

September 6, 2011

1st Quarter Assignment

Students will work in pairs to produce one paper. They will receive the same grade, which will be based upon their ability to musically and adequately describe a recording in writing. The key to this assignment is *collaboration*. Students should work together to form the paper. Their thoughts (individual and separate) should be interwoven throughout the paper, rather than one person's thoughts followed by the other person's thoughts. For this assignment, all students will listen to "Cotton Tail" as recorded by the Duke Ellington Jazz Orchestra (Big Band), featuring a tenor saxophone solo by Ben Webster. Students should access this recording via www.youtube.com using key words: "Duke Ellington Ben Webster Cotton Tail 1968". It is imperative that every student uses the CORRECT RECORDING. There are many recordings available, but you will know you have the correct recording if it is 3 minutes, 39 seconds in length. Please see your jazz director if you have trouble accessing the recording.

Papers should be 2-3 pages in length, 12-point Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font, and double-spaced (not larger than double). Completed papers may be submitted to the teacher at anytime during the quarter, but **must be handed in by the last day Friday of classes** within the quarter (before exam week).

Students should consider the following ideas and prompts when listening/writing:

- How can I apply musical terms we use in class to this recording? For example, describe the time, balance, groove, style, shaping, etc.
- What do I particularly like about this recording?
- What, if anything, do I dislike about this recording?
- For what or who are the band members listening?
- How will hearing people on my instrument in this recording impact my practicing?
- If our band were to try to sound more like the band on the recording, what would we need to adjust?
- What do the person with whom I am working and I agree/disagree on in this recording?

As described in the handbook, each quarterly assignment will represent 5% of the student's final quarter grade. As always, your teachers are here to help. Please do not hesitate to talk with us if you have any questions or concerns about this assignment. The sooner we hear from you, the better chance we have of helping you be successful.

Good luck and have fun – It's fun to listen to jazz! We look forward to reading your paper!

Sincerely,

Mr. Hartman, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Racic