

Chopinesque Sentiment in Jazz

Module 14 of *Music: Under the Hood*

John Hooker
Carnegie Mellon University

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Outline

- Biography of Dave Brubeck
- *Summer Song*

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Biography

- Dave Brubeck, 1920-2012
 - Background doesn't fit the jazz stereotype
 - Lived on a cattle ranch.
 - Born to musical family in California.
 - Mother was a classically trained pianist.
 - His 2 older brothers became professional musicians.
 - Started piano lessons at age 4.



Brubeck on his father's ranch

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Biography

- Career
 - Studied music in college
 - Paid the bills by playing in night clubs
 - Professors were surprised he could not yet read music.
 - Served under Patton in WWII
 - Formed an interracial jazz band, the Wolf Pack



Brubeck in the Army

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Biography

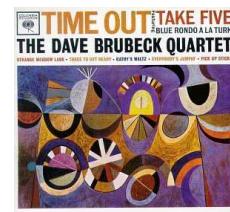
- Career
 - Dave Brubeck Quartet, formed 1951
 - With Paul Desmond on sax (more on him later)
 - Most successful jazz combo in US at the time.



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Biography

- Career
 - Dave Brubeck Quartet, formed 1951
 - Known for nonstandard meters (5/4, 9/8)
 - *Time Out* (1959) was first jazz album to sell more than a million copies.
 - Contains Paul Desmond's *Take Five*, which we will discuss later.



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Biography

- Career

- Later work

- Performed with New York Philharmonic
 - Focused on spiritual music
 - Wrote an oratorio, *The Light in the Wilderness* (1968)
 - Received National Medal of the Arts from Bill Clinton, 1994



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Biography

- Some songs

- *In Your Own Sweet Way* (1955)
 - *The Duke* (1955)
 - *Summer Song* (1957)
 - *Blue Rondo a la Turk* (1959)
 - *A Raggedy Waltz* (1961)
 - *Blue Shadows in the Street* (1961)



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Summer Song

- Chopin-like sentiment

- Nostalgic, nuanced.

- Lyrics by Iola Brubeck

- Originally an instrumental.
 - Performed here by Brubeck on piano.

[Audio file](#)

Iola and Dave Brubeck



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[Audio file](#)

Melody is a descending scale

Love to me is like a summer day.
 Silent, 'cause there's just too much to say.
 Still and warm and peaceful!
 Even clouds that may drift by can't disturb our summer sky.
 I'll take summer, that's my time of year.

SUMMER SONG

Lyrics by IOLA BRUBECK Music by DAVE BRUBECK

Winter shadows seem to disappear.
 Gayest, warmest season!
 That's the reason I can say that I love a summer day.

I hear laughter from the swimmin' hole,
 Kids out fishin' with a willow pole.
 Boats come driftin' 'round the bend

Why must summer ever end?

Love to me is like a summer day.
 If it ends, the memories will stay
 Still and warm and peaceful.
 Now the days are getting long,
 I can sing my summer song