

## **SURVEY OF JAZZ**

*Professor: Jack Wilkins*

Hello, and welcome to a Survey of Jazz. My name's Jack Wilkins. I'm a professor of Jazz Studies here at the University of South Florida School of Music. I am a professional jazz saxophonist and composer and have a few CDs out of my own and get to play on other peoples' CD projects as well. So I'm a jazz musician, first and foremost, and then professor of your Survey of Jazz class as well. It's something I am passionate about and love and hope to share with you as the class goes through the semester.

This class will expose you to jazz music-- what we call the "great American art form." This is an American music. It came out of the melting pot of a variety of backgrounds and cultures that came together in New Orleans and other parts of the country to create some really interesting combinations of African music and European music and a variety of things that become jazz eventually. The more you learn about jazz music and sort of the dynamics of how it works, the more you can appreciate sort of the genius and creativity of these amazing musicians who will go down in history as some of the great musicians of the 20th century.

One of the important things I hope you'll learn is the ability to listen to this music and be able to hear a little more in depth than you maybe listen now and identify and learn to enjoy and appreciate the musicianship and creativity and improvisation that's going on as you hear this music. So we hope you'll enjoy taking part in this class. And as long as you manage your time and keep up with the course materials, I think you'll do well. I'm excited to have you in the course and hope you will learn to enjoy jazz music as much as I do.