

Jazz Funk

1970s with influence on 1980-90s rock

Jazz Funk Music is a merging of trad. jazz characteristics with electronic instruments requiring electronic amplification.

It has a characteristic **strong** back beat or "groove", spearheaded by James Brown and his drummers.

Another characteristic is the use of **electric instruments** (e.g. Rhodes piano, Moog synthesizer and bass guitar.)

Jazz-funk recordings typically used **electric bass** and **electric piano** in the **rhythm** section, in place of the double bass and acoustic piano that were typically used in jazz up to that point

Key innovator:

- Herbie Hancock (keyboard)
- James Brown (singer)
- Stanley Clarke (bass)

Key musical attributes:

- Jazz/ funk 'head' followed by improvisations
 - Use of syncopation
 - Ostinato patterns
 - Extended groove sections
- Jazz instrumentation with electric instruments
 - Use of synthesizer/ Hammond organ
 - Prominent bass
 - Melodic and/ or complex bass lines

Key Technology:

- Use of Wah wah effect (on guitar)
- Modulation/ filter effects on guitar
- Live sounding recording with minimal post production
- Use of synthesisers and Hammond organ
- Use of Rhodes piano/ Moog synthesiser
- Use of chorus and distortion on electric guitar
 - Chorus on electric piano



Instrumentation

- Synthesiser/ electric piano
- Rhythm guitar
- Bass guitar
- Drum kit



Jazz Funk Listening

- ▶ Herbie Hancock- *Head hunters* (1974)

Earth, wind and fire - *Runnin'* (1977)

- ▶ Stanley Clark with Herbie Hancock & George Duke

James Brown - *People get up and drive your funky soul*

Genre: Jazz funk	
Key innovators	• Herbie Hancock • Lonnie Liston Smith • Snarky Puppy • Stanley Clarke.
Key attribute	• electric/ electronic instrumentation with improvisation • irregular time signatures • syncopation • time changes.
Key technology	• modulation/filter effects on guitar/wah wah • rhodes piano • synthesiser.

Jazz Funk Listening

- ▶ Herbie Hancock- *Head hunters* (1973)
- ▶ Cedar Walton- *Road Island Red*
- ▶ Earth, wind and fire - *Runnin'* (1977)
- ▶ James Brown - *People get up and drive your funky soul*

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Synthesiser - Tech Developments

How it developed	Key features
• Synthesised sounds were invented as early as the 1890s, but the first voltage controlled synthesisers were invented in the late 1950s by Robert Moog, with the first Moog synthesiser being invented in the 1960s. 	• A synthesiser is an electronic keyboard that can generate or copy virtually any kind of sound, making it able to mimic the sound of a traditional instrument, such as a violin or piano, or create brand new sounds such as the crunch of footsteps on the surface of Mars. • a synthesiser is an electronic musical instrument that processes waveforms generated by an oscillator using filters, envelopes, and LFOs. • Synthesisers were popular in the music of the 1970s and early 1980s.

Electronic Organ - Tech Developments

This is an electronic keyboard instrument with a double manual keyboard & pedals. Often different sounds and rhythms can be accessed in the same way as on an electronic keyboard. The instrument has developed in several ways and given rise to popular instruments such as the **Hammond organ**.



How it developed	Key features
• One of the most important and well known organs is the <u>Hammond organ</u>. • It has two keyboards and feet pedals. • It was patented by its American inventor Laurens Hammond in 1934.	• This is an electronic keyboard instrument with a double manual keyboard and pedals. • Often different sounds and rhythms can be accessed in the same way as an electronic keyboard.



Listen to Hancock's Watermelon Man played on **Hammond organ** & **MiniMoog synthesiser**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCqdiPefDd0&ab_channel=Peter-JanKleevens