

## **Cover Story: A Journey To The Soul of Jon Batiste**

National Standards: 7-8, 11

Jon Batiste grew up in a New Orleans jazz family of top teachers and performers. He has a masters degree from Julliard, a week nightly gig as musical director on The Late Show with Steven Colbert, the music director for *The Atlantic* and Co-Artistic Director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. His demanding performance schedule has taken him to 40 countries, and often includes his signature ‘love riot’ street parades. He’s also one of the musical minds behind the music of Pixar’s new animated film Soul.

He named his band “Stay Human” and believes in the power of interpersonal connection, saying that music has the power to elevate the spirit. Although he records and appears in the media, he places an outsized importance on live performance, frequently bringing his band into the street for New Orleans style parades. His band once recorded an entire album in the New York City subway.

### **Prepare**

Have students listen to some of Batiste’s music created for the Pixar film Soul. Discuss his style of jazz and compare it to “free jazz,” bebop and dixieland. Which album cuts are reminiscent of “New Orleans” jazz and why?

### **Key points in the article:**

- Batiste comes from a famous family of New Orleans jazz musicians
- He has toured, taught, recorded and his band performs on the nightly talk show The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.
- He believes that there is great value in artists directly connecting with their audiences in live environments and plays what he calls “social music.”
- He plays the melodica

### **Begin**

Review vocabulary words from the article:

- **JULLIARD:** The Juilliard School is a highly regarded performing arts college in New York City. that trains undergraduate and graduate students in dance, drama, and music.
- **IMPECCABLE:** in accordance with the highest standards of behavior, performance or appearance; flawless.
- **COUNTENANCE:** a person's face or facial expression.
- **IMPROVISATION:** something that is made up in real time, especially a piece of music, drama, etc., created without preparation.
- **ETHOS:** the spirit of a culture, era, or community as demonstrated in its hopes and beliefs.

### **Discuss**

Compare the impact of live music as compared to recorded music, music performed on television, in television commercials, in films, in music videos, and in video games.

**Benefits could be:**

- Personal connection with the artist(s).

**Drawbacks could be:**

- Lack of production, a reliance on acoustics and the possibility that individual performances may vary due to vagaries in their mood, health and talent.

Play music of Batiste's influences, particularly Thelonius Monk, but also the New Orleans jazz styles of Wynton Marsalis, and other contemporary artists.

**Ask**

- What is a common element in so-called New Orleans style jazz?
- What other genres does Batiste's music borrow from?
- Why is jazz called an "original American artform?"

**Expand**

Discuss the origins of jazz and how different styles evolved.

- If Batiste's jazz has a "New Orleans" flavor, what other kinds of new jazz are being created today?
- What other styles of music embrace improvisation?

**Questions**

1. What is *The Atlantic* and why would they want Batiste to be their co-artistic director?
2. Why does Batiste call his melodica a "harmonaboard"?
3. Why does he play a melodica when he could play the same music on a piano or organ?
4. Why did Stay Human record a record album in the New York City subway?
5. Where did Batiste meet his Stay Human band mates?
6. On what TV show did comedian Stephen Colbert meet Jon Batiste?
7. What is the name of the character in the Pixar movie *Soul* who plays Batiste's music?
8. Who wrote "It's All Right," a version of which is performed in the movie?
9. What is *Soul*'s Joe Gardner's day job?
10. What was Jon Batiste's first instrument?

**Answers**

1. The magazine and multi-platform publisher founded in 1857 and offering literary and cultural commentary collaborates with Batiste on various music community subjects.
2. Melodicas combine the action of a keyboard instrument with sound of a harmonica.
3. It's portable, so Batiste can play it in the street when his band performs their "love riots."
4. To directly connect with everyday people.
5. At The Julliard School in New York City.
6. The Colbert Report.
7. Joe Gardner.
8. Curtis Mayfield.
9. He's a music teacher.
10. The drums.

## **Feature Story: In Tune's Best Music Schools – Part 2**

National Standards: 1, 8-10

Higher music education today offers a robust and expanding array of options for musical training but because of the diversity of new offerings, it's not easy for candidates, their families, middle and high school music teachers and guidance professional to navigate the opportunities.

*In Tune Monthly* believes, and has adopted as part of its mission, the analyzing of ways in which colleges, universities and trade schools can prepare music students for careers in the arts. *In Tune* readings can assist educators in the creation of curriculum about college music programs.

### **Prepare**

Discuss the opportunity that music students have for going to college for music.

### **Key points in the article:**

- Institutions of higher learning are keeping pace with the extraordinary development in music forms, technologies and career opportunities.
- Colleges music programs are offered in a dizzying array of styles, duration, aspects and places.
- There are no “best music music schools,” only the best for the individual based on their own personal criteria.

### **Begin**

Poll your students to see who could see themselves studying music in college.

- Might they study music on a full time basis, or take music courses in addition to others.
- Ask their preference vis a vis big school/small school, city/country, etc., and why.

Review vocabulary words from the article below:

- **CRITERIA:** a principle or standard by which something may be judged or decided.
- **ENTHUSIASTIC:** having or showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.
- **CANDIDATE:** a person who applies for a job or is nominated for election or acceptance.
- **AUDITION:** practical demonstration of ability or skill.
- **CONSULTANCY:** a business that gives expert advice within a particular field.

