

Jazz-funk

Will Fulford-Jones

<https://doi.org/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.article.47219>

Published in print: 20 January 2001

Published online: 2001

A 20th-century pop music style. It fuses jazz and jazz-influenced melody and improvisation with the more simple, driving rhythms and bass lines of funk as characterized by James Brown and Parliament. Early jazz-funk albums included Miles Davis's *Bitches Brew* (1969), which also incorporated many rock elements. In the 1970s many American jazz artists such as Donald Byrd, Herbie Hancock and Lonnie Liston Smith added funk elements to their sound; in the late 70s and early 80s, British groups began to explore jazz-funk, with bands such as Light of the World and Hi Tension softening the hard-edged rhythms of funk and incorporating more jazz elements. By the late 1980s and 1990s the definition had narrowed: jazz-funk lost many of the jazz inflections that had characterized its beginnings. It became a more spartan, simpler music, more heavily reliant on a standard 4/4 rhythm track, repetitive bass guitar groove and, frequently, a rhythm guitar line more heavily influenced by disco than in the 1970s. Protagonists of this development included the Brand New Heavies, Jamiroquai and the Hammond organ-based James Taylor Quartet. Additionally, from jazz funk came Acid Jazz, at first a record label but soon an umbrella term used to describe the more adventurous jazz-funk artists, such as Galliano.

See also

Clarke, Stanley

Crusaders