

Texas Jazz Musicians

“Not only have Texans participated at crucial moments in the development of jazz, either as composers, arrangers, or sidemen, but a number of Texas musicians have figured as outstanding soloists and as leaders of vital, innovative groups of their own.”

(Handbook of Texas Online, “Jazz”)

“African American music in Texas reaches back to its earliest forms, including work songs, chants, spirituals, gospel, blues, ragtime, and boogie-woogie. All of these musical forms were known and performed in the state in the 19th or early 20th century. After leaving Texas, an impressive number of native musicians were able to contribute significantly to every period in the entire history of jazz.”

(Jazz Mavericks of the Lone Star State)

- Arnett Cobb (Houston)
- Ornette Coleman (Fort Worth)
- Eddie Durham (San Marcos)
- Illinois Jacquet (Houston)
- Blind Lemon Jefferson (Couchman)
- Scott Joplin (Texarkana)
- Milton Larkin (Houston)
- Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter
- Victoria R. Spivey (Houston)
- Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson (Houston)
- Beulah T. (Sippie) Wallace (Houston)

For more information, consult the following books in our collection:

- *Blind Lemon Jefferson: His Life, His Death, and His Legacy*
- *The History of Jazz*
- *Jazz Mavericks of the Lone Star State*
- *The Jazz Tradition*
- *King of Ragtime: Scott Joplin and His Era*
- *The Leadbelly Legend, A Collection of World-famous Songs by Huddie Ledbetter*
- *Ornette Coleman: A Harmolodic Life*
- *The Story of Jazz*
- *The Swing Era: The Development of Jazz, 1930–1945*
- *Texan Jazz*