

may 2018



MTC
miami theater center
passion made performance

Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards study guide

Meet Jazzy Ash!

Jazzy Ash grew up with her mother from New Orleans and her father from Trinidad. From jazz to Caribbean rhythms, music infused her home life every day. She often spent summers in New Orleans with her aunts and grandparents, enjoying the culture and music that permeated their West Bank neighborhood.



Jazzy Ash's visits to New Orleans, especially during Mardi Gras, reaffirmed the importance of exploring this part of her heritage.

Jazzy and her band, **Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards**, have had the pleasure of performing at Lincoln Center and Symphony Space in New York, Getty Center in California, and World Cafe Live in Philadelphia, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and Ann Arbor Summer Festival, among other prestigious venues.

Jazzy Ash continues to focus on education, regularly teaching performing arts to children and music education to adults.

Where does jazz come from?

The music you heard in the **Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards'** concert was Jazz, which is a rich part of America's musical heritage. Often, when we refer to American Folk music, the early African-American music genres like, blues and jazz, are curiously left out. Perhaps it's because the story of early African Americans can be a difficult story to tell, especially to young children. The first African Americans were brought to America as slaves with no possessions of their own except for their cultural and musical traditions. Over the years, their musical traditions evolved into jazz and rhythm and blues – and have gone on to influence all of the music we listen to today.

Suggestion Discussion Points:

- What was your favorite song from the show?
- What is your favorite instrument?
- How does music make you feel?
- What does the music make you want to do?



"Learning about this music and performing it gives me a foundation. Truly, I've found myself through this experience. Even though I was born in California, I see myself as a second-generation New Orleanean, since New Orleans is so much a part of my family's experience, going back at least seven generations."

Classroom Activity:

Making Mardi Gras Masks!

Materials Needed:

Mask Template for each student
Markers
Glue
Feathers
Sequins
Paper Drinking Straws
(to hold mask)



Mardi Gras (which means Fat Tuesday) is a fun tradition that has been celebrated in New Orleans and in the surrounding parishes and neighborhoods since 1837. Every year, schools and businesses close for several days as everyone gathers wearing flamboyant costumes and masks to enjoy live music and delicious food. One of the favorite treats is called beignets (pronounced ben-YAYs). They are similar to donuts, but do not have a hole!

The parade includes extravagant floats and as they roll by toys, treats, coins, and lots and lots of beads are thrown at the people watching.

In this activity, your students are going to make their own Mardi Gras masks! They can use paint, markers, stickers, feathers, and sequins to embellish them! **Save the masks for when MTC's Teaching Artists visit your classroom for the post-show workshop - we would love to see your designs!**

While your students are creating their masks – play some jazz to inspire them. Check out [Jazzy Ash and The Leaping Lizards'](#) music and videos on her website www.jazzyash.com

Florida DOE: Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

NGSSS: TH.4.C: Critical thinking and reflection.

NGSSS: TH.4.H: Historical and global connections.

Teacher Resources

Below are book titles that will help you and your students further explore the ideas from the show.

Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra
by Andrea Pinkney

Little Melba and her Big Trombone
by Katheryn Russell-Brown

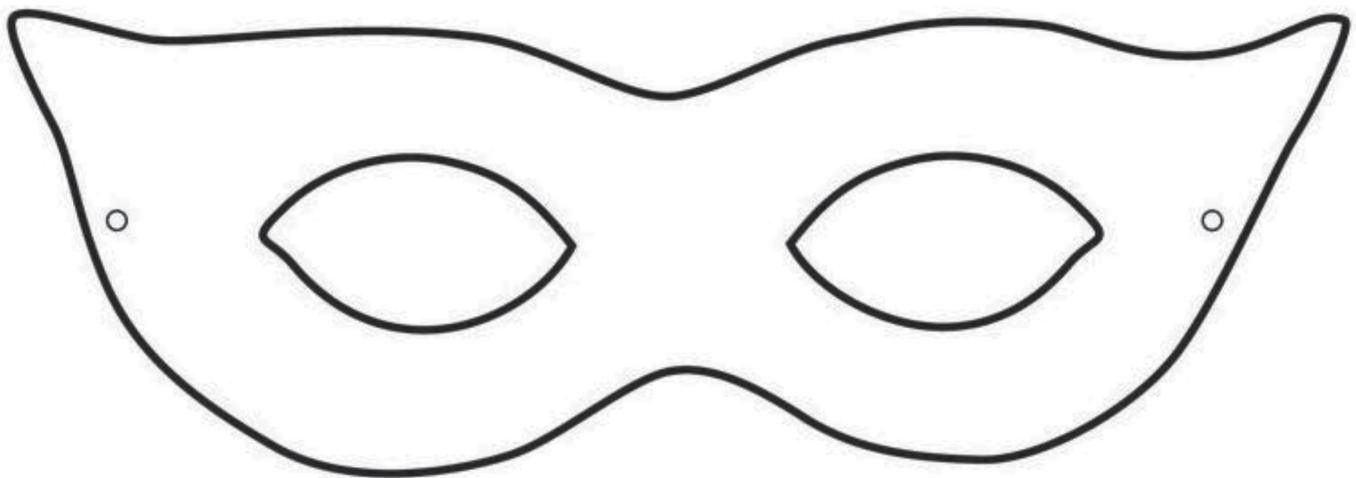
Skit-scat Raggedy Cat
by Roxane Orgill

When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat
by Muriel Harris Weinstein

After Show Reflection Questions

- What festivals or events are celebrated in your community?
- Do you sing, dance, play music or eat special food during your celebration?
- Does your family sing, dance or play music during your celebrations?

Please photocopy and cut out mask to share with each student.



MTC would like to thank *Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards* for allowing us to use content and images from their Study Guide.

