



# What Is Swing?

In music, “swing” can mean many things. Swing is a style of jazz that grew from African American roots and dominated American popular music in what came to be known as the Swing Era (from approximately 1930 to 1945). Played by big bands led by such luminaries as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Artie Shaw, swing has a distinctive rhythmic feel. As Louis Armstrong famously said, “If you don’t feel it, you’ll never know it.” Swing makes people want to get up and dance, and a whole new kind of dance evolved along with the music, including dances like the jitterbug and the Lindy hop.

But swing and other forms of jazz are not the only styles of music that swing; in fact, all music can swing—including orchestral music!

