

Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans: Refiguring American Music

The brass band is an iconic symbol of New Orleans, Louisiana. For over a century, these bands have played a vital role in the city's cultural landscape, providing music for parades, funerals, weddings, and other special occasions. But brass bands are more than just a local tradition; they have also played a major role in shaping the development of American music.



Roll With It: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans (Refiguring American Music) by Matt Sakakeeny

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The origins of brass bands in New Orleans can be traced back to the early 19th century, when European immigrants brought their military bands to the city. These bands quickly became popular for playing at public events, and soon African Americans began to form their own bands. By the end of the 19th century, brass bands were a fixture of New Orleans life.

Brass bands in New Orleans are typically composed of a cornet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, and drums. The music they play is a mix of traditional European marches, African-American spirituals, and popular songs. Brass bands are known for their lively rhythms and infectious melodies, and they have a unique ability to get people moving.

Brass bands have played a major role in the development of jazz, rhythm and blues, and funk music. Many of the early jazz musicians played in brass bands, and the music of New Orleans brass bands can be heard in the work of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and other jazz greats. Brass bands have also influenced the development of rhythm and blues and funk, and their music can be heard in the work of artists such as James Brown, George Clinton, and the Meters.

Today, brass bands continue to play a vital role in New Orleans culture. They are a fixture of the city's vibrant street life, and they continue to inspire and influence musicians around the world. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in brass bands, and new bands are forming all the time. This is a testament to the enduring power of brass bands and their unique ability to bring people together.

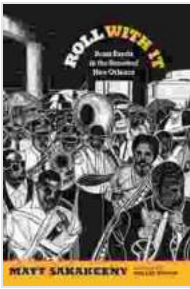
The Impact of Brass Bands on American Music

Brass bands have had a profound impact on the development of American music. Their music has been a source of inspiration for generations of musicians, and it has helped to shape the sound of American popular music. Here are some of the ways that brass bands have influenced American music:

- **Brass bands helped to develop the sound of jazz.** Many of the early jazz musicians played in brass bands, and the music of New Orleans brass bands can be heard in the work of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and other jazz greats.
- **Brass bands helped to develop the sound of rhythm and blues.** The rhythms and melodies of brass bands can be heard in the work of many rhythm and blues artists, such as James Brown, George Clinton, and the Meters.
- **Brass bands helped to develop the sound of funk.** The funky rhythms and infectious melodies of brass bands can be heard in the work of many funk artists, such as James Brown, George Clinton, and the Meters.
- **Brass bands continue to inspire musicians today.** The music of brass bands is still a source of inspiration for musicians around the world. New brass bands are forming all the time, and they are keeping the tradition of brass band music alive.

The Future of Brass Bands

Brass bands are a vital part of American culture, and they continue to play a major role in the city of New Orleans. The future of brass bands is bright, and there is a new generation of musicians who are keeping the tradition alive. These bands are playing a mix of traditional and contemporary music, and they are inspiring a new generation of fans. Brass bands are here to stay, and they will continue to be a source of inspiration for generations to come.



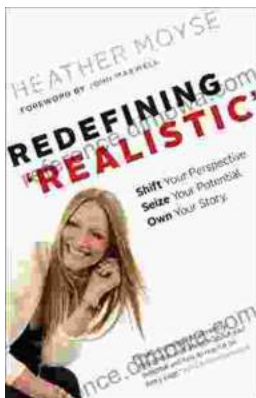
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