

## **JAZZ JARGON: POEMS, JOKES, SLANG & CARTOONS**

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### **JOKES**

There have always been jokes about musicians and the instruments they play. Below are dozens of jokes in which the name of one instrument can be substituted for another. The brunt of these jokes seem to be at banjo players, drummers and violist. The conductor is another person who is the subject of many jokes. I have not tried to list jokes in any category just putting instrumental jokes in one section and conductor/musician jokes in another. Enjoy!

How do you get two saxophones to play in unison? Shoot one.

What's the difference between a banjo and a guitar? Banjos burn longer.

What's the difference between a banjo and an onion? Nobody cries when you chop up a banjo.

What's the difference between a dead snake in the road and a dead trombone player in the road? The skid marks before the snake.

What's the difference between a banjo and a trampoline? You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline.

What do you call a trumpet player with half a brain? Gifted.

What's the definition of a gentleman? Someone who knows how to play the banjo, but doesn't.

What's the range of an accordion? Ten yards, if you have a good arm.

What's the difference between a banjo player and a snake? The snake is probably on his way to a recording session.

What do you call someone who hangs out with musicians? a drummer.

What does the violinist say when he gets to his gig? "Do you want fries with that?"

What's the definition of an optimist? An accordion player with a beeper.

What do you call 100 banjo players at the bottom of the ocean? a good start.

How do you get a guitar player to play quieter? Put music in front of him.

How does a vocalist change a light bulb? She just holds it...the rest of the world revolve around her.

What's the difference between a chainsaw and a saxophone? Vibrato.

What's the difference between a banjo and a South American Macaw? One is loud, obnoxious, and noisy and the other is a bird.

What's the difference between a banjo and a chain saw?

A chain saw has a dynamic range and you can turn a chain saw off.

What's the difference between a banjo and a Harley-Davidson?

You can tune a Harley.

How many banjo players does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to screw it in and the other to complain that it's electric.

How many bass players does it take to screw in a light bulb?

It never happens. All of them are too laid-back to bother with it. Besides, the piano player can do it with his left hand.

How can you tell if the stage is level?

The banjo players is drooling out of both sides of his mouth.

Why do some people have an instant aversion to banjo players?

It saves time in the long run.

How can you tell the difference between all the banjo songs?

By their names.

What do you call a good musician at a banjo contest?

Lost.

Why are all banjo jokes so simple?

So bass players can understand them.

Where do banjo players play best?

In traffic

What do you say to a banjo player in a three-piece suit?

Will the defendant please rise?

How can you get a banjo player's eyes to sparkle?

Shine a light in his ears.

How can you tell a herd of banjo players from a bunch of grapes?

Jump and down on them....If you get wine, they were grapes.

What do banjo players use as birth control?

Their personalities

Why are breaks limited to 20 minutes?

So you don't have to retrain the banjo players.

What's the difference between a vocalist and a Porsche?

Most musicians have never been in a Porsche.

What's the difference between a bull and an orchestra?

The bull has the horns in front and the asshole in back.

Why are band leader's hearts so sought after for transplants?

They've had so little use.

What's the difference between a oboe and a clarinet?

There is no difference. The clarinet just looks smaller because the oboe's head is so much bigger.

What's the difference between a violin and a fiddle?

A fiddle is fun to listen to.

Why are drummer jokes so short?

So bass players can understand them.

How do you tell the difference between jazz bass players and a dog?

The dog knows when to stop scratching.

How many second trumpets does it take to change a light bulb?

None. They can't get up that high

Why is a saxophone like a SCUD missile?

Both are offensive and inaccurate.

What's the difference between a fiddle and a violin?

No-one minds if you spill beer on a fiddle.

Why do violinists put a cloth between their chin and their instrument?

Violins don't have spit valves.

Why should you never try to drive a nail with a banjo?

You might bend the nail.

How do you get a drummer to play fortissimo?

Write "pp, espressivo"

How do you make a banjo sound beautiful?

Sell it and buy a guitar.

How many string bass players does it take to change a light bulb?

None, the piano player can do that with his left hand.

How do you make a double bass sound in tune?

Chop it up and make it into a xylophone.

Why are string basses like elderly parents?

Both are unforgiving and hard to get into and out of cars.

How long does a bass stay in tune?

About 20 minutes, or until someone opens a door.

What's the definition of a quarter tone?

A harpist tuning unison strings.

What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?

A flat minor

What do you get when you drop a piano on an army base?

A flat major

Why is an 11-foot concert grand better than a studio upright?

Because it makes a much bigger kaboom when dropped over a cliff.

Why was the piano invented?

So the musician would have a place to put his beer.

How do you get two piccolos to play in unison?

Shoot one.

Why is a string bass better than a clarinet?

The string bass burns longer.

What is a burning clarinet good for?

Setting a string bass on fire.

What is the definition of a half step?

Two saxophones playing in unison.

How do you get a saxophone to play a flat?

Take the batteries out of his electric tuner.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get away from the saxophone recital.

What's the difference between a SCUD missile and a bad saxophonist?

A bad saxophonist can kill you.

How many alto sax players does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One to change the bulb and four to contemplate how David Sanborn would have done it.

What's the difference between a saxophone and a lawn mower?

Lawn mowers sound better in small ensembles.

The neighbors are upset if you borrow a lawnmower and don't return it.

The grip.

What's the difference between a baritone saxophone and a chain saw?

The exhaust.

How many clarinetists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, but he'll go through a whole box of bulbs before he finds just the right one.

What's the definition of a "nerd"?

someone who owns his own alto clarinet.

What do you call a bass clarinetist with half a brain?

Gifted.

How many trumpet players does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One to handle the bulb and four to tell him how much better they could have done it.

What's the difference between a trumpet player and the rear end of a horse?

I don't know either.

What the difference between trumpet players and government bonds?

Government bonds eventually mature and earn money.

Why can't a gorilla play trumpet?

He's too sensitive.

What's the difference between a bass trombone and a chain saw?

Vibrato, though you can minimize this difference by holding the chain saw very still.  
It's easier to improvise on a chain saw.

How can you make a French horn sound like a trombone?

Take your hand out of the bell and lose all sense of taste.  
Take your hand out of the bell and miss all of the notes.

How do you know when a drummer is at your door?

The doorbell drags.

What is a gentleman?

somebody who knows how to play the trombone. but doesn't.

What do you call a accordionist with a beeper and a cellular telephone?

An optimist.

What is the difference between a dead banjo player lying in the road, and a dead squirrel lying in the road?

The squirrel might have been on his way to a gig.

How many banjoist does it take to change a light bulb?

Just one, but he'll do it too loudly.

How do you know when there's a accordion player at your door?

His hat says "Domino's Pizza."

How do you improve the aerodynamics of a banjo's car?

Take the Domino's Pizza sign off the roof.

How do you tell which kid on a playground is the child of a trombonist?

He doesn't know how to use the slide, and he can't swing.

Why is it difficult to trust a trombonist?

It is difficult to trust anyone whose instrument changes shape as he plays it.

How do you get you your trumpet section to sound like the trombone section?

Have them miss every other note.

How can you make a trumpet sound like a trombone?

Stick your hand in the bell and play a lot of wrong notes.

What is the difference between a saxophone section and a '56 Ford?

You can tune a 56 Ford.

What do you get when you cross a drummer and a goal post?

A goal post that can't march.

How many saxophonist does it take to change a light bulb?

Just one, but he'll spend two hours checking the bulb for alignment and leaks.

Why is the saxophone a divine instrument?

Because a man blows in it, but only God knows what comes out of it.

How do horn players traditionally greet each other?

Hi, I played that last year.

Hi, I did that piece in junior high.

What's the range of a string bass?

Twenty yards if you've got a good arm.

How many piano players does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to hold the bulb and two to drink 'till the room spins.

How do you fix a broken tuba?

with a *tuba glue*.

These two piano players walk past a bar...

Well, it *could* happen.

Why are jazz band intermissions limited to 20 minutes?

So you don't have to retrain the drummer.

What do you call someone who hangs out with musicians?  
a drummer.

How do you know when a drummer is knocking at your door?  
The knock always slows down.

How do you get a drummer to play an accelerando?  
Ask him to play in 4/4 at a steady 120 beats per minute.

Why do jazz bands have bass players?  
To translate for the drummer.

