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### **America's Music Legacy: Dixieland Jazz**

The latest addition to MVD Visual's "America's Musical Legacy" series offers a sampling of jazz with its roots planted firmly in the rich soil of New Orleans. Nearly a century ago, Dixieland musicians combined aspects of already popular ragtime, blues, brass-band marches and French quadrilles, with polyphonic improvisation from a front line of brass and wind instruments – one of which would advance a melody — and a rhythm section comprised of at least two subordinate instruments (banjo, piano, tuba or drums).

Genre boundaries ultimately would become flexible enough to accommodate traditional New Orleans bawdy-house styles and "hot jazz," as well as the peppy ditties now used to entertainment crowds at theme parks and baseball games. Dixieland would evolve, as well, as its influence spread to such places as Kansas City, Chicago, California, New York and Europe. The music included in the "America's Music Legacy" series was recorded in the mid-1980s by 20TH Century Home Entertainment, and, as such, was limited to pioneers still active. The artists represented in "Dixieland Jazz" include host Al Hirt, Woody Herman, Irma Thomas, Della Reese, Teddy Buckner, Bob Crosby, the New Orleans Jazz All-Star Band and Scatman Cruthers. There are archival clips of Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller.

**- Gary Dretzka**