

Eckstein, Strayhorn, and the Dorseys: Masters of Swing**Jazz in Pennsylvania****Worksheet 1: Swing Journal****Directions**

For the next several days, you will be a swing musician traveling from “gig” to “gig” every day of the week. You play in packed ballrooms filled with many U.S. service men and their dates for the night. They’ve all come to listen to your swing music and do some serious Lindy hop (jitterbugging).

Your task is to record your experiences and describe each evening and the events that took place. View photos from the era on the jazz Web sites and the ExplorePAhistory.com site to help you visualize your life. Use your imagination to form one well-developed paragraph for each day. Be sure to include the date for each “gig” and remember you’re in the 1940s.

Things to keep in mind:

- How big was your band and what instruments did you play? How did the band get along?
- Why are there so many United States service men at these “gigs”?
- What was it like to see so many people jitterbugging to your music?
- How did swing music make you feel? How did it make the audience feel?
- How did you travel from place to place? Where did you stay in each town? What difficulties did you face?

Web sites to check:**The William P. Gottlieb Collection: Photographs of the Golden Age of Jazz**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wghtml/wghome.html>

A Library of Congress American Memory collection of over 1600 photos of jazz from 1938 to 1948.

Lindy Hop History

http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/kpl5/Jbug_styles.html

Eckstein, Strayhorn, and the Dorseys: Masters of Swing**Jazz in Pennsylvania****Worksheet 2: News Article and Music Review****Directions:**

You and the members of your group have just become writers for your hometown Gazette. Your job is to cover the top story of the weekend. You are to research one major contributor to the swing era and write a newspaper article about his or her visit to your hometown. Furthermore, this contributor to swing played a concert last night and it is your job to write a musical review of this person's performance. Be sure to include a primary source such as a picture in your article. Use Microsoft Word and use a newspaper article layout.

Things to keep in mind:

1. You may use these directions as a guide for your newspaper format.
2. All members of your group should participate equally in researching, brainstorming and writing.
3. The musical review should be part of the newspaper article.
4. When writing the musical review, you may want to listen to some of the music of the person you are researching. Be sure to tell your readers how the music sounded, whether you liked it or not and be sure to include why.
5. A photograph of the person you are researching can be a valuable primary source to give your article credibility.