How many drummers does it take to change a light bulb?  
"Why? Oh, wow! Is it like dark, man?"  
Only one, but he'll break ten bulbs before figuring out that they can't just be pushed in.  
Two: One to hold the bulb, and one to turn his throne (but only after they figure out that you have to turn the bulb).  
Twenty. One to hold the bulb, and nineteen to drink until the room spins.  
None. They have a machine to do that now.

Why is it good drummers have a half-ounce more brains than horses?  
So they don't disgrace themselves in a parade.

What's the difference between a drummer and a drum machine?  
With a drum machine you only have to punch the information in once.  
Heard backstage: "Will the musicians and the drummer please come to the stage!"

If you threw a drummer and a bass player off a cliff, which one would hit the ground first?  
The bass player. The drummer would have to stop halfway down to ask directions.  
Who cares?

What's the difference between a vocalist and a terrorist?  
You can negotiate with a terrorist.

What's the difference between a vocalist and a pirhana?  
The lipstick.

What's the difference between a vocalist and a pit bull?  
The jewelry.

How many vocalist does it take to change a light bulb?  
One. She holds the bulb and the world revolves around her.



Two. One to hold the diet cola and the other to get her accompanist to do it  
 Four. One to change the bulb and three to pull the chair out from under her.

What's the difference between a jazz vocalist and the average All-Pro linebacker?  
 Stage makeup.

What's the first thing a jazz band singer does in the morning?  
 Puts on her clothes and goes home.

What's the next thing a jazz band singer does in the morning?  
 Looks for her instrument.

What's the difference between a jazz band singer and a Porsche sports car?  
 Most musicians have never been in a Porsche.

How many baritones does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
 None. They can't get that high.  
 Two. One to screw it in and the other to say, "Isn't that a little high for you?"

How do you tell if a piano player is dead?  
 The wine bottle is still full and the comics haven't been touched.

How do you put a sparkle in a drummer's eye?  
 Shine a flashlight in his ear.

If you took all the drummers in the world and laid them end to end - it would be a good  
 idea.

How do you tell if a trombone player is actually dead?  
 Hold out a check (but don't be fooled: a slight, residual spasmodic clutching action may  
 occur even hours after death has occurred).

How do you tell if an accordion player is dead?  
 What's the difference?  
 Who cares.

How many basses does it take to change a light bulb?  
 None. They're so macho they prefer to walk in the dark and bang their shins.

How does a young classical musician become a member of a jazz band?  
 Turn into a wrong doorway.

What is the difference between a world war and a jazz band concert?  
 The performances cause more suffering.

What's the definition of an optimist?

A banjoist with a mortgage.

What's the difference between a jazz band leader and a chimpanzee?

Its scientifically proven that chimpanzees are able to communicate with humans.

What's the difference between a banjo and a chain saw?

The chain saw has greater dynamic range.

What's the least-used sentence in the English language?

"Isn't that the banjo player's Porsche?"

What do you say to a banjo player in a three-piece suit?

"Will the defendant please rise?"

What does it mean when a banjo player is drooling out both sides of his mouth?

The stage is level.

How do you get a banjo player to play softer?

Give him some music.

How many guitar players does it take to change a light bulb?

None. They just steal somebody else's light.

What do you call two saxophone players playing in unison?

Counterpoint.

What did the guitarist do when his teacher told him to turn his amplifier on?

He caressed it softly and told it that he loved it.

what's the best thing to play on a piano?

Solitaire.

How many bass players does it take to change a light bulb?

Don't bother. Just leave it out-no one will notice.

One, but the pianist has to show him first.

In the 22nd century, how many guitar players will you need to replace a light source?

Five. One to actually do it, and four to reminisce about how much better the old tubes were.

Did you hear about the bass player was so bad that even the vocalist noticed?

If you drop an accordion, and a banjo off a 20-story building, which one lands first?

Who cares?

What do you call 20 banjos at the bottom of the ocean?

A good start.

What's an accordion good for?

Learning how to fold a map.

How long does it take to tune a saxophone?

Nobody knows.

How many banjo players does it take to change a light bulb?

All of them. One to twist the bulb for several hours, and the others to decide that it's as good as it's going to get, and that they might as well flip the switch.

How many country & Western singers does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to change the bulb and two to sing about the old one.

What do you get when you play "New Age" music backwards?

New Age music.

How many news reporters does it take to change a light bulb?

12,001. One to change it, 2,000 to record the event and take pictures of it, and 10,000 to follow it around until it burns out.

How many punk-rock musicians does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to screw in the bulb and the other to smash the old one on his forehead.

Know how to make a million dollars playing jazz?

Start with two million.

How many jazz musicians does it take to change a light bulb?

None. Jazz musicians can't afford light bulbs.

"Don't worry about the changes. We'll fake it!"

What's the definition of 'perfect pitch'?

throwing a banjo into a dumpster without hitting the rim.

Why do vocalists stand for long periods outside people's houses?

They can't find the key and they don't know when to come in.

Why do so many people take an instant dislike to the banjo?

It saves time.

How was the Canon invented?

Two trombone players were trying to play the same passage together.

Why don't banjo players play hid and seek?

Because no one will look for them.

Why do pianist smile when they play?

Because ignorance is bliss and what they don't know can't hurt them.

Did you hear about the saxophonist who played in tune?

Neither did I.

What is the main requirement at the "International drummer's Competition?

Holding the sticks from memory.

How do you keep a banjo player from drowning?

Take your foot off his head.

What's the difference between a lawnmower and a saxophone?

You can tune the lawnmower.

How many bass players does it take to change a light bulb?

1-5, 1-5, 1-5.....

How many trumpet players does it take to change a light bulb?

Four. One to change it and the other three discussing how Dizzy Gillespie would have done it.

What do you call a drummer who just broke up with his girlfriend?

Homeless!

What's the best way to confuse a drummer?

Put a sheet of music in front of him.

Johnny to his Mom: "I want to be a drummer when I grow up!

Mom: "But Johnny, you can't do both."

How is a drum solo like a sneeze?

You can tell it's coming, but you can't do anything about it.

What's the last thing a drummer says in a band?

"Hey, guys, why don't we try one of my songs?"

What did the professional drummer say when he got to his job?

"Would you like fries with that?"

How many 1st alto placers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

None. We're above manual labor!

What is the least heard phrase in music?

"Would the trombonist please remove his Ferrari from the driveway as it is blocking the way!"

How do you know if a drummer is at your door?

He doesn't know when to come in.

Why is the female vocalist just standing at her front door to her house?

Because she can't find her key.

How do you stop a drummer from playing?

Move the baton

What is the definition of a soviet String Quartet?

A Soviet Symphony Orchestra after a tour of the USA!

Did you hear the one about the bass player who locked his keys in the car?

It took two hours to get the drummer out.

Why do bagpipe players walk while they play?

It is harder to hit a moving target.

How do you get the percussionists to stop drooling?"

Tilt the stage.

How many trombone player's does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Five. One to screw it in and four to bitch about how J. J. Johnson would have done it.

How do you get a piano player to turn down?

Take his chart away.

What is the ultimate optimist?

A trombone players with a beeper.

What is a trombone?

a slide whistle with delusions of grandeur!

How many guitar players does it take to screw in a light bulb?

!0. 1 to screw it in and 9 to say, "Yeah, man, I can do that!"

What do you get when you put a diminished chord together with a n augmented chord?

A demented chord.

## CONDUCTOR JOKES

How many conductors does it take to change a light bulb?  
...Hummm...I don't know....What do you think?

What's the difference between a bull and an orchestra?  
The bull has the horns in the front and his ashore in the back.

A conductor and a violist are standing in the middle of the road. Which one do you run over first, and why?

The Conductor. Business before pleasure.

What's the difference between a conductor and a sack of fertilizer?  
The sack

What do you have when a group of conductors are up to their necks in wet concrete?  
Not enough concrete.

Did you hear about the planeload of conductors en route to the European Festival?  
The good news - It crashed.  
The bad news - There were three empty seats on board.

What's the difference between God and a conductor?  
God knows he's not a conductor.

What's the definition of an assistant conductor?  
A mouse trying to become a rat.

What's the difference between alto clef and Greek?  
Some conductors actually read Greek?

What do you do with a horn player that can't play?  
Give him two sticks, put him in the back, and call him a percussionist.

What do you do if he can't do that?  
Take away one of the sticks, put him up front, and call him a conductor.

**There is a long standing group of viola jokes. The viola reads a different music clef and is mostly in supporting roles in the symphony. They are the brunt of many jokes. Below are a few.**

How is lightning like a violist's finger?

Neither one strikes in the same place twice.

