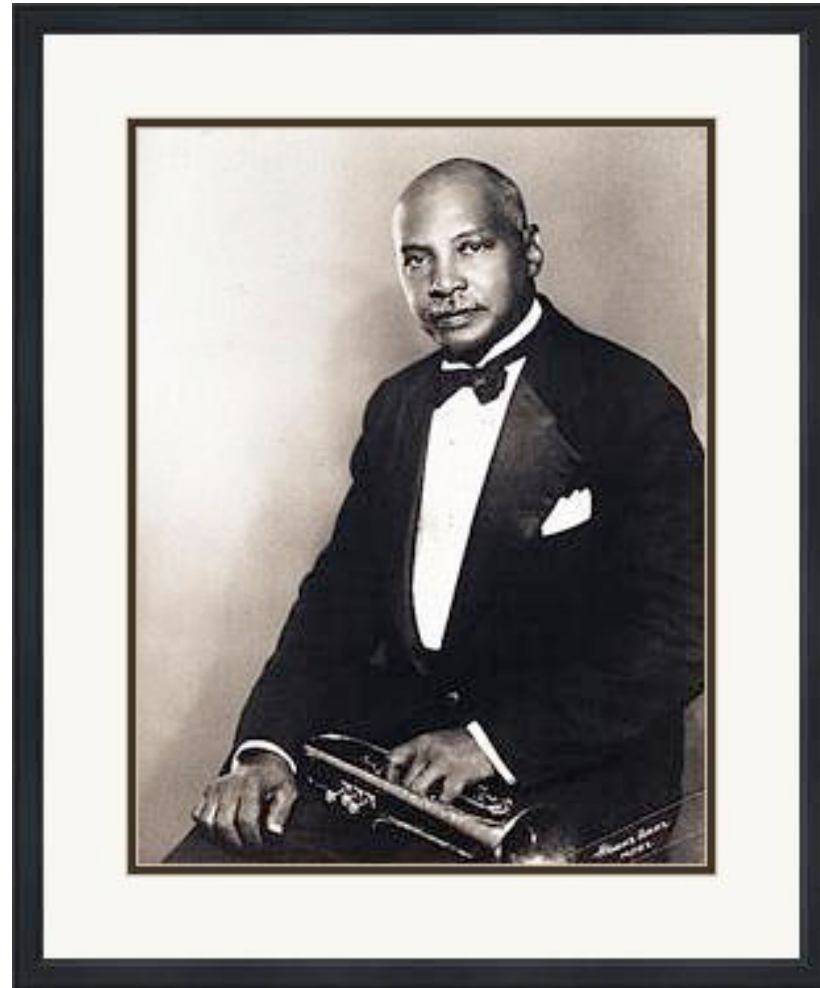
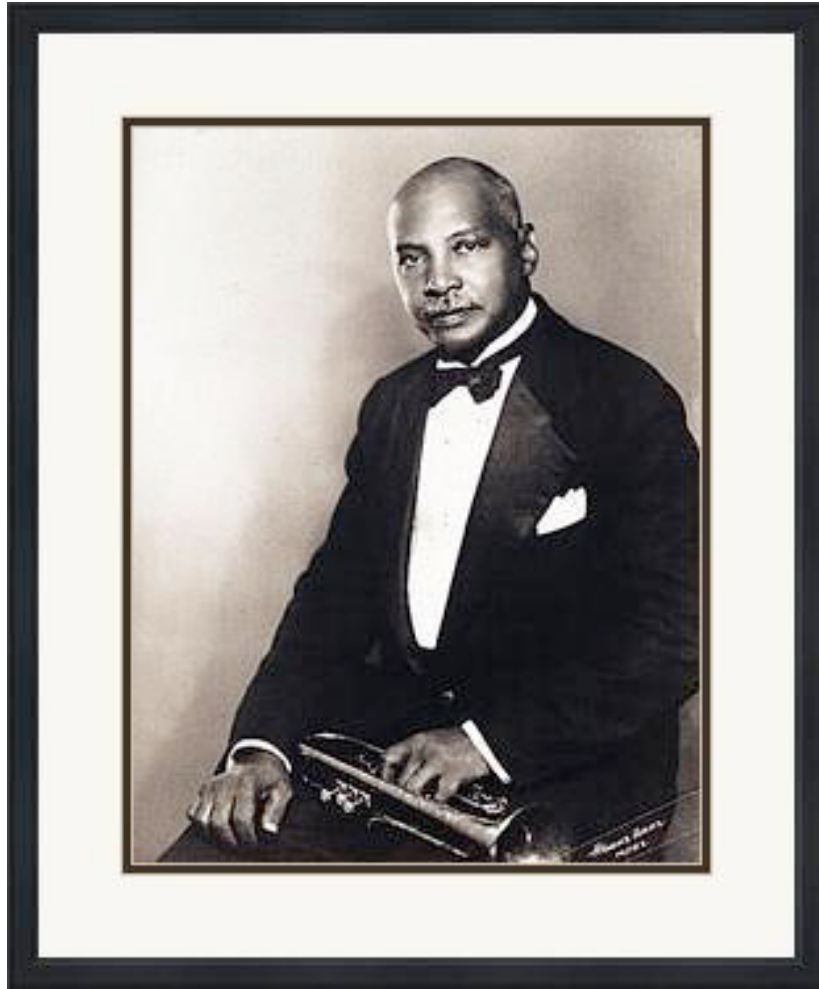