### **Discuss**

Students can discuss many elements and aspects of music while going to college. What are some of the traditional majors and some of the new or unique courses of study?

### **Expand**

The modern music world is support by hundreds of types of professionals involved in live and recorded performance, technology, business and education. How can young student interest be developed and directed toward these careers? Research the schools, their programs and careers to illustrate the ways that a music background can form the foundation for good jobs in the music industry, consumer electronics, the media and beyond.

## **Feature Story: Rock & Roll**

National Standards: 1, 7-9, 10

Rock & roll's fusion of musical influences and its simple structures, along with its interest in adaptation and cross-pollination make it available to musicians of all stripes and skill levels. Early rock was created using a limited array of forms that can be easily identified and learned.

### **Prepare**

Play each of the audio tracks included in the In Tune story on rock & roll forms and listen to how the simple patterns can and have found their way into popular music.

Inspire a discussion about the pioneers of rock & roll and its roots in blues, gospel, jazz and swing.

### **Key points in the article:**

- The shuffle pattern is the one of the foundations of rock and roll rhythm.
- Early rock and roll drum grooves have the kick drum on beats one and three and the snare on two and four.
- Guitars and saxophones are the principle solo instruments in rock and roll.

### **Begin**

Famous early rock relied on a 12-bar blues progression.

- What was it about early rock that made it sound so different than traditional blues?
- What happened to rock as time passed and it matured?

Review vocabulary words from the article below:

- **VARIATION:** an array of elements or the change from one to another
- **MALLEABILITY:** the ability to easily change shape, form or quality
- **TRANSCRIBE:** arrange music's key for a different instrument or voice
- **LICK:** a stock pattern or phrase consisting of a short series of notes used in solos and melodic lines
- **GROOVE:** the sense of an effect, or the "feel" of a changing pattern in rhythm or sense of "swing."

### **Discuss**

Play a Chuck Berry "School Days" and discuss the impact of the guitar lead and improvisation, as well as the rhythm, on the overall quality or condition of the music.

### **Questions**

1. What genres contributed to the birth of rock & roll?
2. What are the most common soloing instruments in early rock & roll?
3. Who wrote the lick that inspired Chuck Berry's introduction to Johnny B. Goode?
4. What does Little Richard famously shout in "Long Tall Sally"?
5. When did rock & roll become popular?
6. What are some sub-genres that evolved from rock?

## **Answers**

1. Blues, jazz, gospel and swing.
2. Guitar and saxophone.
3. Carl Hogan.
4. We're gonna have some fun tonight.
5. Rock and roll exploded into the musical universe in the middle of the twentieth century
6. Rock and roll eventually broke into a countless number of sub-genres — rock, hard rock, soft rock, even yacht rock.

***Feature Story: How to Play The Pretenders' "I'll Stand By You"***

National Standards: 1-9

“I’ll Stand By You” by The Pretenders (featuring lead singer Chrissie Hynde) is a ‘90s anthem that has been described as “a ballad in which the singer pledges love and faithful assistance to a loved one in times of personal darkness.” However, Hynde has introduced the song numerous times in concert explaining her vegetarianism, and that it’s really about her love of animals..

The recording of the song features a keyboard introduction, a lead vocal with reverb or echo, the participation of background singers and electric guitars played through a chorus effects pedal.

### **Prepare**

Have students listen to the recording and identify each of the instruments and parts. Listen for the different guitar effect and diagram the vocals.

### **Key points in the article:**

- The song doesn’t have a dance beat and instead has a down to mid-tempo.
- There is no gender to the lyric.
- The audience can (and should) be encouraged to sing the refrain.
- The song has been covered by a number of noted artists and can be adapted to any instrumentation as long as the passionate lyric can be delivered by a competent lead singer.

### **Begin**

Review vocabulary words from the article below:

- **ANTHEM:** a usually popular song that typifies or is identified with a particular subculture, movement, or point of view.
- **EMULATING:** match or surpass (a person or achievement), typically by imitation.
- **PRESCRIPTION:** a recommendation that is authoritatively put forward.
- **COMMISSION:** an amount of money, typically a set percentage of the value involved, paid to an agent in a commercial transaction.
- **ANNOYANCE:** the feeling or state of emotional irritation.

### **Discuss**

This song starts out quietly and ends with great energy. How does this song gain its power?

- What role does the background vocal play?
- It’s subtle and not featured on the recording, but how do the guitars divide their parts?

Select a sampling of distortion sounds on manufacturer websites and play the sound of a a chorus effect. Then play other Pretenders songs, like “Brass In Pocket,” and listen for the same electric guitar chorus effect.

- Ask student’s to pick a favorite Pretenders song and why they made their choice.
- Play a cover version of “I’ll Stand By You,” and weigh in on how the artist interpreted the song.

### **Expand**

The story concludes with a music business story whereby a publishing consultant match Chrissie Hynde with a songwriting team to collaborate on the creation of “I’ll Stand By You.” Collaborative songwriting has blossomed over the years, has always been a key practice in country and R&B and today is at the core of most pop songwriting. Consider pairing students for collaborative music creation!