How do you keep your violin from getting stolen?

Put it in a viola case.

What's the difference between a violin and a viola?

The viola burns longer

The viola holds more beer

You can tune the violin.

We all know that a viola is better than a violin because it burns longer. But why does it burn longer?

It's usually still in the case.

How do you get a violist to play a passage pianissimo terminally?

Mark it "solo."

What's the difference between a viola and a coffin?

The coffin has the dead person on the inside.

What do you do with a dead violist?

Move him back a desk.

What's the difference between a viola and a trampoline?

You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline.

What's the difference between a viola and an onion?

No one cries when you cut up a viola.

What's the definition of a minor second?

Two violists playing in unison.

How can you tell when a violist is playing out of tune?

The bow is moving.

Why do violists leave their instrument cases on the dashboard of their cars?

So they can park in 'handicapped' parking places.

If someone mistakes them for Mafia, they might get some respect.

What's the difference between a dead skunk in the road and a crushed viola in the road?

Skid marks before the skunk.

How do you get a violin to sound like a viola?

Sit in the back and don't play.

Play in the low register with a lot of wrong notes.

What's the most popular recording of the William Walton viola concert?

Music Minus One.

What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common?

Everyone is happy when the case is closed.

What is the range of a Viola?

As far as you can kick it.

Why are violas so large?

It's an optical illusion. It's not that the violas are large; just that the viola players' heads are so small.

What's the difference between a chain saw and a viola?

If you absolutely had to, you could use a chain saw in a string quartet.

What is the definition of a cluster chord?

A viola section playing on the C string.

Why do violists get antsy when they see the *Kama Sutra*?

All those positions!

If you're lost in the desert, what do you aim for? A good viola player, a bad viola player or an oasis?

The bad viola player. The other two are only figments of your imagination.

How many violists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

None. They're not small enough to fit.

What's the difference between the first and last desk of a viola section?

Half a measure

a semi-tone

Why can't you hear a viola on a digital recording?

Recording technology has reached such an advanced level of development that all extraneous noise is eliminated.



Did you hear about the violist who bragged that he could play 32nd notes?  
The rest of the orchestra didn't believe him, so he proved it by playing one.

Why can't a violist play with a knife in his back?  
Because he can't lean back in his chair.

What is the difference between a violist and a prostitute?  
A prostitute knows more than two positions.  
Prostitutes have a better sense of rhythm.

How do you get a dozen violists to play in tune?  
Shoot 11 of them  
Shoot all the them.  
Who the hell wants a dozen violists?

What's the latest crime wave in New Orleans?  
Drive-by viola recitals.

How do you call a violist with two brain cells?  
Pregnant.

How many violists does it take to make a batch of chocolate chip cookies?  
Ten. One to stir the batter and nine to peel the *M & M's*

What's the similarity between the *Beatles* and the viola section of the New Orleans  
Philharmonic Orchestra?  
Neither has played together since 1970.

What is the longest viola joke?  
*Harold in Italy*

## POEMS

My Phillida, before the jazz began its devastating boom,  
My thoughts of you were gentle as the tunes that whirled us round the room;

To perfect harmony with grace we moved, delighted and content  
To smile into each others face with meanings kind and innocent.

Alack! my Phillida, to-day the music does not soothe my mind;  
In truth I am compelled to say my dreams are horrid and unkind;  
For, while the bawling niggers biff the drums that agitate our feet,  
I'm gravely speculating if you're really nice enough to eat.

Daily Graphic, Jan. 10, 192 (Lit. Digest)

BLUES

I'm gonna tell all you men what you mustn't do:  
 Don't never love one woman like she says she lover you.  
 She'll call you Honey, an' she'll call you Pie,  
 But she let things git a-loose, Lawd, on the sly;  
 Then she'll move to Kansas City

Fox Trot Song - Ready for the River - Gus Kahn - 1928

I'm ready for the river, The shivery river,  
 The river that goes down to the sea.  
 Want to drown my trouble, And leave just a bubble  
 To indicate what used to be me.  
 Made my will, wrote some notes,  
 Gonna keep a-walkin' till my straw hat floats.  
 Ready for the river, the shivery river,  
 So get the river ready for me.

Careless Love

When you pass by my door I hand my head and cry,  
 When my apron string I bow  
 You pass my door and say hello,  
 But when my apron string I pin  
 You pass my door and won't come in.

Don't never trust no railroad man,  
 He'll break your heart if he but can,  
 He'll take your love and go his way  
 Not meanin' anything he say.

Some day my apron string I'll tie  
 And then I'll lay right down and die,  
 And you won't know 'cause down in hell  
 The devil's mean, he will not tell

Careless Love turned into a blues:

When I wore my apron low,  
 When I wore my apron low  
 When I wore my apron low

Boys would pass right by my door.

Now I wear it to my chin  
 Now I wear it to my chin  
 Now I wear it to my chin  
 Boys all pass and dey won't come in.

Jazz Jargon

Songs they write today, must be solved  
 They're too involved;  
 Oh what a mental strain!  
 It takes a week or more to master one refrain.  
 The subjects and complicated words  
 With minor thirds;  
 Oh what an awful jam!  
 Who cares about the love life of a clam?  
 Like the scale of A, B, C, D, E, F, G,  
 First of all a song should have simplicity,  
 Follow me!  
 Sing something simple, a little ditty that's  
 sweet and simple.

from "Sing Something Simple,"  
 James D. Hart

Black Man fights wid de shovel and de pick

Black man fights wid de shovel and de pick-  
 Lordy, turn your face one me;  
 He never gits no rest 'cause he never gist sick-  
 Lordy, turn your face on me.

Jined de army fur to git free clothes-  
 Lordy turn your face on me;  
 What we're fightin' 'bout, nobody knows-  
 Lordy, turn your face on me.

Never goin' to ride dat ocean no more-  
 Lordy, turn your face on me;  
 Goin' to walk right home to my cabin door-  
 Lordy, turn your face on me.

Lit. Digest, June 18, 1927 Soldier-man Blues

Oh, Jail-house key, Don't you ever lock me in.

Oh, jail-house key-Won't never be bad no more.

Oh, dark ob de moon, Don't you ever blight my life,  
Oh, dark ob de moon-Won't never be bind no more.

Oh, lightnin' bug, Don't burn your pants.  
Oh, lightnin' bug-Won't never be band no more.

Oh, jail-house blues, How blue you can be.  
Oh, jail-house blues- Won't never be band no more.

New Statesman, April 17, 1926

Ear-splitting Jazz, thy brazen syncopation  
Has routed Waltz from every modern nation;  
No ore frail maids to dreamy violins  
In languor move their unrevealed shins;  
Athletic Jazz leaps liberally and shoks not,  
Lavish of knees in one-step, tango, fox-trot.

### Black Blues

I went down to the river, underneath the willow tree,  
A dew dropped from the willow leaf, and rolled right down on me.  
An' that's the reason I got those weepin' willow blues.

Goin' to the river, take my rockin' chair.  
Goin' to the river, take my rockin' chair.  
If the blues overcome me, I'll rock on away from here.

Goin' to the river, I mean to sit down.  
Goin' to the river, I mean to sit down,  
If the blue-blues push me, I'll jump over and drown.

Got the railroad blues; ain't got no railroad fare.  
Got the railroad blues; ain't got no railroad fare,  
I'm gonna pack mah grip an' beat mah way away from here.

Goin' to the railroad, put mah head on the track;  
Goin' to the railroad, put mah head on the track.  
If I see the train a-comin' I'll jerk it back.

I went up on the mountain, high as a gal can stan',  
An looked down on the engine that took away may lovin' man.  
An' that's the reason i got those weepin' willow blues.

I went to the gipsy's to get mah fortune tol'.  
 I went to the gipsy's to get mah fortune tol'.  
 Gipsy done tol' me Goddam yore unhard-lucky soul

Jazzonia by Langston Hughes

O, silver tree! Oh, shining rivers of the soul!  
 In a Harlem cabaret six long-headed jazzers play.  
 A dancing girl whose eyes are bold lifts high a dress of silent gold.  
 Oh, singing tree! Oh, shining rivers of the soul!

Were Eve's eyes in the first garden just a bit too bold?  
 Was Cleopatra gorgeous in a gown of gold?  
 Oh, shining tree! Oh, silver rivers of the soul!