**W.C. Handy (1873-1958)**

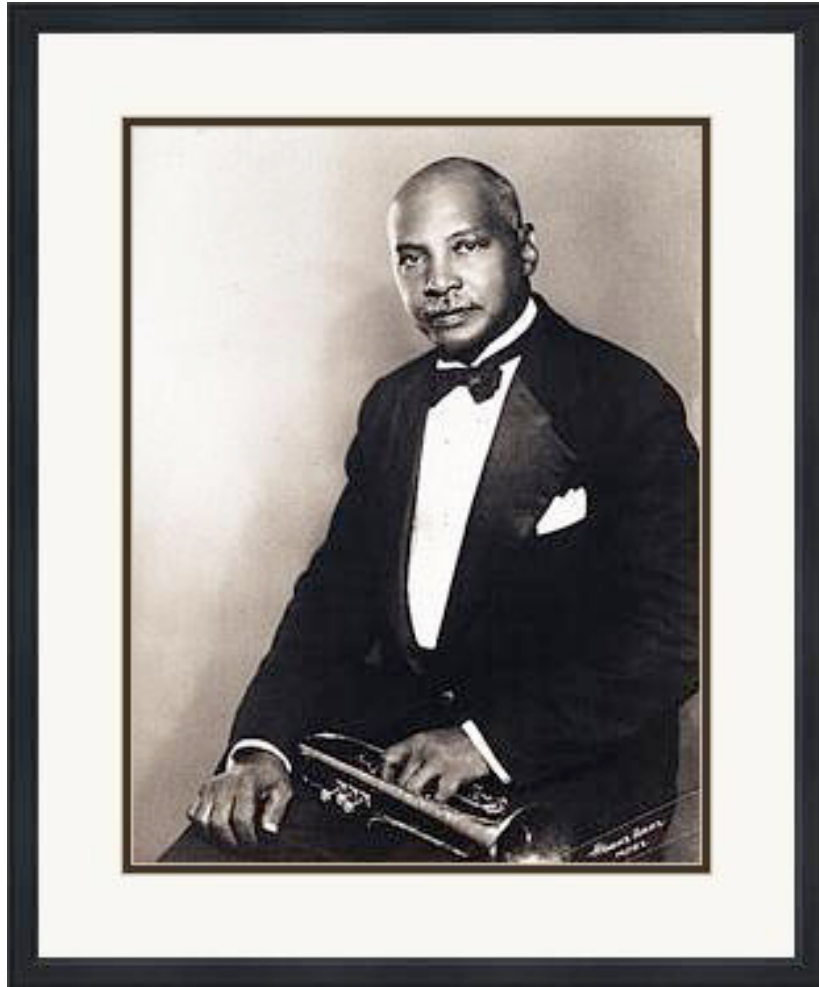


## W.C. Handy (1873-1958)



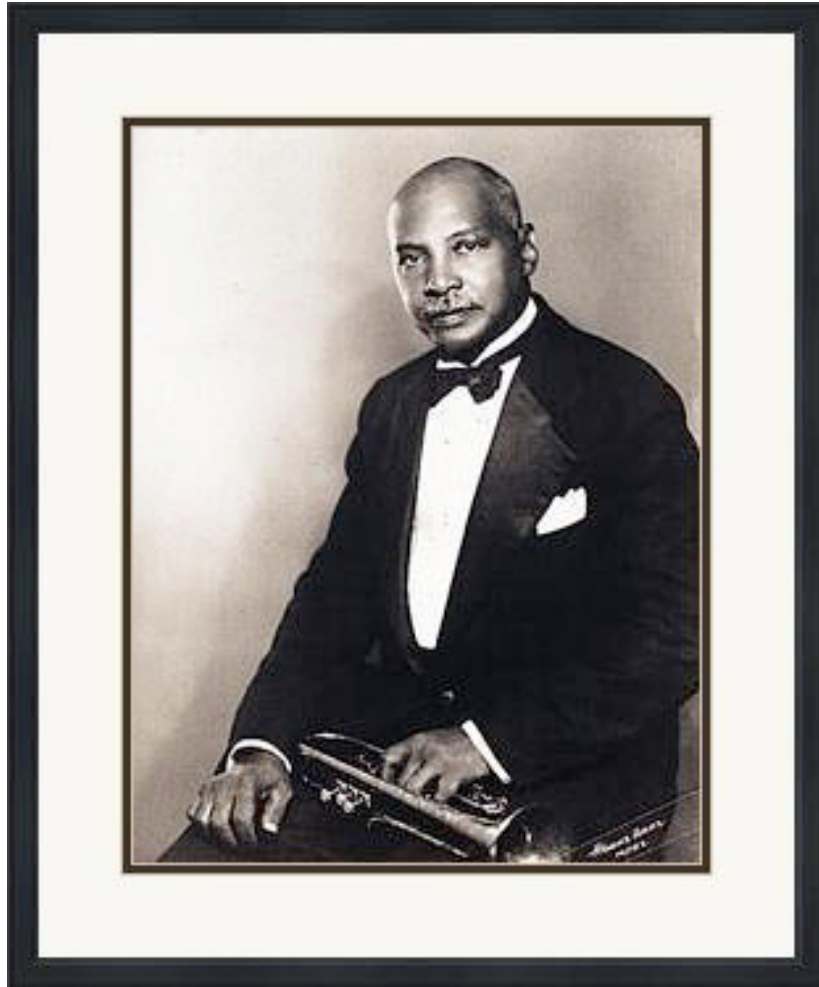
- born in rural Alabama
- Middle class background
- Self-taught trumpeter and composer, highly educated; played in Mississippi river brass bands and "minstrel shows."
- Finished college with honors, took a faculty position at an Alabama black college.

## W.C. Handy (1873-1958)



- In the 1910s, was inspired by rural musicians to compose what he called a "new American music."
- Became a composer and published hundreds of "blues" tunes for solo voice or for brass bands that he led in Memphis, Tennessee
- His funeral procession in 1958 (New York) was attended by 150,000.

## W.C. Handy (1873-1958)



### important works

*Memphis Blues* (1912)

inspired the "Fox Trot"

dance craze

*Beale St. Blues* (1916)

became the quintessential

example of New Orleans Jazz

*St. Louis Blues* (1919)

benefitted uniquely from

phonograph distribution

## Early Blues and the record industry

1917 - the first "Jazz" record "Livery Stable Blues" was recorded by the *all-white* Original Dixieland Jass Band from New Orleans.

1919 - The much smaller *Gennett Record Company* -- sued by the giant "Victor" for using "similar technology." But Gennet and other companies prevail.

1920s - Small record companies = smaller markets. Recordings of African American jazz and blues expand dramatically.

1920 - Mamie Smith's recording of "Crazy Blues" sells 1,000,000 copies in a year, shocking Victor and Edison out of their censorship policy.

