by Dizzy Gillespie, *Salt Peanuts* and *Manteca*. Write down similarities between the two songs and differences. You may need to listen to each recording several times to catch all of interesting things going on in both of them. Consider these things: 1) What is the groove of the two songs like? 2) What percussion instruments do you hear in both instruments? 3) What is the mood of the two songs? 4) What instruments do you hear? 5) How would you describe the trumpet solos, which are played by Gillespie? 6) What is Gillespie singing or saying on each recording? 7) Do you think people could dance to either of these two pieces? What would the dances look like?

**Activity 2** - Dizzy was famous for finding interesting musicians who inspired him to explore new ways of playing jazz. He became interested in Afro-Cuban music and began to incorporate elements of Afro-Cuban music with jazz. He added instruments such as congas, bongos, and claves to his band. *Manteca* is a great example of this. Listen closely to *Manteca* and see if you can hear these instruments. The congas are a low-sounding drum played with the hands.

Now listen to *Tito's Theme* played by the Tito Puente band. You will hear more percussion instruments, especially the *timbales*, cowbell, and the *quiro*. Tito plays the *timbales*, the drums that are soloing. The *quiro* sounds like wood being scraped with a

stick. Now listen again to *Manteca*. Listen to see if the drum set sounds a little like the cowbell and other percussion sounds in the Puente band. Which sound do you think is most exciting?

**Activity 3** - Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker invented a style of music called bebop. It was very difficult to play, with lots of fast notes and intricate melodies. It got the name bebop because often Dizzy and Charlie would end their phrases with two notes that sounded kind of like the phrase “be-bop.” Listen to *Salt Peanuts* and listen for that sound of “bebop” played by the trumpet and saxophone. Listen again and this time listen to the drums played by Sid Catlett. He will once in awhile hit a drum really loud in unexpected places. This was called “dropping bombs” and helped the music sound complex and high-energy.

**Optional Activity:**

**Activity 4** - Construct a web page that tells about Dizzy Gillespie and his contributions to jazz. Use these links to help you learn more about him. As you will notice, most of these web sites have too much text on them. Can you make one page that tells who Dizzy is with fewer words?

**Activity 5** - Dizzy was well-known for being very funny. Many musicians had funny stories about him. A few are listed on this web site:

<http://www.abbeville.com/jazz/219.asp>

**Extensions:**

Watch the video *A Night in Tunisia* (VIEW Video, 28 mins., 1990) to see Dizzy playing with his great band.

**Indicators of Success:**

Students will be able to identify elements of bebop and Afro-Cuban music.

**Learn more about Dizzy Gillespie:**

[http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist\\_id\\_gillespie\\_dizzy.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_gillespie_dizzy.htm)

<http://www.duke.edu/~cfs5/>

<http://www.vervemusicgroup.com/artist.aspx?aid=2807>

[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/modern/dizzy\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/modern/dizzy_1)

<http://www.iaje.org/bio.asp?ArtistID=60>

<http://airjudden.tripod.com/jazz/dizygillespie.html>

<http://www.jazzphotos.com/storygil.htm>

<http://www.jazzphotoart.com/Pages/dizygillespie.html>

<http://www.abbeville.com/jazz/219.asp>

**Learn more about Afro-Cuban drumming:**

<http://www.batadrums.com/background/afro-cuban.htm>

<http://www.mundoafrolatino.com/english/afrocubanmusic.htm>

<http://www.plazacuba.com/generic42.html>