In a whirling cabaret six long-headed jazzers play.  
 from THE CRISIS

The Daniel Jazz

Darius the Mede was a king and a wonder  
 His eye was proud, and his voice was thunder.  
 He kept bad lions in a monstrous den.  
 He fed up the lions on Christian men.  
 Daniel was the chief hired man of the land  
 He stirred up the jazz in the palace band.  
 He whitewashed the cellar. he shovelled in the coal.  
 And Daniel kept a-praying: - "Lord save my soul."

Justin Werner:

**Form** the **time** that I **meter**  
 I know that I will love her  
 not for **harmony**  
 but for her **aire**.

**Sean Andersen**

Over the museum of the crowded room, I suddenly heard a beautiful melodic tune  
 A sound that was clearer & strong with an element of sweetness  
 The Angelic sounds entered my soul  
 And my heart began to roll  
 Her powerful dynamic brought me to life  
 I knew at that moment she would e my wife.

## Jazz Slang

### Instruments:

Clarinet - licorice stick, black stick or Gob stick  
 Bass Fiddle - (slapped, not bowed) doghouse  
 Guitar - gitbox, Guinea's Harp  
 Organ - God box  
 Horn - trombone - loosely, any brass instrument. Strings - Box  
 Trombone - Syringe  
 Trumpet/Cornet - Iron Horn  
 French Horn - Pretzel  
 Xylophone - woodpile  
 Tuba - Grunt horn  
 Piano - Moth box  
 Mellophone - peck horn  
 Accordion - Rock crusher, Groan box  
 Saxophone - Pipe

### Style of player:

**Dirty** - Describes a tone which is reedy or metallic gained by playing with an extreme vibrato. The dirty tone is usually associated with music in 'Chicago' or 'Race' style.

**Lowdown** - (1) same as above, with reference to the style rather than to the tone. (2) With slurred notes.

**Clean** - Purity of tone with unslurred clarity of note.

**Barrelhouse** - Chiefly used to describe piano playing in that style developed by the 'professors' who play in the bordellos of Memphis, St. Louis and New Orleans. The barrelhouse style is very African and has a primal rhythmic urgency which is almost irresistible (Syn). Honky-tonk as an adj.)

**Gutbucket** - A style of ensemble instrumental playing having the above qualities.

**Ride** - (noun) The quality of intrinsic rhythmicity characterizing the melodic pattern of a lick, v. To play a lick which carries its own rhythm integrated with the rhythm of the accompaniment but having a different syncopation.

**Jive** - Syn. with above.

**Scat** - A style of singing in which the vocalist scorns the lyrics, substituting meaningless but expressive syllables of his own improvisation.

**Sock** - Play with great freedom and abruptness of note.

**Solid** - Describes a player whose improvisation indicates that he is en rapport with the rhythm of the band. A very complimentary term. A band

that is solid has a psychic unanimity of feeling, although each man is improvising every note that he plays.

**Sender** - A player who can communicate his personal excitement to the listeners, so that they feel the same emotion that he feels, but the extreme ride in his licks. An artist in the highest sense.

**Lift** - The quality of communicable excitement characterizing syncopation.

**String quartet** - A good violinist, a bad violinist, an ex-violinist, and someone who hates violinists, all getting together to complain about composers.

**Detache'** - An indication that the trombones are to play with their slides removed.

**Glissando** - a technique adopted by string players for difficult runs.

**Subito pp** - Indicates an opportunity for some obscure orchestra player to become a soloist.

**Risoluto** - Indicates to orchestra that they are to stubbornly maintain the correct tempo no matter what the conductor tries to do

**Senza sordino** - A term used to remind the player that he forgot to put his mute on a few measures back.

**Preparatory beat** - A threat made to singers and drummers, i.e. sing and play or else....

**Crescendo** - A reminder to the performer that he has been playing too loudly.

**Conductor** - A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.

**Clef** - Something to jump from before the viola solo.

**Transposition** - The act of moving the relative pitch of a piece of music that is too low for the basses to a point where it is too high for the sopranos.

**Vibrato** - Used by saxophonists to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.

**Half step** - the pace used by a saxophonist when carrying his instrument.

**Coloratura soprano** - A singer who has great trouble finding the proper note, but has a wild time hunting for it.

**Chromatic scale** - An instrument for weighing that indicates half-pounds.

**A bar line** - A gathering of people, usually among which may be found a musician or two.

**Beat** - What music students do to each other with their instruments. The down beat is performed on top of the head, while the up beat is struck under the chin.

Cadence - When everybody hopes you're going to stop, but you don't.

**Diatonic** - low-calorie Schweppes.

**lamentoso** - with handkerchiefs.

**Virtuosos** - A musician with very high morals. (I know one)

**Music** - A complex organization of sounds that is set down by the composer, incorrectly interpreted by the conductor, who is ignored by the musicians, the result of which is ignored by the audience.

**Oboe** - An ill wind that nobody blows good.

**Tenor** - Two hours before a nooner.

**Diminished fifth** - an empty bottle of Jack Daniels.

**Perfect fifth** - A full bottle of Jack Daniels.

**Ritard** - There's one in every family.

**Relative major** - An uncle in the Marine Corps.

**Relative minor** - A girlfriend.

**Big Band** - When the bar plays enough to bring two banjo players.

**Pianissimo** - "Refill this beer bottle."

**Repeat** - What you do until they just expel you.

**Treble** - Women ain't nothin' but.

**Bass** - The things you run around in baseball.

**Portamento** - A foreign country you've always wanted to visit.

**Conductor** - The man who punches your ticket to Birmingham.

**Arpeggio** - "Ain't he that storybook kid with the big nose that grows?"

**Tempo** - A good choice when buying a used car.

**"A" 440** - The Highway that runs around Nashville.

**Transposition** - Men who wear dresses, or: An advanced saxophone technique where you change from alto to clarinet fingering (or vice-versa) in the middle of a piece.

**Cut time** - Parole, or: When everyone else is playing twice as fast as you are.

**Order of sharps** - What a wimp gets at the bar.

**Passing tone** - Frequently heard near the baked beans at family barbecues.

**Middle C** - The only fruit drink you can afford when food stamps are low.

**Perfect pitch** - The smooth coating on a freshly paved road.

**Tuba** - A compound word: "Hey, women! Fetch me another tuba Bryll Cream!"

**Cadenza** - That ugly thing your wife always vacuums dog hair off of when company comes, or: The heroine in Monteverdi's opera *Frottola*.

**Whole note** - What's due after failing to pay the mortgage for a year.

**Clef** - What you try never to fall off of.

**Bass clef** - Where you wind up if you do fall off.

**altos** - Not to be confused with "Tom's toes," "Bubba's toes" or "Dori-toes."

**Minor third** - Your approximate age and grade at the completion of formal schooling.

**Melodic minor** - Loretta Lynn's singing dad.

**12-tone scale** - The thing that State Police weigh your tractor truck with.

**Quarter tone** - What most standard pickups can haul.

**Sonata** - What you get from a band cold or hay fever.



**Clarinet** - Name used on your second daughter if you're already used Betty Jo.

**Cello** - The proper way to answer the phone.

**Bassoon** - Typical response when asked what you hope to catch, and when, or: a bedpost with a bad case of gas.

**French horn** - Your wife says you smell like a cheap one when you come in a 4 a.m.

**Cymbal** - What they use on deer-crossing signs so you know what to sight-in your pistol with.

**Bossa nova** - The car your foreman drives.

**Time signature** - What you need from your boss if you forget to clock in.

**First inversion** - Grandpa's battle group at Normandy.

**Staccato** - How you did all the ceilings in your mobile home.

**Major scale** - What you say after chasing wild game up a mountain: "Damn! That was a major scale!"

**Aeolian mode** - How you like Mama's cherry pie.

**Bach chorale** - The place behind the barn where you keep the horses.

**Plague** - A collective noun as in "a plague of conductors."

**Audition** - The act of putting oneself under extreme duress to satisfy the sadistic intentions of someone who has already made up his mind.

**Accidentals** - wrong notes.

**Augmented fifth** - a 36-ounce bottle.

**Broken consort** - When someone in the ensemble has to leave to go to the bathroom.

**Cantus firmus** - The part you get when you can play only four notes.

**Clausula** - Mrs. Santa Claus.

**Crotchet** - like knitting, but faster.

**Embouchure** - The way you look when you're been playing the Krummhorn.

**Hocket** - The thing that fits into a crochet to produce a rackets.

**Interval** - How long it takes to find the right note. There are three kinds:

Major interval: a long time.

Minor interval: a few bars.

Inverted interval: When you have to go back a bar and try again.

