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### PLAY-A-LONG CD INFORMATION:

STEREO SEPARATION:

RIGHT CHANNEL = Piano, Bass & Drums; LEFT CHANNEL = Banjo, Bass & Drums Tuning Notes: Concert Bb & A (A=440)

PERSONNEL ON PLAY-A-LONG RECORDING:

STEVE ALLEE - Piano: SCOTT HENDERSON - Banjo; JOHN GOLDSBY - Bass; BOB RAWSTHORNE - Drums
TYRONE WHEELER - Bass on tracks 10, 12, 13, & 14



Published by JAMEY AEBERSOLD JAZZ, INC. P.O. Box 1244 New Albany, IN 47151-1244 www.jazzbooks.com Cover Photo Courtesy Of The Collection of DUNCAN SCHEIDT

Engraving by DAVID SILBERMAN

Cover Design by JAMEY D. AEBERSOLD & JASON A. LINDSEY

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#### INTRODUCTION

With volume 100, Jamey Aebersold explores a new area for his jazz play-a-longs, that of pre-modern jazz. It is important for a modern musician to understand pre-modern jazz because this music is where it all began. Knowing these tunes and these styles will give you knowledge of the roots of jazz. These styles are also quite popular and can also contribute to the economic health of a working musician.

All of the previous play-a-long volumes explore modern jazz styles in their various manifestations. Even when these volumes have included tunes associated with pre-bebop jazz, the have been played in a bop or post-bop style. With Volume 100 we enter the world of what used to be called "Classic Jazz", a world that includes New Orleans Style, Chicago Style, Early Swing, and "Dixieland." Even more than most terms describing jazz style, "Dixieland" is a pretty ambiguous term and can mean different things to different people.

The 1940s were a turning point in the history and development of jazz. In the '40s Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, and their colleagues created a new music that came to be called bebop. Bebop is essentially the beginning of modern jazz. Due to changes in the economics and culture of America at that time, the music became more of a listener's music and began to diverge dramatically from the development of popular music and dance music. In becoming "Art" music modern jazz developed a more intricate approach to rhythm, harmony, and melody. But the styles of jazz represented in this volume have their basis in pre-modern jazz. Therefore, they require a different approach from musicians, a different mindset, and a somewhat different set of skills.

Early jazz in New Orleans was not focused on improvising soloist. The most important skill in this style was to be able to embellish and paraphrase ensemble parts based on familiar themes and arrangements that every musician learned from the oral tradition. Clarinetist Buster Bailey stated that in 1917 and 1918 (prior to hearing Louis Armstrong extensively) "I wouldn't have known what they meant by improvisation, but embellishment was a phrase I understood." The various instruments had traditional roles they played in the group. The cornet (more commonly than the trumpet) usually carried the melodic lead; the clarinet created high register counterpoint based mostly on chord arpeggo figuration; the trombone filled in with a less intricate tenor voice consisting mostly of chord tones and guide tones in a register below the lead, etc.

Louis Armstrong, and to a lesser extent clarinetist and soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet, changed the entire focus of jazz. They were powerful musical personalities with virtuoso technique, commanding tones, and a healthy bit of showmanship. Their presence in a band almost inevitably overshadowed the contributions of the other musicians. Both were important innovators in terms of harmony, rhythm, and technique. More importantly, after Armstrong and Bechet jazz music became primarily focused on the improvising soloist.

On many of the tunes, you will find forms that are unusual to modern jazz players. Today, we usually play tunes that are 12 bar blues and 32 bar song forms (AABA or ABAC). Pieces like Tiger Rag are structured in a different way, with multiple themes, and forms that remind me of the structure of a march or minuet, including a modulation to another key (often the subdominant) for the trio section, etc.

Early jazz tunes tend to have a simpler harmonic language. The chords are mostly diatonic to the key. Non-diatonic chords are usually secondary dominants, borrowed chords from the parallel mode, passing diminished 7th chords, etc. Modulations rarely go to distantly related keys. The focus in early jazz melody is on arpeggiation and chord tones. Players tended not to use scales as much, but would embellish and connect chord tones with passing tones from the key and simple non-harmonic tones such as upper and lower neighbors. Dominant 7th chords rarely included 9ths, 11ths, or 13ths. Dominants were rarely altered, although Bix Beiderbecke and sometimes Armstrong would occasionally augment the 5th of a dominant chord. Major and minor chords were often triads and if an additional note was added it was usually the 6th. This simple harmonic language causes the soloist to focus more on rhythm and expression via tone, articulation, inflection, etc. there is no substitute for listening to the masters of any musical style in order to learn that style. The following list of important pre-modern bands and musicians is incomplete, but it should give you an excellent point of departure for mastering the style and vocabulary of early jazz. Find recordings that grab you and learn the music by ear. Have fun and don't forget to swing!!!



# 16. Limehouse Blues