# **Due October 20**

## ***Discussion Sections: Unit 1***

- Full participation credit just requires an initial post (before the 15th) and some later discussion.
- TA responses to the discussion so far will appear on each topic page this weekend
- Participate by commenting further on your peers' posts, using the listening, and the reading assignments to elaborate on your ideas.

## **READING**

- Carney 2006, Tucker 1990.

## **• LISTENING**

- **“Two New Orleans Songs”**
- **tracks 1-5 of Kansas City (& New York) Swing**

# BASIC MUSICAL TERMS

## for musical time

*rhythm*: how things are distributed through time; a distinctive pattern of time intervals.

*tempo*: the speed at which rhythms progress.

*beat*: a unit of time of consistent duration, occurring at about the speed that you would tap your foot.

*form*: a pattern of relationships between similarity and contrast that make up the whole

*bar*: a repeating pattern of beats.

(*NEAR-SYNONYMS: meter, measure*)

# Due October 20

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## **READING**

- Carney 2006, Tucker 1990.

## • **LISTENING**

- **“Two New Orleans Songs”**
- **tracks 1-5 of Kansas City (& New York) Swing**
- **listening examples mentioned on the mid-term review**

# Mid-term Exam #1: October 20

- **Please purchase a "Parscore f-1712"** available at Bay Tree. (We will use this form for the second mid-term and the final as well.)
- **25 multiple-choice questions**
  - 4-5 from the listening assignments
  - 7-8 from the readings (including very basic questions from the readings due Tuesday)
  - 12-14 from the lectures
  - Sample questions are available under "study guides" at the course website.