**Intonation** - Singing through one's nose. considered highly desirable in the Middle Ages.

**Iso rhythmic motet** - When half of the ensemble got a different edition from the other half.

**Minnesinger** - A boy soprano.

**Musica ficta** - When you lose your place and have to bluff until you find it again.

**Neums** - Renaissance ;midgets.

**Neumatic melishma** - A bronchial disorder caused by hockets.

**Rota** - An early Italian method of teaching music without score or parts.

**Trotto** - An early Italian form of Montezuma's Revenge.

**Lauda** - The difference between shawms and krummhorns.  
**Sancta** - Clausula's husband.  
**Lasso** - The 6th and 5th steps of a descending scale.  
**DiLasso** - Popular with Italian cowboys.  
**Quaver** - Beginning viol class.  
**Rackett** - Capped reeds class.  
**Ritornello** - A Verdi opera.  
**Supertonic** - Schweppes.  
**Trope** - A malevolent neum.  
**Tutti** - A lot of sackbuts.  
**Stops** - Something Bach didn't have on his organ.  
**Agnes Dei** - A famous female church composer.  
**Metronome** - A city-dwelling dwarf.  
**Allegro** - Leg fertilizer.  
**Recitative** - A disease that Monteverdi had.  
**Transsectionals** - An alto who moves to the soprano section.

### **Music Terms Used by Country-Western Musicians**

**Diminished fifth** - an empty bottle of Jack Daniels  
**Perfect fifth** - A full bottle of Jack Daniels  
**Ritard** - There's one in every family  
**Relative major** - An uncle in the Marine Corps  
**Relative minor** - a girlfriend  
**Big Bamd** - When the bar pays enough to bring two banjo players  
**Pianissimo** - "Refill this beer bottle"  
**Repeat** - What you do until they just expel you  
**Treble** - Women ain't nothin' but  
**Bass** - the things you run around in softball  
**Portamento** - A foreign country you've always wanted to see  
**Conductor** - The man who punches your tecket to Birmingham  
**Arpeggio** - "Ain't he that storybook kid with the big nose that grows?"  
**Tempo** - Good choice for a used car  
**A 440** - The highway that runs around Nashville  
**Transpositions** - Men who wear dresses  
**Cut Time** - Parole  
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**Whole Note** - What's due after failing to pay the mortgage for a year

**Clef** - What you try never to fall off of

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**Altos** - Not to be confused with "Tom's toes," "Bubba's Toes," etc.

**Minor Third** - Your approximate age and grade at the completion of formal schooling

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**12-Tone Scale** - The thing the State Police weigh your tractor trailer truck with..

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**Bassoon** - Typical response when asked what you hope to catch, and when.

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**Bossa Nova** - The car your foreman drives

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**Major Scale** - What you say after chasing wild game up a mountain:  
"Darn! That was a major scale!"

**Aeolian Mode** - How you like Mama's cherry pie

**Bach Chorale** - The place behind the barn where you keep the horses.

### Longer Musician Jokes

Joe Blow, a trombonist, was once handed an autograph book by a fan while in the greenroom after a concert.

"There's not much room on this page," he said. "What shall I write?"

Another trombonist, standing by, offered the following helpful hint: "Write your repertoire."

At a rehearsal, the conductor stops and shouts to the bass section: "You are out of tune. Check it, please."

The first bassist pulls all his strings, says, "Our tuning is correct: All the strings are equally tight."

The first violist turns around and shouts, "You bloody idiot! It's not the tension. The pegs have to be parallel."

There was a certain bartender who was quite famous for being able to accurately guess people's IQ's. One night a man walked in and talked to him briefly and the bartender said, "Wow! You must have an IQ of about 140! You should meet this guy over here." So they talked for a while about nuclear physics and existential philosophy and had a great time.

A second man walked in and soon the bartender has guessed about a 90 IQ for him. So he sat him down in front of the big-screen TV and he watched football with the other guys and had a hell of a time.

Then a third man stumbled in and talked to the bartender for a while. The bartender said to himself, "Jeez! I think this guy's IQ must be about 29!" He took him over to a man sitting in a little table back in the corner and said, "You might enjoy talking with this guy for a while."

After the bartender left, the man at the table said, "So do you play French bow or German bow?"

Two musicians are walking down the street, and one says to the other, "Who was that piccolo I saw you with last night?"

The other replies, "That was no piccolo, that was my fife?"

In an emergency a jazz trumpeter was hired to do some solos with a symphony orchestra. Everything went fine through the first movement, when he had some really hair-raising solos, but in the second movement he started going improvising madly when he wasn't supposed to play at all.

After the concert the conductor came round looking for an explanation. He said, "I looked in the score and it said 'tacit' so I took it!"

A girl went out on a date with a trumpet player, and when she came back her roommate asked, "Well, how was it? Did his embouchure make him a great kisser?"

"Nah," the first girl replied, "That dry, tight, tiny little pucker; it was no fun at all."

The next night she went out with a tuba player, and when she came back her roommate asked, "Well, how was his kissing?"

"Ugh!" the first girl exclaimed. "Those huge, rubbery, blubbery, slobbering dabs of meat; oh, it was just gross!"

The next night she went out with a French horn player, and when she came back her roommate asked, "Well, how was his kissing?"

"Well," the first girl replied, "his kissing was just so-so; but I loved the way he held me!"

In New York City, an out of work jazz drummer named Joe was thinking of throwing himself off a bridge. But then he ran into a former booking agent who told him about the fantastic opportunities for drummers in Iraq. The agent said, "If you can find your way over there, just take my card and look up the band leader named Faisal-he's the large guy with the beard wearing gold pajamas and shoes that curl up at the toes." Joe hit up everyone he knew and borrowed enough to buy transport to Iraq. It took several days

to arrange for passport, visas, transportation into Iraq and the shipping of his equipment, but he was finally on his way.

Joe arrived in Baghdad and immediately started searching for Faisal. he found guys in pajamas of every color but gold. Finally, in a small coffeehouse, he saw a huge man with a beard - wearing gold pajamas and shoes that curled up at the toes! Joe approached him and asked if he was Faisal. he was. Joe gave him the agent's card and Faisal's face brightened into a huge smile.

"You're just in time - I need you for a gig tonight. Meet me at the market near the mosque at 7:30 with your equipment."

"But," gasped Joe, "what about a rehearsal?"

"No time - don't worry." And with that, Faisal disappeared.

Joe arrived in the market at 7:00 to set up his gear. He introduced himself to the other musicians, who were all playing instruments he had never seen in his life. At 7:30 sharp, Faisal appeared and hopped on the bandstand, his gold pajamas glittering in the twilight. Without a word to the musicians, he lifted his arm for the downbeat.

"Wait, shouted Joe. "What are we playing?"

Faisal shot him a look of frustration and shouted back, "Fake it, Just give me heavy after beats on 7 and 13."

A jazz musician dies and goes to heaven. he is told "Hey man, welcome! You have been elected to the Jazz All-Stars of Heaven - right up there with Satchmo, Miles, Django, all the greats. We have a gig tonight. Only one problem - God's girlfriend gets to sing."

In the last act of Don Giovanni, there is always a statue which is replaced at some point by a real singer, a bass (the Commendatore). How can you tell when the switch has occurred?

The "statue" starts looking a bit stiff.

There's nothing I like better than the sound of a banjo, unless of course it's the sound of a chicken caught in a vacuum cleaner.

Minimum safe distances between street musicians and the public:

Violinist: 25 feet

Bad Violinist: 50 feet

Tone Deaf Guitar Player who knows 3 chords: 75 feet.

15 year old electric guitar player with Nirvana fixation: 100 feet

Accordionist: 60 miles.

Two musicians are driving down a road. All of a sudden they notice the Grim Reaper in the back seat. Death informs them that they had an accident and they both died. But, before he must take them off into eternity, he grants each musician with one last request to remind them of their past life on earth. The first musician says he was a country & Western musician and would like to hear eight choruses of *Achy-Breaky Heart* as a last hoorah! The second musician says "I was a jazz musician ...kill me now!"

A Jazz musician was told by his doctor, "I am very sorry to tell you that you have cancer and you have only one more year to live."

The Jazz musician replied, "And what am I going to live on for an entire year?"

A musician arrived at the pearly gate.

"What did you do when you were alive?" Asked St. Peter.

"I was the principal trombone player of the New Orleans Philharmonic."

"Excellent! We have a vacancy in our celestial symphony orchestra for a trombonist. Why don't you turn up at the next rehearsal?"

So, when the time for the next rehearsal arrived our friend turned up with his heavenly trombonist (sic). As he took his seat God moved, in a mysterious way, to the podium and tapped his baton to bring the players to attention. Our friend turned to the angelic second trombonist (!) and whispered, "So, What's God like as a conductor?"

"Oh, he O.K. most of the time, but occasionally he thinks he's Von Karajan."

A guy walks into a pet store wanting a parrot. The store clerk shows him two beautiful ones out on the floor. "This one's \$5,000 and the other is \$10,000," the clerk said.

"Wow! What does the \$5,000 one do?"

"This parrot can sing every aria Mozart ever wrote."

"And the other?" said the customer.

"This one can sing Wagner's Ring cycle. There's another one in the back room for \$30,000.

"Holy Moly! What does that one do?"

"Nothing that I can tell, but the other two parrots call him 'Maestro.'"

A new conductor was at his first rehearsal. It was not going well. he was wary of the musicians as they were of him. As he left the rehearsal room, the timpanist sounded a rude little "bong." The angry conductor turned and said, "All right! Who did that?"

A trumpeter was auditioning for the Dukes of Dixieland in 1990. After his audition he was talking with the conductor.

"What do you think about Armstrong?" asked the conductor.

"Ah.." the trumpeter replied, "Armstrong is a great guy! Real talented musician. In fact, he and I were just playing some duets together last week!"

The conductor was impressed. "And what do you think of Miles?" he asked him.

"Oh, he's just swell! I just had dinner with him last week.!" replied the violinist. Then the violinist looked at his watch and said he had to leave to catch the 1:30 train to New Orleans.

Afterwards, the conductor was discussing him with the board members. he said he felt very uneasy about hiring this trumpeter, because there seemed to be a serious credibility gap. The conductor knew for certain that there was no 1:30 train to New Orleans.

A violist came home and found his house burned to the ground. When he asked what happened, the police told him "Well, apparently the conductor came to your house, and..."

The violist's eyes lit up and he interrupted excitedly, "The conductor? Came to *My* house?"

A viola player went to a piano recital. After the performance he went up to the pianist and said, "You know, I particularly liked that piece you played last - the one that started with a long trill."

The pianist said, "Huh? I didn't play any pieces that started with trills."

The viola player said, "You know - (he hums the opening bars of *Fur Elise*.)"

A violist in an orchestra was crying and screaming at the oboe player sitting directly behind him. The conductor asked, "What are you so upset about?"

The violist replied "The oboist reached over and turned one of the peg on my viola and now it's all out of tune!"

The conductor asked "Don't you think you're overreacting?"

The violist replied "*I'm not overreacting! He won't tell me which one!*"

A violinist noticed at the end of each rehearsal break, one of the violists would look at the inside flap of his jacket before he sat down to resume rehearsal. This continued for several decades, and the violinist became quite curious about it. One day, during hot weather, the violist took off his jacket and went off on break. The violinist waited until everyone was off the platform, looked around, and sneaked over to the jacket. He pulled back the flap and saw a little note pinned on the inside. it read; "Viola left hand, bow right."

A man went into a novelty shop and saw an item that caught his fancy almost immediately. It was a stuffed rat. The man couldn't take his eyes off it, and finally asked how much it cost. The answer was \$69.98, but if you buy it, you can't return it for any reason." The man thought this was a bit odd, but he was really taken by the stuffed rat so he bought it.

As he headed down the street with the stuffed rat, several live rats started following him. He thought this was really odd, but he kept walking. Within a few blocks, he had a huge pack of rats behind him. When he got to the river, he threw the stuffed rat into the river, and all the live rats jumped into the river and drowned.

The man returned to the shop. As soon as he walked in, the owner said, "I told you you couldn't return the stuffed rat!"

The man said, "No! I don't want to return it  
! I was wondering if you had any stuffed banjoist."

A American orchestra had just arrived in Europe for a two-week tour. One hour before the first concert, the conductor became very ill and was unable to conduct, and the orchestra suddenly had to find a substitute. The orchestra manager asked everyone in the

orchestra whether they could step in and conduct, and the only person who was willing was the last chair violist.

The manager was very nervous about this. "We can't audition you, " he said.

"no problem." replied the violist.

"There's no time to rehearse, You'll have to do the concert cold."

"I know, It'll be all right."

The violist conducted the concert and it was a smashing success. Since the conductor remained ill for the duration of the tour, the violist conducted all of the concerts, getting rave reviews and standing ovations at each one.

At the next rehearsal, the conductor had recovered, and the violist took his place at the back of the viola section. As he sat down, his stand partner asked him. "*Where've you been for the last tow weeks?*"

Once there was a violist playing in the Winnipeg symphony. He wasn't that wonderful a player, so he sat at the back of the section. One day he was cleaning out his attic and discovered an old lamp. He gave it a rub and out popped a genie.

"For letting me out of the lamp I'll grant you three wishes!" he said.

The violist thought for a moment and replied, "Make me a far better musician than I am now."

The genie told him that this would be done. He was to go to sleep, and in the morning he would be a much better musician. The next day he woke up to find himself the principal violist of the symphony. Well, this was just great, he thought! But he knew he could do better. he rubbed the lamp again, and out popped the genie.

"You have two more wishes!" he said.

I want you to make me a better musician than I am even now!"

Once again, the genie told him to go to bed, and when he woke up it would be so. When the violist awoke, he found he was now the principal violist of the Berlin Philharmonic. Well, the violist thought this was pretty grand, but knew he could do better yet. He rubbed on the lamp again, and once more out came the genie.

"This is your last wish, "the genie said.

"I want you to make me yet a better musicians still!"

Yet again, he was told to go to sleep. The next morning, he woke up to find himself back in Winnipeg, sitting in the last desk of the second violin section.

A musician from the New Orleans Philharmonic one day ran across an old lamp at a garage sale, took it home, washed it up, and out popped a genie.

"Thank you kind sir for releasing me from this old lamp. I regret to say that you have encountered a poor, less powerful genie, and I can only grant you one wish, but wish away." said the genie.

"Oh that's wonderful. I think I would really like to make a difference in the world wish my one wish," said the musician. He thought for a moment and then reached for his atlas. "Here's a map of the Middle East. The people who live there have been fighting for years and years. For my one wish, I would like to be peace to this land."



The genie, a little caught off guard, said "Oh, ah...that's a little bit too much for even this old master to handle. Ah, ya see, these people... they're involved in that touchy religious stuff, and ah, the kids, aah, they begin fighting when they're just teenagers. I'm afraid you're going to have to make another wish."

Well, okay," said the musician. "For my one wish, I would just once like to hear my jazz band's saxophone section play in tune>"

The genie quickly thought for a moment and replied, "Um. let me take a look at those maps again."

A drummer was hiking in the mountains, and he came upon a shepherd who was tending a large herd of sheep that were grazin gin the alpine meadow. The drummer took a fancy to the sheep, and asked the shepherd: "If I can guess how many sheep you have, can I have one?"

The shepherd thought this was an odd request, but thought that there was little chance that the man would guess the exact number of sheep, so he said "Sure."

The drummer guessed "You have 288 sheep," to the shepherd's astonishment, since this was exactly how many sheep he had.

The drummer got all excited and asked "'Can I pick out my sheep now?" and the shepherd grudgingly gave his permission. The drummer selected his sheep, bent over, and swung the sheep over his shoulders, to carry home with him.

The shepherd then got an idea and asked "If I guess what your occupation is, can I have my sheep back?" The drummer was a bit surprised buy this, but figured that it was unlikely that the shepherd would be able to guess his occupation, and welt along with the deal. The shepherd then guessed, "You're a drummer, aren't you?"

he drummer was very surprised and asked, "How did you know?"

The shepherd responded, "Put the dog down and we'll talk about it."

When "Oetzi," the famous glacier-mummy, was found in the Alps, archeologists and anthropologists were mystified by the riddle of "Oetzi's" nature, the chief question being: "How did he get under the ice-fields?" Thanks to a joint venture operation by leading music-anthropologists the mystery has found its solution. "Oetiz" must have been a drummer. How else could the glacier have caught up with him?

In order to save money, the musicians decided to build their Union Hall themselves. As they proceeded to do the job, gradually the hierarchy of the musicians was reflected in the jobs that they did. The drummers found themselves at the bottom of a ditch doing the nastiest of the digging. Above the, supervising, was a trumpet player. One drummer turned to another and asked, "How come we're working down here and he's working up there?"

The other responded, "I don't know, but I'll go up there and ask."

The drummer crawled up to the top of the ditch. "Why are we down there digging while you're up here supervising?" the drummer asked the trumpeter.

"Because I'm smarter than you," was the reply.

Huh, I don't understand," the confused drummer said.

"Allow me to demonstrate," said the trumpeter. he walked up to the nearest tree, put out his open hand in front of the tree and said to the drummer, "Hit my hand!"

The drummer reared back with his fist and shot a punch at the trumpeter's open hand. At the last instant, the trumpeter moved his hand out of the way so that the drummer's fist went slamming into the tree.

"Ow!," cried the drummer, "I see what you mean." He then returned to the ditch and his friend waiting below.

"Well," said the other drummer, "Did you find out why he's up there and we're down here?"

"Yes," said the drummer, whose hand was still throbbing. "It's because he's smarter than us."

"I don't understand, " said his friend.

"Let me explain it to you, " said the drummer. he then took his open and placed it in front of his own face.

"Now," he said, "hit my hand with your shovel!"

A group of terrorists hijacked a plane full of banjo players. They called down to ground control with their list of demands and added that if their demands weren't met, they would release one banjo every hour.

Once upon a time there was a hospital where they made brain transplantations. A client asked about the prices.

The doctor said, "Well, this Ph.D. brain cost \$10,000...this brain belonged to a NASA top scientist and costs \$15,000...oh yes, here we have a drummer's brain as well. It costs \$50,000.

The client asked, "What? How's that possible?"

The doctor replied, "You see, it's totally unused."

A noted bon vivant and comic was recently flying to Rome. He decided to strike up a conversation with his seat mate.

"I've got a great drummer joke. Would you like to hear it?"

"I should let you know first that I am a drummer."

"That's OK. I'll tell it real slow!"

One day Freddie came home from elementary school very excited. "Mommy, Mommy, Guess what? Today in English I got all the way to the end of the alphabet, and everyone else got messed up around "P."

His mother said, "Very good, dear. That's because you're a drummer.

The next day, Freddie was even more excited. "Mommy, Mommy, guess what! Today in math I counted all the way to ten, but everyone else got messed up around seven!"

"Very good, dear," his mother replied. "That's because you're a drummer."

On the third day, Freddie was beside himself, "Mommy, Mommy, today we measured ourselves and I'm the tallest one in my class!. Is that because I'm a drummer?"

"No dear," she said, "That's because you're 26 years old."

A man (call him Horace) went on a safari in darkest Africa with a bunch of other people and some native guides. They traveled on foot, going deep into the jungle where they could hear the screeching of birds and howling of wild cats and other fierce wild animals.

After a few days of travel, Horace came to notice that there was a constant drumming noise in the background. he asked the leader of the guides what the drumming was. he got no answer, just a stony silence. The drumming continued all day and all night for the next several days. In fact, as they traveled deeper into the jungle the drumming got even louder. Horace tried again to find out when the drumming meant by asking the other native guides, but he still got no answer.

Finally one morning, after days of marching to this drumming (which by now was sounding quite ominous), the drums suddenly stopped. The native guides screamed and ran into the jungle to hide in the undergrowth. The leader remained behind with his charges, but he was trembling with fear. Horace asked "What is wrong? Why have the drums stopped?"

The native guide replied "Very bad."

"What?" asked Horace, who was expecting the worst.

The guide answered, "When drum stops, very bad - next comes saxophone solo."

One day, a tuba player wanted to torture the drummer behind him, so he hid one of the drummers sticks. After looking around for a few minutes with a frantic, wide-eyed expression, the drummer fell to his knees, flung his arms wide, and screamed to heaven: "Finally! The miracle, after all these years! I'm a conductor.

A woman and her friend are walking down the sidewalk when they come upon a frog. The frog looks up at them and says, 'Please help me, I'm a jazz saxophonist and a witch put a horrible spell on me and turned me into a frog. If one of you picks me up and kisses me, the spell will be broken and I'll back into a jazz saxophonist. I'll marry you, play you the most beautiful songs all the time, take you to all my gigs if you want, and we'll live happily ever after.'" The woman picks up the frog, puts it in her handbag and starts walking away very quickly. her friend runs to catch up to her and asks, "Aren't you going to kiss the frog? The woman replies, "Hell NO! A talking frog is worth a hell of lot more than a jazz saxophonist!"

Female vocalist asks her keyboard players, "I'd like to do "My Funny Valentine" tonight. But can you think of a way to 'jazz' it up?" Keyboard player replies, "Sure, we can do the first chorus in G minor, then modulate to G# minor for the second chorus in 5/4 time, then modulate to A minor in 3/4 time for the bridge, then cut off the last 3 bars!"

She exclaimed, "that might be too complicated to do without a rehearsal."

Keyboard Player responds, "Well, that's how you did it last night."

St. Peter is checking Id's at the pearly Gates, and first comes a Texan. "Tell me, what have you done in life?" says St. Peter.

The Texan says, "Well, I struck oil, so I became rich, but I didn't sit on my laurels- I divided all my money among my entire family in my will, so our descendants are all set for about three generations."

St. Peter says, "That's quite something. come on in. Next!"

The second guy in line has been listening, so he say, 'I struck it big in the stock market, but I didn't selfishly just provide for my own like that Texan guy. I donated five million to Save the Children."

"Wonderful" says St. peter. "Come in. Who's next?"

The third guy has been listening, and says timidly with a downcast look, "Well, I only made five thousand dollars in my entire lifetime."

"Heavens!" says St. peter. "What instrument did you play?"

St. Peter was still checking Id's. He asks a man, "What did you do on Earth?"

`The man said, "I was a doctor."

St. Peter says, "OK, go right through those pearly gates. Next! What did you do on Earth?"

"I was a school teacher."

"Go right through those pearly gates. Next! And what did you do on Earth?"

"I was a musician."

Go round the side, up the freight elevator, through the kitchen."

A first violinist, a second violinist, a virtuoso violist, and a bass player are at the four corners of a football field. At the signal, someone drops a 100 dollar bill in the middle of the field and they run to grab it. Who gets it?

The second violinist, because:

- 1 - No first violinist is going anywhere for only 100 dollars.
- 2 - There's no such thing as a virtuoso violist.
- 3 - The bass player hasn't figured out what it's all about.

## **JAZZ BAND PERSONNEL STANDARDS**

Conductor:

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound.

Is more powerful than a locomotive.

Is faster than a speeding bullet.

Walks on water.

Gives policy to God.

1St trumpet:

Leaps short buildings in a single bound

Is more powerful than a switch engine

Is just as fast as a speeding bullet

Walks on water if sea is calm

Talks with God

Trombone:

Barely clears a Quonset hut  
 Loses tug-of-war with locomotive  
 Can fire a speeding bullet  
 Swims well  
 Is occasionally addressed by God

Clarinet:

Makes marks high on wall when trying to clear short buildings.  
 Is run over by locomotive  
 Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury  
 Dog-paddles  
 Talks to animals

String Bass:

Runs into buildings  
 Recognizes locomotives two times out of three  
 Is not issued any ammunition  
 Can stay afloat with a life jacket  
 Talks to walls, argues with self.

Saxophone:

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter buildings.  
 Says "Look at the choo-choo."  
 Wets self with water pistol  
 Plays in mud puddles  
 Loses arguments with self.

Drummer:

Lifts buildings and walks under them  
 Kicks locomotives off the tracks  
 Catches speeding bullets in teeth and eats them.  
 Drinks booze, never heard of water  
 Can't understand when he talks to himself.

## **More Musical Humor**

**It was the first day of school and the teacher thought she'd get to know the kids by asking them their names and what their fathers did for a living.**

**The first little girl said, "My name is Mary and my daddy is a postman."**

**The next little boy said, "I'm Andy and my dad is a mechanic."**

**It was then little Johnny's turn and he said, "My name is Johnny and my father is a striptease dancer in a cabaret for gay men."**

**The teacher gasped and quickly moved on, but later, in the school yard, the teacher approached Johnny privately and asks if it was really true that his dad dances nude in a gay bar.**

**Little Johnny blushed and said, "Nah, he's really a professional banjo player but I was just too embarrassed."**

## **Name This Popular Song!**

**Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail, and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.**

**This made him What?**

**"A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis!"**

## **Heavenly Music**

These two old sax players are in the hospital. One is dying of an incurable disease, and his friend is seeing him thru to the very end.

As the dying man takes his last breaths, he whispers into his dear friend's ear, "Watch for me, 'cause I'm coming back to tell you what the afterlife is like."

"Cool," His friend replies. Later that night the man passes on.

About a week later the sax player is walking in the park, and feels a cold rush of air creep down his back. He looks around only to see his dear departed friend! No longer sickly and in pain, he now has a warm smile on his transparent face.

"Can you believe it, I went to Heaven! He said excitedly. "It's better than I ever dreamed! Everybody's there! Miles, and Ella, Sarah, Basie...even Bird! Everyday and night we jam. We even trade instruments, and I found I can lay them all with ease! Heaven is better than I ever thought it would be!"

"That's so wonderful!", his beaming friend replied, tears streaming down his face. "Now I have something to look forward to!" The two men sat staring out onto the lake, not speaking for a while.

"There's just one thing," the departed man said wistfully. "God's got a girlfriend, and she sings."

### Remarks by Famous People

Victor Borge: “Flint must be a extremely wealthy town: I see that each of you bought two or three seats.” (playing to a half-filled house in Flint, Mich.)

Oscar Wilde: “If one hears bad music it is one’s duty to drown it by one’s conversation.”

Gustav Mahler: (to Bruno Walter-who had stopped to admire mountain scenery in rural Austria.) “Don’t bother to look, I’ve composed all this already.”

Cole Porter: “My sole inspiration is a telephone call from a producer.

Xavier Cugat: “I would rather play “Chiquita Banana” and have my swimming pool than play Bach and Starve.”

Jean Sibelius: (Explaining why he rarely invited musicians to his home) “Musicians talk of nothing but money and jobs. Give me businessmen every time. They really are interested in music and art.”

Kirke Mechem: “Only become a musician if there is absolutely no other way you can make a living.”

Mark Twain: “Wagner’s music is better than it sounds.”

Dimitri

Mitropoulos: “I never use a score when conducting my orchestra. Does a lion tamer enter a cage with a book on how to tame a lion?”

Arturo

Toscanini: (to a trumpet player) “God tells me how the music should sound, but you stand in the way.”

Bob Hope: (on comedienne Phyllis Diller ) “When she started to play, Steinway himself came down personally and rubbed his name off the piano.”

Richard Strauss: “Never look at the trombones. It only encourages them.”

Claude Debussy: “In opera, there is always too much singing.”

G. Rossini: “Oh how wonderful, really wonderful, opera would be if there were no singers.”

Bing Crosby: “I think popular music in this country is one of the few things in century that has made giant strides in reverse.”

Buddy Rich: “They should put all country musicians in an assylum for the criminally untalented.”

### **Actual Answers on Music Exams**

The principal singer of nineteenth century opera was called “pre-Madonna.”

It is easy to teach anyone to play the maracas. Just grip the neck and shake him in rhythm.

Gregorian chant has no music, just singers singing the same lines.

Sherbet composed the Unfinished symphony.

All female parts were sung by Castrati. We don’t know exactly what they sounded like because there are no known descendants.

Young scholars have expressed their rapture for the “Brongze Lullaby,” “The Taco Bell Cannon,” “Beethoven’s Erotica,” “Tchaikovsky’s Cracknutter Suite,” and “Gershwin’s Rap City in “Blue.”

Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel: if they sing without music it is called Acapulco.

A virtuoso is a musician with real high notes.

Contralto is a low sort of music that only ladies sing.

Diatonic is a low calorie Schweppes.

Probably the most marvelous fugue was the one between the Hatfields and the McCoys.

A harp is a nude piano.

The main trouble with a French Horn is that it is too tangled up.

An interval in music is the distance from one piano to the next.

The correct way to find the key to a piece of music is to use a pitchfork.

Agitato is a state of mind when one’s finger slips in the middle of playhing a piece.

Refrain means don’t do it. A refrain in music is the part you’d better not try to sing.

I know what a sextet is but I’d rather not say.



Most authorities agree that music of antiquity was written long ago.

My favorite composer was Opus. Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music.

Henry Purcell was a well-known composer few people have ever heard of.

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic.

Rock Monanoff was a famous post-romantic composer of piano concerti.

### **More Humor**

A young child says to his mother, “Mom, when I grow up I think I’d like to be a musicianj.” She replied, “Well honey, you know you can’t do both.”

A female vocalist asks her keyboard player, “I’d like to do “My Funny Valentine” tonight, but can you think of a way to ‘jazz’ it up?”

Keyboard player replies, “Sure, we can do the first chorus in G minor, then modulate to G# minor for the second chorus iin 5/4 time, then mudlate to A minor in ¾ time for the bridge, then cut off the last 3 bars!”

She replied, “That might be too complicated to do without a rehearsal!”

Keyboard player responds: “Well, that’s how you did it last night!”

### **More Musical Questions?**

Q. What do you call a beautiful woman on a trombonists’ arm?

A. A tattoo!

Q. What do you call a drummer in a three-piece suit?

A. The defendant.

Q. What do clarinetists use for birth control?

A. Their personalities.

Q. What did the drummer get on his I. Q. test?

A. Saliva.

Q. What’s the similarity between a drummer and a philosopher?

A. They both perceive time as an abstract concept.

Q. What is the diffrence between a drummer and a vacuum cleaner?

A. You have to plug one of them in before it sucks.

Q. What’s the difference between a guitar player and a large pizza?

A. A large pizza can feed a family of four.

Q. What's the latest crime wave in New York City?

A. Drive-by trombone solos.

Q. what's the definition of a minor second interval?

A. Two soprano sax players reading off the same part.

Q. What is another term for trombone?

A. A wind driven, manually operated, pitch approximator.

Q. How do you get an oboist to play Ab?

A. Take the batteries out of his electronic tuner.

Q. What is the dynamic range of a bass trombone?

A. On or off.

Q. what's the difference between a SCUD missile and a bad oboist?

A. A bad oboist can kill you.

Q. What do you call a group of lesbians with guns?

A. Militia Etheridge.

Q. why do clarinetists leave their cases on the dashboard?

A. so they can park in the handicapped zones.

Q. What's the difference between the front desk of violas and the backdesk of violas?

A. At least a semi-tone.

Q. Why do people play trombone?

A. Because they can't move their fingers and read music at the same time.

Q. What do you call a guitar player that only knows two chords?

A. A music critic.

Q. How do you keep your violin from being stolen?

A. Put it in a viola case.

Q. What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common?

A. Everyone is relieved when the case is closed.

Q. There are two tuba players sitting in a car. Who's driving?

A. The policeman.

Q. Why are harps like elderly parents?

A. both are unforgiving and hard to get into and out of cars?

Q. How many trumpet players does it take to pave a driveway?

A. Seven – if you lay them out correctly.

Q. what's the first thing a girl singer does in the morning?

A. Puts on her clothes and goes home.

Q. What's the difference between an oboe and a bassoon?

A. You can hit a baseball further with a bassoon.

Q. what's the difference between a Wagnerian soprano and a baby elephant?

A. Eleven pounds.

Q. what's the difference between alto clef and Greek?

A. some conductors actually read Greek.

Q. what do you call someone who hangs out with musicians?

A. a drummer.

Q. what's the definition of a half-tone?

A. Two fretless bass players playing in unison.

Q. What's the world's greatest optimist?

A. A banjo player with a pager.

A. How do you get a guitar player to stop playing?

B. A. Put some sheet music in front of him.

Q. Why do bagpipe players walk while they play?

A. To get away from the sound.

Q. What's the difference between a trombone player and a dead armadillo in the road?

A. The armadillo was on his way to a gig.

Q. What's the difference between a drummer and a bass player?

A. About half a beat.

Q. How do you know when a drummer's at the door?

A. The knocking speeds up.

Q. How do you know when a singer's at the door?

A. They don't know when to come in and can't find the key.

Q. what's the definition of perfect pitch?

A. Tossing an accordion into the toilet without hitting the rim.

What's the definition of a gentleman?

A. someone who knows how to play the oboe but doesn't.

Q. what's the difference between a musician and a bond? A. Eventually a bond matures and earns money.

Q. What is the difference between a violist and a prostitute?

A. 1 – A prostitute knows more than two positions.

2 – Prostitutes have a better sense of rhythm.

### **Definitions**

Glissando – A technique adopted by string players for difficult runs.

Audition: The act of putting oneself under extreme duress to satisfy the sadistic intentions of someone who has already made up his mind.

Vibrato: Used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.

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